Meeting convened at 3:40 p.m.


Guests present: Alexander, Atkinson, Cratty, Cruz, Halloran, House, Howe, O’Neill, Reis, Ryan, Spiridon

I. Minutes

February 2014 minutes were approved (Murray/O’Brien; 15/0/2)

II. Announcements

1. Anne Atkinson presented the following announcements on behalf of Provost Gates:
   a. Revised Declaration of Major policy for the undergraduate catalog: “Continuing students must declare a major once they have completed 60 credits at the university. Transfer and readmitted students entering or returning with 60 credit hours or more must declare a major by the end of their first Fall or Spring semester at WCSU. Failure to declare a major as outlined above will result in the student being required to meet with an advisor in the Academic Advisement Center prior to registering for courses in a succeeding Fall or Spring semester.”
   b. Department Chair Workshop: Provosts of four CSUs and AAUP are preparing a workshop for all department chairs to be held at CCSU in Fall 2014. Potential Academic Calendar for 2015-2016

2. Chuck Spiridon presented the potential academic calendar for 2015-2016. Adjustments were made responding to concerns regarding reading days and the calendars are similar to CSUs past calendars. Similar calendars will not be identical. Specific dates are included in the distributed calendar.
3. Paul Reis offered an update of the budget outlook. Governor Malloy’s plan includes a modest increase in tuition and fees. The BOR met last week and approved a 2% increase. Raises and benefit increases make our costs increase more than 2%. Schools will receive an allocation from additional funding from the Governor to the BOR to total 3%, which means a 5% equivalent raise in tuition and fees.

There will be budget presentations at the UPBC meetings in April 2014. The goal this year is to build an infrastructure for the new budget process with multiple conversations regarding new budget requests. We are starting off with a $5 million deficit even with a 2% + 3% increase. Paul Reis and President Schmotter will meet with Dr. Gray to discuss high priority expenditures to move forward in a strategic way. The expectation is that budgets will be presented to the budget committee in May so that budgets will be ready by the beginning of the 2015 fiscal year.

It is still not clear what the impact will be of “go back to get ahead.” WCSU would receive additional funds to compensate for expenses for these students. The system is hoping to capture a minimum of 5,000 students.

4. Patricia O’Neill updated the Senate on the FAC meeting in January with Dr. Gray. The most important take home message, which was emphasized a month later in a meeting with Kyle Thomas, legislative liaison for the BOR: “if we were looking for additional full-time positions, we should stop looking.”

Patricia O’Neill and others submitted testimony earlier in March 2014 regarding the need for additional full-time faculty positions to the Higher Education Committee.

The FAC is still trying to obtain additional faculty representation on the BOR, but it is apparent that the BOR does not want this. The FAC thinks it is more important for faculty to be on all the subcommittees and members have volunteered to attend public subcommittee meetings. FAC members have asked for and received additional representation on the common calendar committee. Patricia O’Neill invited suggestions for that because she has served on that committee.

The FAC has not decided whether or not to support the 2% tuition increase. Although the FAC understands the need for a tuition increase, members are concerned about student reactions given last year’s protests.

The FAC also wants to discuss the issue of undocumented students and whether they are receiving the financial aid for which they are eligible.
5. DL Stephenson made an announcement on behalf of the Nominations and Elections Committee: There will be a run-off election that will end this week. Please vote, and please vote for others, not just yourself.

At-large seats and seats for schools often compete. The committee would like to move people from the at-large seat into an empty seat (if that exists) and then fill the at-large seat with a runner-up. Please fill out the willingness to serve form so that the seats are not dropped from the ballot. You cannot appoint people once the elections have been completed.

6. End of Year Reports for all Senate Standing Committees are due in May 2014.

III. Unfinished Business

None

IV. New Business

A. Post Masters Certificate Program: Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner

Laurel Halloran presented the program. This is for students who already have a graduate degree so that they can take these courses and sit for certification.

Motion to approve the program (Rosenthal/Murray: 15/0/2) Motion passes.

Motion to suspend the rules (Rosenthal/Murray: 15/2/0) Motion passes.

B. WCSU Educational Achievement & Access Program (EAP) Committee Bylaws Changes

Patrick Ryan gave an introduction to the EAP program, its recruitment efforts and strategies for approximately 35-40 students. EAP students must take a course in writing and a course in mathematics earning a grade of C or better in order to be admitted to WCSU. He outlined the proposed changes to the committee’s voting membership.

Motion to accept the changes to the by-laws (Murray/Rosenthal: 17/0/0) Motion passes.

Motion to suspend the rules (Murray/Trapani: 13/3/1) Motion passes.
V. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.