Meeting Convened at 3:36 p.m.


Guests present: Alexander, Bechard, Betts, Chappell, Cratty, DeChiaro, Gates, Kain, Loughran, O’Neill, Robertson, Spiridon

President: Dan Barrett
Parliamentarian: Sam Lightwood

I. Minutes
A. November 19, 2014 – Approved

II. Announcements
A. Transform 2020 Update – Dr. Dan Barrett
   a. Have had a few meetings with Dr. Gray – progress is slow in getting faculty more involved
   b. 4 Senate Presidents, AAUP President, and AAUP Vice President will create a Statement of Principles
B. New Spring 2015 Graduation Arrangements – Dr. Keith Betts & Helen Bechard
   a. Faculty should make reservations if they would like to take shuttle bus
   b. March begins at transit parking garage @ 10:15 a.m.
   c. Driving mileage and parking costs will not be reimbursed
C. Strategic Planning Stakeholders Conference – Drs. Ann Atkinson & Dan Barrett
   a. Approximately 80 faculty attended
   b. Mission statement is being revised and will be distributed for feedback

III. Unfinished Business
A. Smoking Policy Change – Kevin Koschel
   a. Motion to postpone approved (Schlicht)
B. Affirmative Consent – Dr. Jeff Schlicht
   a. Motion to postpone approved (Buccini)
   b. Motion to reconsider approved (Schlicht)
Senator Sheffield-Thergood reported that the SGA expressed unanimous support for the resolution

IV. New Business

A. Suspension of PINs for Spring 2015 Registration & the Future of PINs – Dr. Dan Barrett
   a. Enrollment Management Committee is checking with others schools about their use of PINs and what their perceived efficacy is, and will make recommendations regarding the future of PINS at WCSU

B. FAC Transform Resolution – Dr. Patty O’Neill
   a. Motion to endorse passed unanimously (Schlicht)

C. Graduate Council Transform Resolution – Dr. Josie Hamer
   a. Motion to endorse passed unanimously (Murray)

D. CUCAS Transform Resolution – Dr. Jay Brower
   a. Motion to endorse passed unanimously (Buccini)

E. Distance Learning Committee Transform Resolution – Dr. Jay Brower
   a. Motion to endorse passed unanimously (Murray)

F. UPBC Transform Resolution – Dr. Mike Chappell
   a. Motion to endorse passed unanimously (Koza)

G. Course Cancellation Policy – Dr. Patty O’Neill
   a. Does this apply to graduate programs?
      i. Dr. Gates reply: No.
   b. Should we accept course pre-requisite waivers and substitutions in the case of graduating Senior student needs?
      i. Dr. Gates reply:
         1. Pre-requisite waivers: decision will be made by the department chairperson in consultation with the School Dean, with the Dean having final say
         2. Course substitution: decision will be made by the department chairperson in consultation with the School Dean, with the Dean having final say
   c. Dr. Gates agreed to make some small, clarifying changes to this policy and to distribute to the faculty and staff

V. Adjournment: 4:49 p.m.

Submitted,
Jeff Schlicht
RESOLUTION R-14-12-01:

RESOLVED THAT THE SENATE SHALL ASK THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TO ASK THE CSCU BOARD OF REGENTS (OR ITS APPROPRIATE BODY) TO ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE TO ITS SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE POLICY IN THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT SECTION, PAGE 5, FINAL PARAGRAPH.

“AN AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT STANDARD EXISTS AT CSCU IN THE DETERMINATION OF WHETHER CONSENT WAS GIVEN BY ALL PARTIES TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH PERSON INVOLVED IN THE SEXUAL ACTIVITY TO ENSURE THAT HE OR SHE HAS THE AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT OF THE OTHER OR OTHERS TO ENGAGE IN THE SEXUAL ACTIVITY.

- AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT IS THE EQUAL APPROVAL, GIVEN FREELY, WILLINGLY, AND KNOWINGLY OF EACH PARTICIPANT TO DESIRED SEXUAL INVOLVEMENT.
- AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT IS A CONSCIOUS DECISION – INDICATED CLEARLY BY WORDS OR ACTIONS – TO ENGAGE IN MUTUALLY ACCEPTED SEXUAL CONTACT.
- AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT CANNOT BE GIVEN WHEN A PERSON IS MENTALLY INCAPACITATED (E.G., AFTER INGESTION OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY IMPAIR AWARENESS OR JUDGMENT) OR PHYSICALLY INCAPACITATED (E.G., THE PERSON IS UNCONSCIOUS OR OTHERWISE UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE CONSENT).
- AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT CANNOT BE ASSUMED BECAUSE THERE IS NO PHYSICAL RESISTANCE OR OTHER NEGATIVE RESPONSE.
- AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT CAN BE REVOKED AT ANY TIME. A PERSON WHO INITIALLY CONSENTS TO SEXUAL ACTIVITY SHALL BE DEEMED NOT TO HAVE CONSENTED TO ANY SUCH ACTIVITY WHICH OCCURS AFTER THAT CONSENT IS WITHDRAWN.
- THE EXISTENCE OF A DATING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERSONS INVOLVED, OR THE FACT OF PAST SEXUAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM, SHOULD NEVER BY ITSELF BE ASSUMED TO BE AN INDICATOR OF AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT.”

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY
RESOLUTION:

RESOLUTION R-14-12-02:

WHEREAS, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF TRANSFORM CSCU 2020, THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE FINDS THAT IT LACKS FOCUS ON ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE, CONSOLIDATES OUR DISTINCT MISSIONS, IS SO VAGUE AS TO BE MEANINGLESS, AND REMOVES AUTONOMY FROM LOCAL INSTITUTIONS IN A MANNER THAT HAS ENORMOUS AND NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES OF OUR STUDENTS. IN SHORT, IT IS NEITHER TRANSFORMATIONAL NOR INSPIRATIONAL.

RESOLVED: WE CANNOT ENDORSE TRANSFORM CSCU 2020 IN ITS CURRENT FORM.

RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOR [NOVEMBER 14, 2014]

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE [DECEMBER 10, 2014]

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION R-14-12-03:


WHEREAS, PROMINENT AMONG MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES ARE CURRICULUM POLICY AND CURRICULAR STRUCTURE;

WHEREAS, IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT MUTUAL BENEFITS ARE TO BE DERIVED FROM CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CSCU SYSTEM, AND THAT PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE
SENATE

FORMULATION OF POLICIES UNDER WHICH THEY PROVIDE THEIR SERVICES IS EDUCATIONALLY SOUND;

RESOLVED, THAT WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY URGES THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO SUBMIT ALL RELEVANT TRANSFORM CSCU 2020 INITIATIVES INVOLVING CHANGES IN CURRICULUM, CURRICULAR POLICY, AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO APPROPRIATE CAMPUS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES.

THIS RESOLUTION IS PREDICATED ON THE CONVICTION THAT TEACHING AND RESEARCH ARE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF GRADUATE EDUCATION AT UNIVERSITIES, AND ARE PRIMARY REASONS WHY THE PUBLIC VALUES AND SUPPORTS THESE INSTITUTIONS. FACULTY ARE RECOGNIZED EXPERTS IN THEIR AREAS OF INSTRUCTION AND UNIQUELY EQUIPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION. GRADUATE PROGRAMS ENRICH COMMUNITIES, THE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINES, AND THE PROFESSIONS; FACULTY PROVIDE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDENTS AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE KNOWLEDGE BASE OF THEIR DISCIPLINES THROUGH THEIR SCHOLARSHIP AND THAT OF THEIR STUDENTS. IT IS THEREFORE APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY TO RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF FACULTY IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO GRADUATE CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS, TO EXERCISE THE INDEPENDENCE THAT IS CENTRAL TO THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC’S TRUST.

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU GRADUATE COUNCIL
[NOVEMBER 25, 2014]

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE
[DECEMBER 10, 2014]

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION R-14-12-04:

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU) IS CONSIDERING THE ADOPTION OF TRANSFORM CSCU 2020 INITIATIVES THAT WILL FUNDAMENTALLY CHANGE CURRENT UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULA AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS;

WHEREAS, PROMINENT AMONGST MATTERS OF CONCERN TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES ARE CURRICULUM POLICY AND CURRICULAR STRUCTURE;

WHEREAS, AS IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT MUTUAL BENEFITS ARE TO BE DERIVED FROM CONTINUAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CSCU SYSTEM, AND THAT PARTICIPATION OF FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES IN THE
SENATE

FORMULATION OF POLICIES UNDER WHICH THEY PROVIDE THEIR SERVICES IS EDUCATIONALLY SOUND;

RESOLVED, THAT WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY URGES THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO SUBMIT ALL RELEVANT TRANSFORM CSCU 2020 INITIATIVES INVOLVING CHANGES IN CURRICULUM, CURRICULAR POLICY, AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO APPROPRIATE CAMPUS GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES.

