Meeting convened at 3:40 p.m.


I. Minutes

October, 2010 accepted with the following modification (Munz/Barrett; 15/0/2):

A. Modified: Change Paul Rice to Paul Reis.

II. Announcements

A. Update on the Design Review Committee – President Koza announced that Senator Elizabeth Popiel & Dr. Jody Rajcula have agreed to serve and thanked them for their service.

B. Update on Ad Hoc Senate Committee for Formalizing Procedures for Faculty Participation in Future Searches – President Koza announced that Senators Dan Barrett (Chair), Jamie Begian, Sally DeLoughy, Nancy Heilbronner, and Dr. William Petkanas have agreed to serve. President Koza thanked them for their service.

Senator Barrett announced that the committee met once and will be providing an update in February.

C. Other – President Koza reminded Senators that the next meeting will take place Feb. 16 at the WCSU Midtown Campus.
III. Unfinished Business

A. UPBC’s Motion on Term Rotations (bylaw change):

The Senate considered the following motion which put forth at the November meeting:

The terms for the LCC, VPA, and Member-at-Large Elected in 2010 shall be for two years only. The second highest vote getter for the two at-large positions in the 2011 election shall serve a term of two years also. These changes are intended to bring the committee’s election of faculty members into a balanced rotation. Going forward, all terms are to be three years.

President Koza called for discussion, then a vote on the motion.
Motion passed (18/0/1).

IV. New Business

A. Review of ‘Connecticut Students for a Dream’ / Dream Act

The Senate considered the following motion, originally set forth by University of Connecticut SGA (Hagan/Philbrick):

WHEREAS, many children have been brought to the United States from foreign countries by their parents, and are legally classified as undocumented immigrants,

WHEREAS, these students have grown up and attended schools in the United States, and in many cases have distinguished themselves academically or otherwise,

WHEREAS, as minors these students have no means to obtain legal status and face significant hardships as a result, including an ability to work legally in the United States, and limited access to higher education,

WHEREAS states are penalized for providing in-state tuition and other higher education benefits to students without a determination of citizenship,

WHEREAS bipartisan legislation addressing these issues, entitled the Development, Education and Relief for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, has been introduced in both the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate,
WHEREAS, this legislation would allow these students, upon graduation from high school, to apply for temporary legal status, with the ability to earn full residency with a path to citizenship if they graduate college or serve in the military, and thereby making them eligible for federal loans and work/study opportunities,

WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would change the law so that States would no longer be required to pay a fine for providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants,

WHEREAS, approximately 65,000 students would have access to these benefits annually, allowing these students to become American citizens and attend college,

WHEREAS, recent polling has indicated that 70 percent of the nation supports passage of the DREAM Act,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Western Connecticut State University Faculty Senate supports the DREAM Act, and urges its passage through Congress as quickly as possible, joining 50 universities nationwide,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The WCSU Faculty Senate supports and encourages campus initiatives to raise awareness and garner support for the DREAM Act,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The WCSU Faculty Senate urges the President of our university to join the other 19 University Presidents in support of the Dream Act.

After some discussion, the motion was tabled until the February meeting so that Senators could take the issue back to their departments for further discussion (Steinmatz/O’Brien; 19/0/0). Should the motion be returned to the Senate for a vote, it was decided that the vote would be closed-ballot.

V. Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.
WCSU SENATE RESOLUTIONS

December 15, 2010

R-10-12-01. THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT (WITH CORRECTIONS) THE OCTOBER 2010 MINUTES. Passed 15/0/2

R-10-12-02. THE TERMS FOR THE LCC, VPA, AND MEMBER-AT-LARGE ELECTED IN 2010 SHALL BE FOR TWO YEARS ONLY. THE SECOND HIGHEST VOTE GETTER FOR THE TWO AT-LARGE POSITIONS IN THE 2011 ELECTION SHALL SERVE A TERM OF TWO YEARS ALSO. THESE CHANGES ARE INTENDED TO BRING THE COMMITTEE’S ELECTION OF FACULTY MEMBERS INTO A BALANCED ROTATION. GOING FORWARD, ALL TERMS ARE TO BE THREE YEARS. Passed 18/0/1