Meeting convened at 3:35 p.m.


Guests present: Alexander, Betts, Gates, Lanier, Philbrick, Markert, Pinou, O’Neill, Reis, Schmotter, Shivya

I. Minutes

May 2013 minutes, two meetings held as follows: 2013-2014 Senate Elections and 2012-2013 final senate meeting

May, 2013-2014 minutes were approved (Murray/Stephenson; 17/0/8) with modifications:

- Headings incorrect – Switch headings with May 2012-2013 minutes, everything above the line
- Meeting dates for Senate 2013-2014 reflect March meeting notes (December 2013, March 2014 meetings will be second Wednesday of the month, May meeting will be first Wednesday of the month, and September, October, November 2013 and February and April 2014 meetings will be the third Wednesday of the month).

May, 2012-2013 minutes were approved (Boriss/Hayes; 15/0/11) with modifications:

- Headings incorrect – Switch headings with the 2013-2014 Senate meeting, everything above the line

II. Announcements

A. President Schmotter addressed the senate commenting on the great energy and enthusiastic opening of the semester. Discussed the opening of the Learning Commons and Math Emporium which will offer increased level of service to our students. ConnSCU is evolving and Dr. Gray has recognized the top priorities for the system as follows:
1. Create and change the narrative regarding the BOR and ConnSCU, changing the view of the system.
2. Personnel changes, hiring PR person, Chief of Staff and CFO
3. Create a plan for the system.

President Schmotter discussed comments Dr. Gray made regarding WCSU as the “Arts” school and Central as the “Science” school. WCSU is more than just “Arts” and noted that time will allow Dr. Gray and the system to understand the Universities.

Dr. Gray is looking to advance the cause of ConnSCU and trying to obtain more support at the state level. This is a work in progress and we need to focus on the success of our students and the health of the overall system.

B. Dr. Gates addressed the senate - Clarification regarding August 30th letter requesting departments and chairs to update expectations regarding Promotion and Tenure as required in the bylaws. This letter was sent at the request of the Promotion and Tenure Committee and only looking for responses in the spirit of collegiality.

Dr. Gates informed the senate that the WCSU Senate and BOR approved Transfer Articulation agreement has been sent out. The letter outlines the framework of the agreement and the department chairs should review. The agreement outlines the principles for the plan and the seamless transfer to the four year institutions. Phase two of this project and will involve the TAP Coordinating Council, the framework and implementation review committee and the TAP pathways workgroups to work on the implementation process. All representatives will be elected to the groups. June 2014 is the completion target for the Pathways workgroups.

NEASC site visit planned to begin September 29th through October 2d. Requests that the University support the many forums that will be held during this site visit.

The University is challenging the decision by our legal counsel regarding use of “TURN IT IN” which has ruled that this software can only be used if the students submit. Faculty cannot submit students work to TURN IT IN.

The competency models for Gen Ed are moving forward.

Kudos to:

Creation of the first orientation manual for adjunct faculty: Dan Barrett Nursing, Psychology, Communications, Biology and the Business departments for completion of the major to major pathways work.
Math Emporium – adaptive learning techniques Senan Hayes
The Learning Commons located in the Ancell Building is now open.

C. Update on FY 13 and FY14 Budget – Paul Reis reported that the FY13 audit is in progress and that PWC will be on campus again starting September 30th. The preliminary figures for FY14 indicate that enrollment is down 4.2% and that housing is down 8.2%. Although the enrollment is down, the numbers are better than originally anticipated. Today is the enrollment census date. These census numbers will be the basis for the budget for the balance of this year and FY15. Jane Gates can provide the census numbers when available. The senators requested the breakdown of the numbers by school, rather than an overall number.

Monies for fringe expenses will continue to be funded via state appropriations as in previous years. This provides the University with more protection than if the system changed.

For FY15 the UPBC will be changing from a top down approach. In the new approach to budgeting, budgets holders will submit their budget needs. The budget process will be a more transparent and open process.

