December 12, 2012
Meeting of 2012 – 2013 Senate
Westside Campus Room 218

Meeting convened at 3:35 p.m.


I. Minutes

November 2012 minutes were accepted (Murray/O’Grady; 14/0/3).

II. Announcements

A. Update on Budget – Paul Reis described the $6 million revenue shortfall that occurred from the rescission of state appropriation funds and declining enrollment. He also discussed challenges for FY13 and FY14, as well as solutions that are under discussion, including an increase in tuition and fees.

B. Update on TAP Agreement and Gen Ed Tiered Competency Based Model – Dr. Robin Flanagan provided an update on the ConnSCU TAP agreement and asked for a ratification of the motion at the next Senate meeting. The TAP Agreement was presented in the November packet of materials provided to the Senate.

Motion:
The WCSU Senate ratifies the TAP framework, competencies, and learning outcomes using established curriculum governance procedures. The results will be presented to the Board of Regents (Stephenson/Ivanov).

This agreement will be presented to Senate on February 13, 2013 for a vote on the motion. Senators should take the motion back to their departments for feedback. The motion was therefore tabled for a vote until February.

Dr. Flanagan continued by providing an overview of the justification and process for the development of the Gen. Ed. competencies.
Motion:

The future General Education Program should be a tiered competency based model, so that our students will be exposed to selected competencies multiple times throughout their course of study (O’Neill/Murray).

Motion to Suspend the Ruling (O’Neill/Stephenson; 12/6/1). The motion did not pass, so the main motion will be tabled until the next Senate meeting.

C. Report back from the FAC and BOR – Dr. Patty O’Neill provided an update on proceedings. She indicated that the BOR did not wish at this time to discuss the recommendations of the advisory committee. Dr. O’Neill described concerns of the committee, describing how the role of the FAC was raised with stakeholders.

One of the concerns that the FAC relayed concerned the TAP agreement and whether individual institutions had to vote on the agreement. The process continues as originally envisioned.

D. Update on BOR Strategic Planning Process and Support for Statement Issued by the FAC – Dr. Patty O’Neill described how a statement from the FAC regarding the BOR’s strategic planning process was distributed to each campus. WCSU addressed this issue in its November meeting. To this date, it was thought that the Faculty Senates / College Assemblies at Norwalk Community College, Capital Community College, Middlesex Community College, WCSU, CCSU, and the Academic Council at Charter Oak have endorsed the FAC statement. Dr. O’Neill asked faculty members to take the statement back and share with their departments. At SCSU, the Senate expressed support for the FAC statement, but wanted to create its own statement. At CCSU, the Faculty Senate also endorsed a second, stronger statement indicating that the BOR should cease and desist in its current strategic planning process. ECSU decided to table the issue until the first of the year.

President Koza asked for Senators who wish to volunteer to serve on the advisory committee for the selection of the new president for the ConnSCU system.

E. Richard Corzo, Programmer/Web Developer, University Computing – provided an overview and demonstration of the Curriculum Proposal application process.

Discussion ensued about the process and whether it is an amendment or a revision and whether the wording in the proposal should be changed because of this concern. Dean
House suggested an approval process “with comments.” President Koza asked Senators to send comments to Richard Corzo.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Using Blackboard for Class Evaluations – Dr. Stevens represented Jeff Schlicht and asked for feedback on last month’s idea presented regarding using Blackboard for class evaluations. President Koza suggested that additional feedback be sent to Jeff Schlicht.

IV. New Business

No new business was discussed.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.