Meeting convened at 3:32 p.m.


**Guests present:** Alexander, Atkinson, Bakhtiarova, Batura, Begian, Betts, Bhatt, Boily, Corzo, Cratty, Cruz, DeChiaro, DeRosa, Diot, Esposito, Fuchs, Galtieri, Gates, Gustafson, Hamoy, House, Jazwiecki, Johnson, Kukk, Lagano, Lanier, Lynch, Loughran, Markert, Mason, McDaniel, McInerney, O’Brien, O’Callaghan, Olson, O’Neill, O’Neill P., Pisano, Prisco, Rabe, Rajcula, Reis, Sanford, Schmotter, Spiridon, Steinmetz, Tolisano, Veillette

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**I. Minutes**

March 19, 2014 minutes were approved (Schlicht /Ivanov; 13/0 /12) with modifications, S. Maskel was not present at the March meeting.

**II. Announcements**

Thomas DeChiaro introduced the new CIO for ConnSCU, Mr. Joseph Tolisano. Joe discussed the need to move resources to the campuses to provide better services for faculty, staff and students. We need to have a decentralized model for the future, where ConnSCU would create “Centers of Excellence”. The systems office needs to empower the universities and move resources to the campuses.

Initiatives:
Create Centers of Excellence
Transform 2020-IT Infrastructure
Smart Classrooms

Reviewing funding sources (Block Grants) and working on the IT Strategic Plan. We need to INNOVATE IT. There will be an IT audit to determine future needs for the system.
University

SENATE

Thomas DeChiaro presented “Internet of Things”
Tom discussed the new IT environment for the future, the migration of jobs and technology. By 2020 there will be 50 billion devices connected to various networks. Technology is rapidly changing how business is conducted. The “value proposition” is in the service we provide.

Technology has changed the job market. BIG DATA is the future, and the challenges we face are in security. The University needs to build the network infrastructure. ConnSCU has a Transform 2020 grant of 40 million dollars to address infrastructure needs.

Budget Update

Paul Reis gave an update on the new budget process for 2015 which is a more transparent process. Kudos to Mary Ann Dease and Lynn Bricker for all the work they have done on the budgeting process.

UPBC will have a meeting on April 28th to discuss the budgets that have been presented to the committee. UPBC will make their recommendations during the May 5th meeting. Finance and Administration will then review the recommendations and work on a final budget to be presented to the BOR. There will be no official budget until the BOR vote in June.

The budget has a built in growth of 4% increase in enrollment, and a housing increase of 4%. Continuing student housing numbers look good.

FAC update

Patricia O’Neill announced that the BOR has hired Dr. Michael Gargano as the new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for the ConnSCU system. Patti also commented on the last two FAC meetings.

The FAC has voiced its concern that there are many consultants being hired to review the long term planning process for ConnSCU. Consultants have been hired or will soon be hired to review/evaluate the following areas:
- Enrollment
- IT Audit
- Academic Plan
- Management Positions
- Review functions and offices (for consolidation purposes)

In March the BOR passed a new conduct code for students. Implementation is planned for July 1, 2014. The new code of conduct is in conflict with WCSU’s procedures (i.e. academic honesty policy). Jane Gates advised that these conflicts will be addressed prior to implementation, and that we have time now to make changes to the new policy. Changes should be addressed to Ernestine Weaver and or Michael Gargano.
Currently there is legislation pending to add a second FAC member to the BOR. Students have a vote on the BOR, but the faculty does not. At this time we are not sure if this new BOR member will be a voting member.

Update of the Strategic Planning Process: Tabled until the May senate meeting.

Proposed Revisions to the Curriculum Approval Process

Missy Alexander advised that the proposed revisions were included in the senate packet. CUCAS proposed changes in RED, UPBC proposed changes in BLUE, Graduate Council proposed changes in GREEN, and CUCAS & Graduate Council common proposal shown in PURPLE. Tony Markert was available to answer questions at the end of the senate session, but no questions or clarifications were needed. The vote will occur at the May senate meeting.

TAP Framework Implementation Review

New committee members are needed to serve for a two year term. One member from each unit is needed.