D. FAC update from Dr. Patty O’Neill – A handout “Background and Summary of Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC for August 23, 2013 meeting with President Gray” was given to the senators to take back to their departments for review. The FAC had prolonged discussions regarding the mission statement and led the effort to revise the ConnSCU mission statement that reflects the importance of the scholarly work of faculty (research, scholarship, and creative endeavor). The BOR endorsed a new mission statement for the Connecticut State Universities to include “research” in the statement in June 2013.

The FAC advocated at the legislature to have two faculty members serve on the BOR and advocated to have faculty members sit on the various BOR subcommittees. There will be one non-voting faculty member serving on the BOR only and not serving on any subcommittees.

The FAC expressed concern regarding UCONN’s expansion of degrees at their regional campuses. UCONN’s Vice Provost Sally Rice met with the FAC in May and stated that the regional expansion will only affect a small number of students. The FAC will continue to pursue this topic and will discuss this with Dr. Gray.

E. Vacancies on Senate standing committees: D.L. Stephenson stated that the willingness to serve ballots that were sent on 9/30/13 did not have all the vacancies listed correctly. Although the senate sent the correct information to ITI, there was a glitch in the system. DL will work with IT to fix the problems, extend the ballot close date, and a new call for nominations/willingness to serve ballot will be sent out.
If anyone is interested in serving on a senate committee they should contact the current committee members regarding the schedule of meetings.

F. President Gray will attend the November 20\textsuperscript{th}, 2013 Senate meeting. President Gray will address the senate at the start of the meeting. Please advise your departments that all questions for Dr. Gray should be sent to D.L. Stephenson prior to the senate meeting. Dr. Gray will also field questions from the senators and guests.

G. Patty O’Neill and the other campus AAUP presidents will meet with Dr. Gray on October 25, 2013.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Research & Development Committee Award Summary and Background – Dr. Tom Philbrick described the allocation of reassigned time for the Research and Development Committee and presented related data. Dr. Philbrick and the committee are pushing for transparency in the decision making process. Some schools receive more credits proportionally than other schools. Dr. Philbrick discussed possible reasons why this might be the case:

Is it the actual application and process?
Does it have to do with the culture of the department?
Should the committee add Creativity to its name?
Is it a marketing problem?

The English department had 48 approved and 90 applications denied over the period of time presented in the data. Is that because in the past writing was not considered as research and the committee was looking for a more concrete plan to be submitted? Dr. Philbrick indicated that this was an unspoken rule that is no longer promoted by the committee. The committee needs to promote scholarly activity. Possibly some departments do not apply because “research” is not understood? Should the committee add Creativity as a component? The R and D committee would be willing to talk to any department to clarify information on the process.

B. Nomination and Election of Senate Secretary for 2013/2014. A call for nominations/willingness to serve was sent out on September 10, 2013. The duties of the secretary are to:
Inform the faculty of all decisions
To communicate in writing and receive reply’s from the President of the University
To inform senate actions and recommendations to the appropriate bodies
Some discussion ensued regarding the possibility of having Co-Secretaries.


C. Discussion regarding proxy’s for senate. The Philosophy department currently has only one full time position, and the faculty member has stated that attending the senate meeting creates a hardship. Dr. Koza will review the senate bylaws and Robert’s Rules as it pertains to this situation and advise the senate of the findings.

IV. New Business

A. Reports from Senate Committees: Three reports received and the chairs of the committees were present to answer any questions. No questions received from the senators.

- Research and Development Committee – Chair, Dr. Philbrick
- Center for Culture and Values Committee - Chair, Dr. Pinou
- Committee on Undergraduate Curriculum & Academic Standards (CUCAS) - Chair, Dr. Markert

B. Student Life Committee Bylaws- Proposed changes are editorial in nature, changes as highlighted in section IV.B and IV.C. Change name from Student Life office to the “Center for Student Involvement

- Motion to accept changes (Buccini/Secondo)
- Motion to suspend rules (Murray/Ivanov; 22/1/1)
- Motion to accept bylaws changes as presented. The motion passed (24/0/0).

V. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at _____.

September 2013 Senate Resolutions

R-09-18-01. All references to the Student Life Office will be changed to the Center for Student Involvement (reflecting its new name). 24/0/0