THIS REQUEST IS PREDICATED ON THE CONVICTION THAT TEACHING IS AN ESSENTIAL TASK OF ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND A PRIMARY REASON WHY THE PUBLIC VALUES AND SUPPORTS HIGHER EDUCATION. FACULTY ARE RECOGNIZED EXPERTS IN THEIR AREAS OF INSTRUCTION, AND UNIQUELY EQUIPPED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO PROVIDE HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION. IT IS, THUSLY, APPROPRIATE AND NECESSARY TO RECOGNIZE THE AUTHORITY OF FACULTY IN ALL MATTERS RELATED TO CURRICULUM AND ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO MAINTAIN THE DIGNITY, AND EXERCISE THE INDEPENDENCE THAT IS CENTRAL TO THE PROTECTION OF THE PUBLIC’S TRUST.

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE CURRICULUM AND STANDARDS [NOVEMBER 13, 2014]

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE [DECEMBER 10, 2014]

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION R-14-12-05:

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY (CSCU) IS CONSIDERING THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR BLENDED LEARNING AND ONLINE COURSE DELIVERY;

WHEREAS, EACH INSTITUTION OF THE CSCU SYSTEM HAS A DISTINCT IDENTITY AND MISSION;

WHEREAS, THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS FOR BLENDED LEARNING AND ONLINE COURSE DELIVERY WILL DIRECTLY IMPACT PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICE, STANDARDS, AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FACULTY TO TEACH IN THESE FORMATS;

RESOLVED, THAT WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY URGES THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO 1) RECOGNIZE, PRESERVE, AND RESPECT FACULTY’S EXPERTISE AND UNIQUE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACH IN SHAPING THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF ONLINE CLASSES AT EACH INSTITUTION IN THE CSCU SYSTEM
WHEN CONSIDERING THIS INITIATIVE, 2) RECOGNIZE THAT THERE IS NO ONE SUCCESSFUL WAY TO TEACH A COURSE BUT RATHER DIVERSITY IN PERSPECTIVES IS A HALLMARK OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND 3) PLAN AND IMPLEMENT APPROPRIATE RESOURCES TO FACILITATE FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN THE USE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY, WHICH SPECIFICALLY INCLUDES INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN SUPPORT, STREAMLINED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT.

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON DISTANCE EDUCATION [NOVEMBER 17, 2014]

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE [DECEMBER 10, 2014]

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION R-14-12-06:

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR THE CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITY (CSCU) IS CONSIDERING THE ADOPTION OF SYSTEM-WIDE SHARED METRICS;

WHEREAS, THE LEGISLATION CREATING THE CSCU SYSTEM MANDATED THE CRAFTING OF DISTINCT MISSION STATEMENTS;

WHEREAS, EACH INSTITUTION OF THE CSCU SYSTEM HAS A DISTINCT IDENTITY AND MISSION;

WHEREAS, EACH CAMPUS HAS A UNIQUE ROLE IN ITS REGION OF CONNECTICUT;

WHEREAS, THE ADOPTION OF SHARED METRICS MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANT BUDGETARY CONSEQUENCES, MAY HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON OUR MISSIONS, AND MAY WEAKEN OUR DISTINCT IDENTITIES;

RESOLVED, THAT WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY URGES THE BOARD OF REGENTS TO RECOGNIZE, PRESERVE, AND RESPECT THE DISTINCT AND LONG-STANDING IDENTITY AND MISSION OF EACH INSTITUTION IN THE CSCU SYSTEM WHEN CONSIDERING THE USE OF SHARED METRICS.

RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE [DECEMBER 1, 2014]
RESOLVED BY THE WCSU UNIVERSITY SENATE
[DECEMBER 10, 2014]

APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY