Meeting convened at 3:37 p.m.

**Members present (alphabetical):** Barrett, Boriss, Clements, Dabros, Delcourt, Divya, Donegan, Eisenson, Ferguson, Forbes, Hayes, Huang, Immohr, Ivanov, Koza, Lupinacci, Maskel, Moser, Murray, O’Brien, Rosenthal, Schlicht, Secondo, Skar, and Tom

**Guests present:** Abate, Alexander, Assenza, Atkinson, Betts, Boily, DeChiaro, Gates, House, Loughran, Markert, O’Neill, Rajcula, Reis, Sanford, Schmotter, Shanks

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**I. Minutes**

December 2013 minutes were approved (Schlicht/Immohr; 17/0 /3)

January 8th 2014 minutes were approved (Schlicht /Barrett; 13/0 /7)

January 15th 2014 minutes were approved (Schlicht /Ivanov; 13/0 /6) with modifications: D.L Stephenson was present at the meeting.

**II. Announcements**

President Schmotter discussed the strategic plan for the ConnSCU. The EXCEL CT document has been replaced by the TRANSFORM CSCU 2020. There is a new funding plan regarding capital bonds and ITI infrastructure and enrollment. There will be an IT audit to determine future needs for the system, i.e. genius classroom, tech online courses etc.

Three important goals for the system:
- Develop enrollment strategies
- Affordability
- Accessibility

Enrollment: Go Back to Get Ahead program. If a student has spent time in the CCC’s or CSU system and has been away 18 months the student may be eligible to return and get up to 9 credits free. The guidelines and criteria are being reviewed, and a marketing program will be established to get the information out to potential students. The Governor is backing this program.

Accessibility and Affordability: The proposed 2% increase per year (3yrs) may not doable. It may be possible for one year, but needs to be reviewed. Direct grants will make up the difference
of the deficit created by having a 2% tuition increase. This proposed tuition increase still needs to be voted upon by the BOR.

This is a challenging time for all the Universities. We hoped for a larger financial commitment for the development of Academic Facilities and Infrastructure. There have also been some discussions regarding consolidation of some administrative functions, IT, Financial Aid, and Enrollment services. There is a lot of financial uncertainty, the CSU’s are stable and the CCC’s are not as stable.

The University is making some progress regarding incentives for out of state student tuition and fees structures.

President Schmotter addressed the senate regarding the strategic planning process. The subcommittees have been formed with representatives from all segments of the University community. The subcommittees will review

- Environmental factors
- Review the 2007 strategic plan
- Vision and Values
- Physical Plant
- Branding

Factual error on “Options” within a major

Dr. Gates discussed factual errors on “Options” within a major.
Option for Undergraduate program: No more than 15 hours of credit which fall within an approved local or state program.
Option for Graduate programs: No more than 12 semester hours of credit within an approved program.
There is a ceiling but no floor for options. There has been a past practice of treating an option as a “Concentration” or a “Specialization” in a major. The option does not appear on the transcript, and students leaving the University believe that they have a concentration in a major, that is not shown on the transcript.

Common Calendar

ConnSCU has had a committee working to adopt a “Common Calendar” for all 17 institutions. Chuck Spiridon is the representative for WCSU. A proposed first year calendar for the fall semester for 2015 has been distributed to the senate.

The summer and intersession calendar will still be established by each institution. There are union considerations in adopting one calendar because of holidays, reading days and other considerations.
Concerns were expressed regarding exam days, make-up days and reading days. Please forward additional comments to Chuck Spiridon by February 24th. The final proposed calendar needs to be approved by Dr. Grey by the end of March.

New ConnSCU Provost

Jane Gates announced that the BOR has hired a new Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs for the ConnSCU system. Dr. Michael Gargano will lead efforts to strengthen ConnSCU's programs, increase enrollment, accessibility and is a champion for student success. Dr. Gargano is innovative and is open to a system of shared governance and diverse points of view. Faculty is the system's number one asset.

Signature Academic Programs

Jane Gates distributed the Signature Academic Programs Criteria to the senate. The Provost and President are open to receiving recommendations for future program review and consideration. Only undergraduate programs are considered for the signature program.

Budget Update

Paul Reis gave an update on FY 14 and FY15 Budget –The figures for FY14 indicate a slight improvement over previous indicators. There will be some share back benefits on the Fringe. The University also received some additional funding for faculty and academic advisement open positions. We still anticipate that there will be a deficit for FY 14.

