March 20, 2013
Midtown Student Center, Room 202

Meeting convened at 3:36 p.m.

Members present (alphabetical): Boriss, Buccini, Fraser, Harris, Heilbronner, House, Huang, Immohr (for Tobin), Ivanov, Karshik, Lupinacci, Maskel, Moser, Murray, O’Brien, O’Grady, O’Neill, Peretti, Ryan, Rybcyzk, Skar, Skora, Weinstein and Wittimore (for Standish), Stephenson, Stevens, Trapani, Woodward (for Stephens)

Guests present: Alexander, Bechart, Coover, Cosgrove, Diot, Ganschow, Gates, Goble, Kukk, Lanier, McDonough, Reis, Schmotter, Steinmetz, Stewart, Tom Weiss, Whittemore

I. Minutes

February, 2013 minutes were approved (Murray/Skar; 16/0/5).

II. Announcements

A. Update on Growth and Retention - Dr. Jane Gates, Provost, provided an update on growth and retention. Retention rates are at 69%, a decline of 1% from previous fall, resulting in a net decrease of 231 students. Part-time undergraduates increased by 30 and graduate students increased by 1. In summary, transfers fell short of replacing losses due to graduation and attrition. Dr. Gates stressed that retention must improve and asked Senators to target a 75% retention rate. She would like at a future meeting to discuss specific strategies to boost retention.

B. Update on Budgetary Issues - Paul Reis, Vice President of Finance and Administration, provided an update on budgetary issues for FY13 and FY14. For FY13, there was a 5% rescission from the state late in the calendar year. That rescission reduced FY13 state support by about $2 million, but it was partially offset by greater recovery from the state for fringe benefit support. Earlier in the year, WCSU experienced a 4.1% enrollment decline vs. the prior year and an 8.2% decline in residential hall occupancy. These declines and the rescission resulted in a $6 million shortfall in revenue. Consequently, some positions have been left open. Currently, FY13 revenue is forecast for a deficit of $248,602; however, an in-balanced budget is possible by the end of the year. The development of the FY14 is behind schedule. Tuition and fees are projected to increase by 5.25%; the BOR will meet March 21 to finalize the tuition and fee structure, which must be decided before financial aid packages may be offered. Appropriation from the state is for FY14 is estimated to be approximately $40.8 million. Salary increases are due to increase, and several new building-related expenses are anticipated (e.g., for Visual and Performing Arts). WCSU will present
to the BOR a FY14 spending plan in April, and a public forum will be held in advance with the university committee on April 4 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. to discuss the specifics of the plan. The plan will be voted on and approved in June.

C. Report back from the FAC and BOR - Dr. Patty O’Neill, WCSU Representative to the FAC, reported back from the FAC and BOR. The FAC committee is hoping to contribute to a revision of the mission statement for ConnSCU. The concern is that the five goals that have been developed will be converted into metrics that will determine performance-based funding. There is also a focus on legislative outreach; for example, committee members have met with state Senators and testified before the Education Subcommittee. Committee members are also developing election processes and guidelines by which future elections will take place. Dr. O’Neill encouraged Senators to run for the position of representative to the committee.

D. CSU Professors’ Letter to the BOR - Dr. Tom Philbrick discussed the letter, which was sent to the BOR on March 7 and discussed professors’ concerns with the proposed mission statement, which minimizes the importance of research within the CSU system. A response was received and they will meet with the BOR shortly.

E. Other – Senator Mike Fraser announced that the SAC met in March; Senator Fraser is the Chair. A joint meeting will be held at the BOR in March, and it is anticipated that much of the discussion will concern student tuition. In anticipation, Senator Fraser drafted a letter providing reasons that the 5.25% increase should not be implemented.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Other – there was no unfinished business.

IV. New Business

A. Center for Compassion, Creativity and Innovation Bylaws – Dr. Chris Kukk presented the proposed by-laws for the Center. He announced that there would also be the second annual Conference on Creativity and Compassion this year. Committee members spoke and described how the process was implemented. They then answered questions and addressed concerns from the Senators. Specific concerns dealt with whether the Center should be tied so strongly to the Honors Program, what research supports the mission of the Center, who the Director should be, and more. Because it is a policy issue, the by-laws will be taken back, revised, and presented again for a vote next month.

B. New Course – EPY644; Education and Educational Psychology Department - Dr. Janet Burke was not present. Dr. House explained that an issue of concern is related to how the SharePoint system functions; timing is important. Senator Maskel explained that new courses do not come before the Senate.
C. **Vote on Meeting Date** – Senator Stephenson asked for a motion to move the December 2013 Senate meeting to the second Wednesday of the month or December 11, 2013; the March Senate meeting to the second Wednesday of the month or March 12, 2014; and the May 2014 Senate meeting to the first Wednesday of the month or May 7, 2014. These date changes are necessary in order to avoid conflicts with the winter, spring, and summer breaks.

**Motions:**

To move the December 2013 Senate meeting to the second Wednesday of the month, December 11, 2013 (Buccini/Moser; 24/1/1)

To move the March Senate meeting to the second Wednesday of the month or March 12, 2014 (Peretti/O’Brien; 23/1/1)

To move the May 2014 Senate meeting to the first Wednesday of the month or May 7, 2014 (Rybczyk/Ivanov; 19/4/3)

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.