Update from SGA

SGA V.P. Ryan Cooke reported that the SGA has made progress this year. The SGA bylaws were amended, a new position, parliamentarian was added. The SGA worked collaboratively with the SGA’s from our sister Universities to make changes. Programming changes included bringing back the Bonfire, Fight Hunger Fashion Show, a Block Party, and a Senior Class Cruise. The SGA is working towards increasing community service and the A Cappella Coalition.

Elections for the SGA will be held electronically in the future. The new SGA president is Isaiah Thergood.

III. Unfinished Business

Parliamentarian Review Roberts Rules: Abstention Votes and Quorum Rules

Question: Do abstention votes count towards a quorum? Yes. An abstention vote is still a vote.

Therefore the motion made during the February 2014 meeting passes as follows: “Motion to add to the faculty handbook: “The instructor will announce his or her policy on the written syllabus at the beginning of each semester”. Motion passes (Moser/Schlicht: 9/3/7)
IV. **New Business**

**Graduate Council Bylaw Changes**

Marcia Delcourt explained the minor changes to the bylaws which were included in the senate packet. A motion to accept the changes was made by Schlicht/Clements. No motion was made to suspend the rules to vote; therefore the vote will take place during the May senate meeting.

**Ancell School of Business Program Review Committee Bylaws**

Dr. Jim Donegan discussed the changes to the bylaws which were included in the senate packet. The changes to the program sheets concern general education, BBA core and free electives. The BBA’s are basically the same.

Changes:
IV: Membership, add balanced and rotating faculty.
VIII: The order of B and C may change. Addition of a 4th letter (i.e. BUSA –Accounting, BUSF - Finance).
IX: The entire Ancell faculty has voted to remove appeals for this section.

Motion to accept changes: Moser/Goble. No motion was made to suspend the rules to vote; therefore the vote will take place during the May senate meeting.

**New Tiered Competency General Education Framework**

The senate voted last year to move to a tiered, competency-based General Education curriculum. The attachment in the senate packet is the proposed framework that has resulted from the past 12 months of discussion and planning. The proposed framework for the tiered, competency-based General Education curriculum has been approved by the Gen Ed Committee, CUCUS and UPBC.

Dr. Ward and Dr. Whittemore submitted a letter to the senators addressing concerns of moving to a tiered competency-based General Education curriculum. The concern centers around the concept of “decoupling” of credit hours from time spent in the classroom. A competency based curriculum reduces and limits teaching and learning to performance outcomes. The competency based curriculum would eliminate emergent learning.

Jamie Begian and Missy Alexander clarified that the senators should be only reviewing the competencies, not the verbiage written under each competency title/heading. The verbiage is only a placeholder and the actual definitions and assessment will be defined during the 14/15 academic year. An updated framework without the placeholders will be forwarded so that the senators can have their departments review. The vote to approve will take place during the May senate meeting.
Partnership for Preparation of Elementary Educators (P2E2) Program

Dr. Catherine O’Callaghan and Dr. Bonnie Rabe discussed the framework for the P2E2 Program. The program has been presented to the Danbury and Bethel Public schools with positive results. CUCAS has also approved the new program.

The focus of the program is based on 39 credits with the emphasis on three elements; math, literacy and science. The program also increases the student requirement for fieldwork. The senior year is a residency program based on a co-teaching model and the second half of the year focuses on student teaching. The new program replaces the current elementary education model.

For two years WCSU will use the old model and the new P2E2 program. The incoming freshman class and sophomore class will use the P2E2 program and the upper classmen will stay with the current elementary education model. The P2E2 will go from 17 disciplines to 12 disciplines. There will be no electives in the new P2E2 program.

Motion to approve the new Partnership for Preparation of Elementary Educators (P2E2) Program (Schlicht /Goble: 18/3/3) Motion passes.

Other

During the past few senate meetings, the announcements made are taking a very long time. There is nothing in Roberts Rules regarding the length of time for announcements. Roberts Rules states that there is a 5 minute cap on discussions when a motion is on the table.

The senate is a forum for anyone to bring anything to the senate floor and the President of senate is here as the facilitator for items brought forward.

Reminder from Jane Gates regarding the Academic Showcase to be held on Thursday April 17, 2014 from 9:00 – 12:00. There will also be a BOR meeting held in the afternoon.

V. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.