

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY
Board Retreat
Saturday, January 23, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m. in the University Commons, Ballroom C.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Bauer, Mr. Jackson, Ms. Mascolo, Mr. Mazzola, Ms. Niro, Dr. Pruitt, Mr. Taylor, Ms. Zolla, President Speert

ABSENT: Mr. Adzima, Mr. Gruel, Mr. Guarasci, Mr. Pesce

OTHERS PRESENT:

Provost and Senior Vice President Weil, Vice President Bolyai, Vice President Martone, Dr. Schaeffer, Ms. Teresa Farnum - Facilitator, Mrs. Santaniello, Administrators, and Staff.

ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING ADEQUATE NOTICE OF MEETING:

In accordance with the "Open Public Meetings Act," the Chairperson publicly announced and had entered into the minutes that "adequate notice" of this meeting was provided. In compliance with this Statute, this notice was posted on the University's web page and also distributed to The North Jersey Herald and News, The Record, and The Star Ledger more than 48 hours prior to this meeting.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the following resolution:

1-10-1 RESOLUTION, TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION (Appendix 1)

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

At approximately 9:00 a.m., the Public Session resumed.

CHAIRS REPORT:

Mr. Mazzola welcomed everyone. He said that much national attention has been given to access to higher education. However access without retention and graduation does not advance individual attainment or economic empowerment. Nationally only 53% of students enrolled in higher education actually graduate, at William Paterson University, our most current 6 year graduation rate is 51%. The Board has expressed its commitment to improving retention and graduation rates as a priority. This retreat is the first of a number of meetings planned to address this subject. This meeting will focus on raising the level of awareness of the Board and the campus community regarding retention and graduation rates and national trends. Once key initiatives have been identified, a plan will be developed and executed to accomplish improved retention and graduation rates.

Mr. Mazzola introduced Ms. Teresa Farnum, founder and president of Teresa Farnum & Associates, Inc., a firm dedicated to improving student learning, success and satisfaction resulting in improved retention and graduation rates. Ms. Farnum provided information on her background the work she has done in the area of retention.

Ms. Farnum outlined the plan for the day beginning with discussion of retention and graduation rates in general, at William Paterson University, and at similar institutions; discussion of at risk students and at risk institutions; review of specific data from the University followed by a review of benchmarking data including IPEDS data, Education Trust Similar Institutions data, ACT data and William Paterson data. The Board and attendees participated in several exercises including a review of the top 10 reasons why retention initiatives don't succeed followed by discussion.

After the lunch break, the Board and attendees broke into groups to look at retention structures at our peer institutions and a few other similar national institutions, focusing on the following topics: advising, retention leadership, honors programs, TRIO, services for undecided students, first year experience programs, support for minority students, and student/faculty ratios. Next the focus shifted to case studies of successful retention programs implemented at several four-year public institutions suggesting a wide variety of strategies for consideration. The group discussed the many components present at William Paterson University that are effective and the value of integrating them within a structured leadership model, and the development and utilization of structures and systems to support retention efforts. Lastly, there was discussion of strategies that included the establishment of a global university-wide retention plan, incorporating budgeting as a component of retention planning, and customizing data to support retention goals.

Mr. Mazzola thanked everyone for their participation and contributions to the discussions. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Santaniello". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a light gray rectangular background.

Donna Santaniello
Asst. to the President and Board of Trustees

1/23/10