

# **WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY**

## **President's Advisory and Coordinating Committee For Strategic Plan Implementation**

April 9, 2008 – 8am  
President's Conference room

Expected participants: Beth Amyot, Koryoe Anim-Wright, Walter Bernstein, Ellen Durnin, Dan Goble, Betsy McDonough, Vijay Nair, Linda Rinker, Bryan Samuel, Jim Schmotter, Rebecca Woodward

Not able to attend:

## **AGENDA**

1. Welcome remarks
2. Progress reports
  - Academic Affairs
  - Diversity
  - Enrollment Management
  - Facilities
  - Finance
  - Identity / Institutional Advancement
  - Student Engagement
  - Technology
3. Next steps
4. Other business

**Future Meeting Dates:**

**President's Advisory and Coordinating Committee for Strategic Plan  
Implementation  
April 9, 2008**

**Attending:** Beth Amyot, Koryoe Anim-Wright, Walter Bernstein, Ellen Durnin, Dan Goble, Vijay Nair, Linda Rinker, Bryan Samuel, Jim Schmotter, Rebecca Woodward, Betsy McDonough

Progress reports were distributed from each of the eight implementation team.

**Selected Highlights from the Academic Affairs Progress Report:**

- From 2006-07 to 2007-08 the adjunct ratio has dropped from 20.8 to 17.4.
- An assessment process is in place and approved by CUCAS for undergraduate programs. Graduate programs will follow. The next step is to fund the implementation actions based on the assessments.
- To strengthen academic support for students awards and scholarships are now found in a single document and all information is available online. The Financial Aid and Scholarships will now be housed in the same physical location.
- The First Year Experience, now in its second year, continues to better prepare freshmen for the college experience. The orientation process is strengthening as well.

**Selected Highlights from the Diversity Progress Report:**

- Initiatives to expand and enhance the diversity of our student body will begin in fall 2008 and include "Know How 2 Go" programs and marketing, community receptions in Hartford and New Haven and inviting potential merit scholarship students and their parents to campus.
- Programs that promote and reflect diversity this academic year include the Martin Luther King program, and future programs funded by the President's Initiative Fund such as the "Medical Apartheid" program.

**Selected Highlights from the Enrollment Management Progress Report:**

- Quality academic programs include the "Bridge" program, the National Science Foundation startup grant and Project Impact.
- Students' SAT scores are up and retention is up
- Actions supporting a student-focused environment include our first Graduate Open House, with 120 potential students attending, the hiring of a new bilingual Registrar and a new International Services Coordinator.

**Selected Highlights from the Facilities Progress Report:**

- Establishing operational and service standards and guidelines, such as the new exterior building signs which will all be installed by May 1, 2008
- Conducting regular inventory assessments of all buildings with life-cycle planning for maintenance and replacement.
- Implementation of the Master Plan

**Selected Highlights from the Finance Progress Report:**

- Support the financial aspects of the International/Study Abroad Programs
- Develop expertise and capacity to support Grant applications and oversight
- Facilitate and promote student internships and develop a student labor pool

**Selected Highlights from the Identity/Institutional Advancement Progress Report:**

- The university's web site has been redesigned to focus on students and be consistent with the university's brand.
- Opportunities for donors are being matched to our Strategic Plan initiatives.
- A perpetual calendar of regular and predictable activities will be completed in August 2008.

**Selected Highlights from Student Engagement Progress Report:**

- Successfully applied for a Nellie Mae Grant to increase the number of Latino students applying to the university and graduating with a four-year degree.
- In the process of indentifying gaps in existing fitness/wellness facilities in order to develop a dedicated space for wellness and recreation in the Master Facilities Plan.

**Selected Highlights from Technology Progress Report:**

- All program sheets (graduate and undergraduate) are currently online. An interactive piece will be available by 2009.
- All primary and secondary advisors are in Banner and can be viewed by the student and the professors.
- CUCAS' processes are online and streamlined. They are being tested and if approved by CUSAS will be functional by August 2008.
- Reviewing possibility of a single log in option for WCSU (Windows account and outlook)
- Phase one of developing an effective online application process was completed this spring.

The new Co-Chair of President's Advisory and Coordinating Committee for Strategic Plan Implementation is Linda Rinker. Ellen Durnin will continue to be a Co-Chair through the 2008-09 academic year. Dan Goble will Co-Chair the Facilities Implementation Team and Ellen Durnin will Co-Chair the Finance Implementation Team.

**Observations:**

- The interconnectedness of goals and activities among the implementation teams is significant, requiring coordination and communication to accomplish these successfully.
- The increasing importance of a robust, up-to-date website, not only at the university level, but also for the schools and departments was discussed. How to best maintain websites and training and funding to do this need to be addressed.
- It was noted that the 2007-08 annual reports from the Deans will be based on our Strategic Plan goals.

**Next Steps for the Committee:**

- Develop a communications plan to inform the campus community about the Strategic Plan progress. It was suggested that at the end of every semester the Committee needs to issue a progress report from each of the implementation teams.
- Review the university's mission statement in light of the newly crafted mission statement to insure that are in sync with one another.