

SENATE

April 20, 2011
SC Room 201, Midtown Campus

Meeting convened at 3:34 p.m.

Members present (alphabetical): Janie Begian, Glory Blanceagle, Esther Boriss, Emilio Collar, Karen Crouse, Sara DeLoughy, Melissa Fenwick, Mike Fraser, Edward Hagen, Carol Hawkes, Nancy Heilbronner, Karen Koza, Heather Levy, Leslie Lindenauer, Susan Maskel (Parliamentarian), Allen Morton, Duane Moser, Jennifer O'Brien, Patty O'Neill (for Daniel Barrett), Liz Popiel, Jeffrey Schlicht (for Emily Stevens), Paula Secondo, S. Alba Skar, Paul Steinmetz

Guests present: Rick Bassett, Lourdes Cruz, Paul Reis, James Schmotter, Chuck Spiridon, Lorraine Capobianco, Roy Stewart, Robert D. Whittemore, Abbey Zink

I. Minutes

- A. Motion to Accept the March, 2011 Minutes as modified (Schlicht/Boriss; Passed 14/0/4)
Modified: Add Senator Lindenauer to members present.

II. Announcements

- A. Budget - President Schmotter provided an update on budget issues. Dr. Paul Reis presented the proposed spending plan for fiscal year 2012, as of 4/8/11.
- B. Electronic Ballots – Lorraine Capobianco, CIO, provided an update on the use of electronic ballots. As of the Senate minute, 107 out of 258 eligible voters had voted online.
- C. Status of Resolution on In-State Tuition for Undocumented Students – President Koza reported that letters had been mailed to Danbury legislators and the current acting Chancellor. The letters will be retained in the Senate's archives.
- D. Status of Resolution on Formalizing Procedures for Faculty Participation in Future Searches – President Koza congratulated Senate for moving forward seven resolutions. However, the resolution on formalizing procedures was denied.
- E. Other – President Koza announced, as reminders, the following:
1. All reports from Senate Standing and Ad-Hoc Committees are due for our May Senate meeting.
 2. All departments affected with end-of-term Senate Representatives need to vote for their Senate Representative for academic years 2011-2013. Both new and current Senators should plan on attending the May Senate meeting. Affected Departments that need to vote for Senate representatives for the 2011-2013 academic years were announced.

3. New Senators and Current Senators whose terms end 2012 will be voting for Senate Officers (President; Vice President; Secretary; Archivist) to serve Senate the 2011-2012 academic year. Current Senators will be discussing the May agenda items.

III. Unfinished Business

A. Other

1. HPX Request for Feedback on Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure – President Koza announced that anyone with feedback should contact Senator Schlicht directly.
2. Media Messages - Senator Koza suggested that she look into the issue of media discussion regarding WCSU salaries and benefits. The issue will be placed on the May agenda.

IV. New Business

- #### A. Summary of Concerns Regarding Class Size - Senate members discussed the class size issue. Senators were asked to bring the topic back to their departments for faculty feedback. The motion is on the floor and will be able to be voted on in the May Senate meeting. Motion (Schlicht/Hagen):

Whereas increasing class sizes:

1. is contrary to the WCSU strategic plan
2. and is contrary to the mission of WCSU
3. and can negatively affect student success
4. and can negatively affect student retention
5. and can negatively affect student perception of effectiveness of instructors,

We, the faculty at Western Connecticut State University, are opposed to increasing class size over and above Spring 2011 numbers.

However, we recognize the financial problems the State of Connecticut and our University are dealing with, and, in the interest of cooperation and in an attempt to help solve the current financial dilemma of the University, we are willing to increase the size of some classes, as a temporary measure, for the 2011-2012 academic year.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.