

**Faculty Senate Minutes, Penn State Worthington Scranton
December 6, 2010
Sherbine Lounge**

Meeting called to order at 12:05 pm by Dr. Parminder Parmar, Faculty Senate Chair

Approval of Minutes

The November minutes were approved.

Administrative Reports

1) Chancellor:

Chancellor Dr. Mary-Beth Krogh-Jespersen was at an Academic Leadership Council meeting at University Park. Therefore, there was no Chancellor's report.

2) Interim Director of Academic Affairs:

Dr. Molly Wertheimer reported the following:

- Three faculty members have been approved for sabbaticals next year: Dr. Dale Holen, Dr. Philip Mosley, and Dr. Parminder Parmar.
- All promotion and tenure dossiers have left the campus.
- Dr. Wertheimer thanked the faculty for participation in this semester's advising event and pointed out that Advising on the Fly was a good example of everyone working together.
- She reminded faculty of announcements she had sent out via email. The 2010 FAR is due at the end of January, and she asked if faculty would be interested in a workshop on how to complete the latest version of the FAR. Dr. Deb Smarkusky agreed to host the workshop. Dr. Wertheimer suggested Kathleen Covey would help set up the workshop.
- Administration was currently identifying under-enrolled spring 2011 classes. Approaches to mitigating under-enrollment in a class may include combining sections of the same course and asking the faculty member to teach another course he/she has taught before, thus cutting back on the need to hire adjunct faculty. The issue would be investigated further this afternoon.
- Dr. Wertheimer distributed a form to faculty members to solicit questions regarding Academic Affairs. The forms may be returned to her at the leisure of each faculty member.

3) Director of Student and Enrollment Services:

Bill Bryan reported the following:

- He thanked all faculty members for their help and support offered to students throughout the semester and assured everyone that the efforts were appreciated by the students.
- A holiday breakfast will take place on 12/08/2010, 7:45-10:30 am. Faculty are invited; however, they are asked to wait until about 10 am to eat so that students may participate first.

University Faculty Senate Report

Senators Dr. Pat Hinchey and Dr. Dale Holen were at the UFS meeting today. Their report will follow at a future meeting.

University Faculty Council Report

Representative Dr. David Byman requested an “up or down” vote of the recently distributed “Guidelines for Hiring, Approval, Review of Fixed-Term I and II Faculty,” dated April 5, 2010 (Hereafter referred to as “The Guidelines”). A discussion of The Guidelines followed, with the following contributions (detailed below in sum and substance for each participant):

Dr. Dave Byman clarified that the purpose of The Guidelines was to reach a uniform standard for and approach to hiring across the University College. Upon review and consideration by the Dean, The Guidelines may become policy. Penn State DuBois had already voted in favor of The Guidelines. Dr. Byman had not received any updates about the votes of other campuses.

Dr. Molly Wertheimer clarified that whatever the Campus Faculty Senate’s vote on The Guidelines would be, it would be a suggestion, not a binding document for the Dean to adopt.

Dr. Janet Melnick commented on the following issues:

- Overall, she did not feel she had enough information regarding The Guidelines, specifically their purpose and possible effects on existing FTI/II employment contracts, to support them at this time.
- She inquired about the UFC’s rationale for issuing The Guidelines as no such rationale had been explicitly detailed in The Guidelines. (See Dr. Byman’s clarification above.)
- She questioned why tenure-line and tenured faculty should vote on issues relevant to FTI/II faculty.
- She was concerned that The Guidelines implied that FTI/II faculty and their contributions to the University were valued less than those of tenure-line or tenured faculty.
- She questioned the premise that FTI/II faculty should be monitored by tenured faculty as a matter of course. For example, as a FT faculty member with a Ph.D., she is serving as the HDFS Program Coordinator, and it is one of her responsibilities to ensure that all faculty members, including those who are tenure-line or tenured, adhere to the program’s goals. Thus, The Guidelines do not appear to take into consideration specific practical circumstances.

Dr. Deb Smarkusky concurred with Dr. Melnick regarding the vote of tenure-line and tenured faculty and pointed out that on the Promotion and Tenure Committee, FTI/II faculty members did not get to vote on tenure-line and tenured faculty’s performance either.

Dr. Éva Tettenborn expressed the following concerns:

- She referred to the recent article “One MLA Serving All Faculty Members,” published by the MLA President in the Modern Language Association’s *Winter Newsletter*. In the article the MLA declares its support of community college faculty members and states that the organization is striving to expand the involvement of community college professors in the MLA, acknowledging the importance of their work.
- Dr. Tettenborn questioned the assumption that “community college instructors should not ordinarily be considered for Fixed-Term II faculty positions,” as The Guidelines suggest. Her suggestion was that rather than using an applicant’s current place of teaching as the deciding factor, hiring decisions should instead be based on an applicant’s credentials and ability to meet Penn State’s teaching requirements.
- She pointed out that in the discipline of English, many textbooks, student writing handbooks, and manuals had been written by community college faculty.
- Therefore, she did not feel comfortable supporting the current version of The Guidelines.

Vote on The Guidelines:

Worthington Scranton faculty members voted not to endorse The Guidelines:

	Number of votes
In favor of endorsing The Guidelines:	3
Against endorsing The Guidelines:	8
Abstentions:	16

Committee Reports1) Advising Committee:

Dr. Russel Casey, committee chair, reported the following:

- Spring advising week is planned for the week of April 4, 2011 and will be held Tuesday through Thursday. This semester, Friday during advising week was not a very popular day.
- Dr. Casey has contacted the Schreyer Institute regarding using Worthington Scranton's advising event as a model for other campuses.
- In response to concerns expressed by some faculty members about advisees receiving counseling from a faculty member other than themselves, Dr. Casey explained that a list of advising volunteers would be distributed to all faculty members.
- Dr. Melnick asked if an advising event would be held for adult learners in the evening, from 5 to 6 pm, and Dr. Casey said the committee would consider the suggestion.

2) Publishing Workshop:

- Dr. Casey mentioned that he had organized a publishing workshop for April 1, 2011, 9:00 am–1:00 pm (tentative). The workshop will feature the following speakers: Interim DAA Dr. Molly Wertheimer, Wilkes-Barre DAA Dr. Theodora Jankowski (tentative), Business Discipline Coordinator Dr. Ali Kara, and Dr. Meg Hatch.
- Dr. Sandy Gleason has officially been invited to participate, and Dr. Casey is awaiting her response as she needs to review her schedule.
- The workshop's topic will be the importance of publications in the tenure process. Subjects to be discussed will include how to create a research stream and making time to publish, how to respond to peer reviewer comments, and how to deal with rejection.
- Dr. Casey, who will be moderating the panel, invited anyone willing to present to contact him. He will also upload the workshop to iTunes U.

3) Campus Assessment Committee:

- Chair Dr. Parminder Parmar reminded all faculty members to keep in mind the new assessment guidelines when preparing syllabi for the spring semester.
- There will be workshops in January for Program Coordinators and faculty members about assessing outcomes.

Other Business:

Assistant Director of Athletics Jeff Mallas reminded faculty of the gym's opening hours: during finals week, as well as on the three days before recess, the gym will be open until 5 pm.

Dr. Parmar congratulated Jeff Mallas, the coaches, the staff, and the student athletes on a successful semester with many athletic accomplishments.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Next Meeting

The date, time and place of the next Faculty Senate meeting will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Éva Tettenborn
Faculty Senate Secretary