Meeting convened at 3:35 p.m.


Guests present: Chappell, Gates, Gladstone, Kain, Nair, Rocca, Schmotter

I. Minutes

December, 2011 accepted as written (Secondo/Boriss; 16/0/6).

January, 2012 accepted with the following modifications (Khoo/Murray; 20/0/2):

A. Change Murray and Whittemore to Senators, not guests.

B. Add Senator Hayes to list of members present.

II. Announcements

A. NEASC Self-Study Survey and Update on Draft of BOR Transfer and Articulation Policy
   – Dr. Jane Gates provided an update on the NEASC self-study process. The NEASC steering committee has finalized the survey to be mailed to the university community, to address topics aligned to the goals of the WCSU Strategic Plan. The survey will be distributed through the TK20 software; responses are requested by March 15, 2012.

   Dr. Gates also updated the Senators on the BOR Transfer and Articulation Policy. She indicated that the policy is currently in draft form, but Phase 1 (agreement on common general education competency outcomes and the alignment of the top five majors) should be completed by July 20. Dr. Gates suggested that the university needs to consider whether to move from a distributed to a competency-based model. Drs. Gates and Goble addressed the Senate about the direction coming from the BOR regarding the need to move in the direction of a competency-based model.

   B. Update on Budgetary Issues – Paul Reis distributed and reviewed current WCSU spending plan spreadsheets for FY11 and FY12. Despite a projected shortfall due to a decline in enrollment and decreased appropriations from the state, some savings occurred because of
several positions that went unfilled. The midpoint projection is showing a current deficit of approximately $346,000; however, it is believed that the university will finish the year with a zero deficit. Some reserves may be used.

C. Update on Board of Regents – Senator O’Neill provided an update on the first meeting of the BOR Advisory Committee. The committee met and discussed how to select a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The role of the committee was discussed and it was suggested that one of the roles of the committee was to advise the BOR on educational process. Senator O’Neill asked for Senators to forward comments and concerns to her (in Psychology) by February 24 regarding the Transfer and Articulation Policy Open Forum to be held on March 9, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Location TBA, but will be sent by Senator O’Neill.

D. Reminder of Senate Meeting Date Change - President Koza reminded Senators that the next meeting will be held on March 14 on Westside Campus Building, Room 218.

III. Unfinished Business

A. AAUP Nominees to Serve on University Commission Charged with Assessing the MBA or MA Programs – Vijay Nair entertained questions regarding the commission and the assessment process.

B. Senate Election of Commission Representatives – Dr. Koza thanked all candidates who had volunteered to serve on the two university commissions. Drs. Hirschfield, Petkanas, and Ward were nominated to serve on the University Commission charged with assessing the MA in English. Drs. Buccini, Muska and Tesch were nominated to serve on the University Commission charged with assessing the MBA program. No other nominations were made during the meeting.

A motion passed to hold a closed ballot to decide the date of election (Murray/Moser; 22/0/0). A closed ballot was then held on whether to elect Commission representatives in the current (February) meeting (22/1/0). The motion passed, and the voting took place at the February Senate meeting.

A closed ballot was then held to vote for the two candidates elected by the Senate, and who will serve on the University Commission assessing the MA in English Program:
Dr. Russell Hirshfield - 17
Dr. Bill Petkanas – 15
Dr. Steven Ward – 12

Drs. Hirshfield and Petkanas will serve on this Commission as the two members elected by the Senate. Senator Koza then appointed Dr. Steven Ward, who will also serve on the Commission as the one member appointed by the Senate President.
A closed ballot was also held to vote for the two candidates elected by the Senate, and who will serve on the University Commission assessing the MBA Program:
Dr. Gene Buccini - 20
Dr. Frank Muska - 13
Dr. Fred Tesch - 13

President Koza voted for Dr. Frank Muska, breaking the tie. Drs. Buccini and Muska will service on this commission as the two members elected by the Senate. President Koza then appointed Dr. Fred Tesch, who will also serve on the Commission as the one member appointed by the Senate President.

IV. New Business

A. General Education Committee Resolution – Dr. Chuck Rocca discussed the rationale for the resolution:

In order for a course to be considered for a General Education designation the submitting department must provided a copy of the *Intent to include a course in the General Education Curriculum* and they must make clear the components of the course that make it a general education course and not just a course from a given content area. In particular courses should specifically address the ways in which the course addresses the established general education goals/objectives for the designation requested. If no goals/objectives exist for the given designation or if the course does not satisfy the existing goals/objectives then clear justification for the designation will be expected. (Note that per our bylaws this would apply to all course proposals seeking Gen Ed designation including FDS, SIS, and Guided Readings.)

Objectives have been developed for the following areas:

i. Communications
ii. Computer Science, Math, and Natural Sciences
iii. History
iv. Humanistic Studies (In Paper Form)
v. Literature
vi. World Languages and Literature

These objectives were generally arrived at so that they would be in line with the *General Education Statement of Principles* put out by the CT Department of Higher Education and the WCSU General Education Task Force definition of an
Educated Person. (The quoted documents and objectives are contained in the following pages.)

A motion was made to accept the resolution (Hagan/Buccini). The motion will be voted on at the March Senate meeting. Senators are advised to bring the motion back to their departments for discussion.

B. Senate Meeting Dates for Academic Year 2012-2013 – President Koza discussed the meeting dates for the next academic year and suggested moving the November, December, and May meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. She suggested that Senators bring the calendar back to their respective departments for feedback.

C. Other – A new Communication course (COM163) has been developed. Senator Stephenson explained the rationed for the new course.

A motion was made to accept the new course (Murray/Buccini). The motion will be voted on at the March meeting.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.