FY 15 will be challenging. The University is hoping for approval of a 4% increase in tuition. We are currently waiting for further budgetary information from the BOR.

TRANSFORM 2020: The governor has earmarked 134M for ConnSCU which consists of 70M in bonded dollars and 60M operating dollars. 24M has also been earmarked to keep tuitions low. There will be a reengineering of the current 2020 bonding programs. The new program is entitled CSCU 2020.

FY 15 budgets from department are due on February 21, 2014. Budget holders should submit their budget needs to Lynn Bricker. The budget process will be a more transparent process.

Creating a Campus Fitness Center

Dr. Margaret Murray from the enrollment management committee spoke to the senate regarding the need to create a campus fitness center. Other higher education institutions such as URI and UNH have built new fitness centers and indicate that offering these new facilities has attracted
additional students leading to increased enrollment. SCSU is also planning to build a new campus fitness center.

The top three areas that students look at when choosing a University are food, housing and recreation facilities. The enrollment committee has not done any exploration on monies are budgetary factors in creating a new fitness center.

Paul Reis indicated that it may be possible to expand our current space for recreation, but further review is required. It was proposed that an ad hoc committee be established to discuss funding and expansion possibilities.

Willingness to Serve- Committee to review and evaluate the degree audit module in banner-CAPP

If anyone is interested in serving on the committee to review and evaluate the degree audit module in banner- CAPP they should contact Chuck Spiridon at 203-837-8000 by March 5, 2014. The project will take approximately 12 months.

MHA Degree Program

James Donegan notified the senate that the University has suspended accepting applications for new students to the MHA program. Students enrolled in the program will continue to pursue the MHA degree. Staffing issues as a result of two faculty retirements has contributed to making this decision. The business school will review the program and options possibly through the MBA program or a certification program. The re-evaluation is expected to be complete prior to the Fall 2015 semester.

III. Unfinished Business

Make up Examination Policy

Dan Barrett withdrew the original motion to approve the Make up Examination Policy for Catalog made during the November 2013 senate meeting.

Motions:
Motion to approve the “Undergraduate” Make up Examination Policy for Catalog (Moser/Schlicht).

Motion to suspend the rules to vote (Murray/Schlicht: 17/2/2).

Motion to approve (Moser/Schlicht: 16/0/4) – Motion passes
Motion to approve adding to the Undergraduate” Make Up Examination Policy for Catalog “Make up exams are given at the discretion of the instructor, unless federal and/or state law apply” (Schlicht/Moser: 17/0/3) – Motion passes

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. (Schlicht/Delcourt)

Motion to suspend the rules to vote (Schlicht/Secondo: 17/2/1).

Motion to approve (Moser/Schlicht: 9/3/7) – Parliamentarian to review Roberts rules regarding abstention votes and quorum rules.

**EdD in Nursing Program Policies**

Joan Palladino distributed the policy regarding academic policies and professional responsibilities governing EdD nursing program. The changes recommended are minor.

Motion to approve the policy regarding academic policies and professional responsibilities governing the doctoral program in nursing education (Lupinacci /Murray)

Motion to suspend the rules to vote (Schlicht/ Murray: 14/3/2).

Motion to approve (Schlicht/Moser: 19/0/1) – Motion passes

**IV. New Business**

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

**Proposal to Align Course transfer policy with the other CSU’s**

Dr. House advised that at a Deans Council meeting, all of the Council members supported the proposal to change the minimum course grade necessary to transfer a course taken at another institution from “C” to “C-.“ to align WCSU’s course transfer policy with the other CSU institutions.

Motion to approve policy to “change the minimum course grade necessary to transfer into WCSU an undergraduate course taken at another institution from “C” to “C-.“ to align course transfer policy with the other CSU’s (Forbes/Moser)

Motion to suspend the rules to vote (Secondo/Murray: 13/4/2).

Motion to approve (Secondo/Murray: 15/2/1) – Motion passes
Senate Meeting Dates for the Academic Year 2014-2015 (3rd Wednesday of the month with the exception of May.

Suggested Date for May 2015 is the 2d Wednesday

Motion to approve the 2d Wednesday for May 2015 (Maskel/Schlicht (15/2/1) motion passes

V. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.