Meeting convened at 3:40 p.m.

Members present: Patrice Boily, Esther Boriss, Eugene Buccini, Deneen Harris, Senan Hayes, Nancy Heilbronner, Todor Ivanov, Anna Karashik, Jeanette Lupinacci, Duane Moser, Margaret Murray, Jennifer O’Brien, Douglas O’Grady, Patricia O’Neill, Bill Petkanas (for Stephenson), Patrick Ryan, Alba Skar, David Skora, Emily Stevens, Sal Trapani, Laurie Weinstein (for Standish)

Guests present: Missy Alexander, Ann Atkinson, Lourdes Cruz, Robin Flanagan, Paul Reis, Patrick Ryan

I. Minutes

October 2012 minutes accepted (O’Neill/Skar; 15/0/0)

All resolutions listed in the October 2012 minutes have been accepted by President Schmotter.

II. Announcements

A. Paul Reis – Update on budgetary issues: The 2013 spending levels approved by the Board were set at $113 million. WCSU saw a 4.2% enrollment drop this semester, resulting in a shortfall of $2.8 million. At this point, WCSU is working with revenue of $110 million. Some savings ($1.5 million) have been realized through unfilled lines. Administration is addressing both recruitment and retention of students; tuition rates may have to rise.

Approximately $3.5 million in savings have been identified, but administration will wait for spring enrollment numbers before making any decisions. As a whole, State numbers are down; all agencies will be asked to identify places to cut spending.

Other: the Design review committee is looking for volunteers to fill three seats. Volunteers are appointed upon recommendation of the Senate. The committee meets roughly once a year to provide recommendations on improvements, construction, and campus planning. Anyone interested in sitting on this committee should contact Karen Koza. Nominations are also welcome.

B. Patricia O’Neill – Update on issues addressed by FAC: The Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) will be making a recommendation to the Board of Regents (BOR) at their meeting on Thursday, November 15. The FAC recommends developing distinct strategic plans for Connecticut’s Community College System, for the Connecticut State University System, and for Charter Oak State College using a process that is described and endorsed in the BOR minutes from December 2011.

Further, the FAC intends to support endorsement of the timeline for implementation of the Transfer Articulation policy (TAP); ratification of the TAP by each CSU and the community colleges; allocation of
more resources to the TAP; conversion of the TAP committee to a standing committee; and representation from the FAC on the search committee for the president of the BOR.

Please note that all WCSU FAC members’ seats expire in December 2013. All full-time teaching faculty are eligible to run and vote for these seats.

Motion: Senate supports the FAC recommendation that each of the three types of institutions develop distinct strategic plans (O’Neill/Ryan; 20/0/0)

Motion: To suspend rules to vote on policy issue (O’Neill/Murray; 18/1/1)

III. Unfinished Business

[none]

IV. New Business

A. Robin Flanagan - Motion Passed by General Education Committee and CUCAS: Please refer to the November Senate Packet for information about the motion recently passed by General Education (GenEd) and CUCAS; this motion will be voted on at the December Senate meeting – please discuss this motion with your individual departments prior to the December Senate meeting.

While recent information related in an ECHO article may suggest otherwise, the GenEd requirements have not yet changed. The framework for GenEd will ultimately change to a tiered competency model (competencies: focus on outcomes; tiers: competencies throughout academic career, which build upon earlier courses at lower levels). Once the Senate’s endorsement is received, the GenEd Committee will identify important competencies.

WCSU is currently the only CSU which is not using a competency based model. Further, this model goes hand-in-hand with the Transfer Articulation Policy (which is competency based) for community college students.

B. Patricia O’Neill and Paul Reis for James Donegan - UPBC Bylaws Change: Recent elections have brought an issue with the wording of the UPBC bylaws to light (currently, all AAUP faculty vote for both at-large and school seats; the UPBC would like to limit voting for school seats to faculty from the respective schools). A motion to update the bylaws to correct this issue was brought to the Senate.

Motion: To accept a change to the UPBC bylaws (Hayes/Moser; 20/0/0)

Motion: To suspend rules to vote on policy issue (O’Brien/Boily; 19/1/0)
C. Patricia O’Neill – Support of Resolution Passed by CCSU: The CCSU resolution supporting the BOR resolution is withdrawn from consideration at this time. The FAC instead recommends that the three types of institutions develop individual strategic plans.

D. Jeffrey Schlicht – Using Blackboard for Class Evaluations: Class evaluations are currently conducted using paper surveys. Utilizing an electronic product (such as Blackboard) may provide for easy access to class evaluation data. Some faculty have utilized electronic methods to administer class surveys. They have seen low participation rates. The information which could be extracted, however, was very helpful. Reliability and validity are a concern, as is ensuring that departments may continue to use forms/questions unique to respective disciplines. Dr. Schlicht asks Senators to discuss options with their respective departments and return for discussion at the December Senate meeting.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

WCSU SENATE RESOLUTIONS

November 14, 2012

R-12-11-01. The WCSU University Senate supports the FAC recommendation that each of the three types of institutions develop distinct strategic plans. 20/0/0

R-12-11-02. The WCSU University Senate accepts a change to the UPBC bylaws. 20/0/0