

To: All Faculty

From: Julian Onderdonk on behalf of the Faculty Senate

Subj: President's End of Year Report

By way of concluding the 2011-2012 academic year, below is a bulleted overview, organized by different headings, of the most prominent Senate activities undertaken this year, as well as a brief review of some of the topics presented and discussed at meetings. As always, detailed information about these and other activities, in the form of committee lists and approved meeting minutes, is available on the Senate website,

<http://www.wcupa.edu/facstaff/facultySenate/default.asp>. Please also feel free to email me at jonderdonk@wcupa.edu or contact the Senate representative from your School or College or any of the At-Large members to answer any questions you may have.

1) Correspondence with parties at and outside of WCU:

- Letter to Dr. Matthew Bricketto, Vice-President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, requesting reconsideration of the Administration's proposed plan to close the WCU Children's Center. July 2011
- Letter to Dr. Linda Lamwers, Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, expressing concerns about details of the University's Academic Plan. February 2012.
- Open Letter to the WCU Community published in the *Quad* arguing, in the wake of the closing of the Children's Center, for continued consideration of affordable on-campus childcare for staff and students. April 2012.
- Letter to Dr. Matthew Bricketto, Vice-President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, recommending that the University hire a full-time LGBTQA Director. May 2012.
- Joint Letter from the Faculty Senates of 13 PASSHE campuses to 75 PA legislators protesting Governor Corbett's proposed budget cuts for public education. May 2012.

2) Shared Governance:

- Two Senators, specifically appointed by the Senate, served or are serving on two different administrative-level search committees this year. Another Senator was appointed to serve on the Academic Planning Advisory Committee. An additional Senator continues to serve on the President's Strategic Planning Steering Committee.
- Senators provided input to the University Strategic Plan, offering a list of ideal conditions faculty would like to see instituted in the plan. The recommendations were compiled during Roberta Snow's visit in December.
- Senators provided feedback to the Administration in its effort to select "performance indicators" that will most benefit WCU in the PASSHE Performance Funding Program. The Administration's final decision has not yet been announced.
- A Senate subcommittee, advocating for the WCU Children's Center and for affordable on-campus childcare generally, met individually with the President, the Provost, Dean

Bricketto, and Mike Maloy, Associate Vice-President for Human Resources, over the summer and early in the academic year.

- Four Senators met with the Provost in March to discuss Senate's concerns about aspects of the Academic Plan.
- Senators met regularly with the President throughout the year to facilitate communication between the Administration and Senate.
- The President and Provost both visited the Senate during the course of the year to give presentations and discuss issues of concern to faculty.
- Year-long discussions about the By-Laws by Senators and WCU Faculty generally resulted in some striking proposals about possible membership for Temporary Faculty and about the Senate's relationship with other Faculty bodies on campus. Some of these ideas will be informally instituted starting in the Fall semester; others will likely find their way into the revised By-Laws once they come up for a vote during the 2012-13 academic year.

3) Campus Climate:

- Nine Senators served as Senate Liaisons to 11 different university committees that focus on campus climate issues. Liaisons attended regular meetings of these committees and reported back to the Senate.
- Senate representatives attended a number of campus climate events, including Jack Good's "Communication Across Difference" and Peter Bardaglio's sustainability workshops as well as Women's Center, LGBTQA and Multicultural Center activities.
- The WCU CARES program (West Chester University Campus Allies Regarding Emotions of Students), sponsored by the Student Welfare Committee, continued its work of training faculty about resources that can help students with emotional problems. The program will in future be administered by the Counseling Center, ensuring that the program grows and reaches increasing numbers of faculty, staff, and students.
- Workplace Civility was the subject of a presentation by Jen Bunk (Psychology) at the February meeting.
- Senators expressed concern about the lack of faculty parking available on main campus, especially around Church Street. Contact was made with Mike Bicking (Chief, Public Safety) and discussions will be continuing in the future.
- Senators advocating for a full-time LGBTQA director attended meetings with the Dean of Students and other WCU administrators. These meetings echoed the sentiments expressed in the Senate's letter to Dean Bricketto (see above) sent in early May.

4) Presentations on Other Topics:

- Distance Education at WCU (Dr. Riu Li, Executive Director of Distance Education)
- University Strategic Plan: *Building on Excellence* (Roberta Snow, Co-Chair Strategic Planning Steering Committee of Strategic Plan)
- WCU Trustees Concerns (Eli Silberman, Council of Trustees)
- APSCUF Contract Negotiations (Lisa Millhous, Communications)

5) Senate Committees:

- Student Welfare – continued its work with WCU CARES by developing a foldout information card to be distributed after training sessions, and arranging for sponsorship of the program to be housed in the Counseling Center. The Committee has also worked to increase campus awareness of the unfortunate effects of the closing of the Children’s Center in December 2011 and wrote an op-ed piece that appeared in the *Quad* in April. Finally, it has begun investigating unfair practices in the Administration’s policy of “course equivalencies” for transfer students.
- Faculty Welfare – initiated work on increasing student and faculty awareness of the University’s academic integrity policies. Consultation with WCU administrators and individual departments helped with fact-finding; plans for a workshop (possibly in partnership with the Pedagogy for Engagement Committee) have been set in motion. The Committee has also begun to investigate general faculty concern with an ever-increasing workload, and plans to pursue this issue next year.
- Membership and By-Laws – thoroughly revised the By-Laws during summer 2011, posted those revisions for Senate and all-faculty feedback on D2L and the Senate website, collated the responses, and gave detailed reports and updates on these processes to Senate members at each full-assembly meeting. The resulting revision is nearly complete and will likely be put up for a vote during the 2012-13 academic year.
- Communications – maintained the website, and reviewed permission concerns regarding on-campus photography.
- Facilities and Sustainability (ad hoc) – worked with the Sustainability Advisory Council to monitor sustainability efforts across campus.