Western Connecticut State University
University Planning and Budget Committee
Minutes
September 11, 2017


Guests: Mary-Ann Dease, Patti Ivry, Joan Palladino, Rebecca Woodward, Steve Veillette, and John DeRosa.

Meeting called to order: 2:30 PM

1. Appointment of recording secretary: Keith Betts

2. Motion to Accept May 2017 minutes: Unanimous approval

3. State of the University – President Clark

   - CSCU consolidation(s) focused primarily on the Community Colleges
   - With regards to the budget, we expect a $2-3 million reduction
   - Given budget decline will need to:
     - Continue hiring freeze (slowdown) – even though this is not a good option
     - Probably see an increase in tuition
     - Expand NY initiative to all neighboring states or minimally to NYC and Long Island (meeting with CSU leaders and System Office staff at 5:00 pm today)
   - Meeting frequently with all local legislatures to educate them on our challenges and that of our current and future students
   - The NY initiative has seen an increase of over 200 new students
   - However, overall enrollment is down approximately 70 students due to the demographics of the ongoing decline in the number of high school students in CT and the University’s continuing retention challenges – retention should be a priority for everyone at the University

4. Budget Update – Sean Loughran

   - University used the CT Governor’s budget as a base and an total enrollment decline of 1 ½% to build the University’s 2018 budgets
   - University food costs will continue to increase as our enrollment falls
   - WCSU Foundation is covering the costs of our NY State recruitment initiative
   - Expect a continuation of hiring slowdowns – this will be the new norm
   - Once budget finalized sometime in October, hopefully, no further cuts to budgets that have already been circulated
New Business- None

Meeting adjourned 3:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Betts