

university

SENATE

December 17, 2003

Present: A. Aina, A. Aslanian, S. DeLoughy, N. Dworkin, G. Ganchev, D. Grasso, C. Hawkes, R. Hirshfield, K. Ierace, T. Kuther, P. Lyons, L. Marccone, D. Moser, J. Munz, C. Rocca, P. Ross, J. Schlicht, R. Whittemore, K. Wiss, E. Wong, M. Wright

Visitors: Irene Duffy, William Joel, Chris Kukuk, Allen Morton, James Roach

President: V. Nair

Parliamentarian: TBA

The meeting convened at 3:40 p.m.

I. Announcements:

- A. Senate President Nair announced Dr. Roach's approval of the resolution concerning the change in the University's Mission Statement (R-03-11-02).
- B. **WestConn's debate society.** Senate President Nair introduced Dr. Chris Kukuk, the faculty sponsor of the Robert Sherman Debate Society (RSDS). Dr. Kukuk announced that, despite limited funds and, therefore, limited travel, the RSDS had achieved national ranking. He went on to explain that other schools have full-time coaches and assistant coaches who create the arguments for their teams. WestConn's team of undergraduates create their own arguments. So, when we win, we are beating arguments created by debate coach professionals. He went on to name some of the schools that our debate team has beaten: NYU, Cornell, West Virginia U, Fordham, U of Vermont (ranked 3rd in the nation), and the U of Rochester, the top ranked team—we beat them three times. He went on to say that members of the team come from many different disciplines: biochemistry, social work, JLA, political science—and is balanced in terms of gender. Dr. Kukuk concluded by saying that he attributed the debate team's success to the outstanding job faculty at WestConn do in teaching students.

Sen. President Nair then asked the assembled senators if they would object to having the RSDS debate at the next Senate meeting whether or not we should accept the University's proposed Strategic Plan. Senators Whittemore and Wiss would be advisors to the teams; the debaters would be Mike Cohen and Steven Howland, Tyler Balding and Samantha Smith. The Senate was in favor of holding the debate.

Asked the source of funding for the RSDS, Dr. Kukuk responded that his own credit card, a personal check from Paul Simon, a CSU check from Chancellor Cibes for \$500, possibly the Danbury Bar Association for \$300, and Western's International Center. Sen. President Nair suggested that Richard Gerber be contacted to set up a fund to which people could contribute. Sen. Whittemore asked about the prospect of the SGA contributing some money. Dr. Kukuk said the the SGA will fund only one trip. Senator Wiss suggested a fundraising breakfast, similar to the one held for the women's basketball team. Dr. Kukuk agreed. President Roach

said that he and Dr. Walter Bernstein will do their best to convince the SGA that travel funds for the RSDS are a legitimate and worthwhile expenditure.

- C. **Presidential search.** Sen President Nair broached the subject of the University Advisory Committee (UAC) for WestConn's next President. He and Chancellor Cibes had agreed that the committee had to be in place by February 9th. He added that one way of distributing the AAUP elected members of the committee was to have one representative from each school and one from librarians/counselors/coaches. Luigi Marcone will see to the election of the administrative faculty. Sen. Pres. Nair then opened the floor for discussion.

Sen. Schlicht said that it would be a good idea for those who are willing to serve to write a brief statement that could be included with the ballots. Though Sen. President Nair agreed with the idea, it seemed impractical given the deadline of February 9th. Sen. Kuther said that she thought that the scheduling was too tight. Sen. President Nair admitted the difficulty, but stressed that the Chancellor was insistent on the deadline. With the help of Sen. Kuther, Sen. President Nair set up the following schedule: willingness to serve forms would be in mailboxes by January 20th; these would need to be returned by 23rd; ballots will be distributed by the 29th; these would need to be returned by February 4th.

Sen. Ross raised the matter of at-large vs. school specific representation on the UAC, adding that Dr. Cibes's desire for ethnic and gender diversity may be difficult to achieve. After an extensive discussion, the majority of senators agreed that the four top vote getters in an at-large election would represent the AAUP faculty on the UAC. Sen. President Nair returned to Sen. Schlicht's idea of a brief statement that would accompany ballots. The idea was rejected because, as Sen. Wiss put it, "I think that there is more opportunity for error on the ballot the more information you ask people to write." Time was also a factor. Upon Senator Marcone's suggestion, Sen. President Nair said that he would create a page on the Senate Web site to put up statements from those willing to serve. Such statements will not be required to run in the election and they cannot exceed 150 words. Sen. President Nair reminded senators that this election has to go right the first time. If the election ends in a tie for the fourth position, the winner will be determined by the flip of a coin.

Procedure for electing AAUP faculty members to the WCSU Advisory Committee for the Presidential Search:

The Nominations and Elections Committee of the Senate shall be responsible for conducting an election in order to identify the four AAUP faculty. The procedure for the election shall be as follows:

1. All four positions shall be "at large"
2. All full-time AAUP faculty shall be eligible to run and vote in the election
3. "Willingness to serve" forms shall be distributed by campus mail so that they arrive in faculty mail boxes no later than January 20, 2004
4. The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee must receive the returned "willingness to serve" forms no later than January 23
5. The election ballots shall be distributed by campus mail no later than January 29

6. The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee must receive the returned ballots no later than February 4
7. The four persons who receive the most votes shall be selected. A tie for the fourth position shall be broken by the flip of a coin.
8. The election results shall be announced no later than February 9

Persons running in the election shall have an opportunity to make a statement, not to exceed 150 words, regarding their qualifications/reasons for wishing to serve on the Advisory Committee. All such statements received by January 23 will be posted on the Senate Web site.

II Minutes

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS OCTOBER 2003 MEETING (Munz /Marcone). Motion passed.

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING (Munz /Rocca). Motion passed.

III Old Business

- A. **Center for Graphics Research proposal.** Sen. President Nair asked Dr. Bill Joel to come forward to answer any questions about the proposed by-laws for the Center. Sen. Whittemore asked if the University would absorb the cost of the Director for 2 years, and if 2 years is a sufficient amount of time for the Center to begin receiving grants. Dr. Joel responded yes to both those questions, though he could not guarantee that within two years sufficient grant money would be available. Sen. Munz objected to the load credit being given to the Director sometime during the calendar year. Sen. President Nair explained that such wording makes when the load credit is used more flexible. Should the Center not live up to expectations, Dr. Joel reminded senators that there is a mandatory review of all centers every five years. Sen. Ganchev suggested that the word "increase" in # 7 on page 4 be changed to "change." This was accepted. In response to a question by Sen. Whittemore, Dr. Joel explained that two students deeply involved in the work of the Center attended a conference in San Diego, a move calculated to help them along their career paths in computer generated art.

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE CENTER FOR GRAPHICS RESEARCH. (Lyons/Whittemore) Passed with one opposed.

- B. **WCSU Strategic plan.** Sen. President Nair raised, once again, the subject of the University's proposed Strategic Plan prior to its anticipated reincarnation before the UPBC. Sen. Ross thought it a waste of time to discuss the un-revised version of the Strategic Plan. Sen. President Nair said that the Academic Vice-President has the emailed comments that people had sent him, as well as the comments from the Senate; he will be using those to revise the Plan, adding that the un-revised version had been approved by the UPBC and that Dr. Khoo was in attendance at the last meeting of the Senate, as the minutes, recently approved, reflect. Sen. Whittemore suggested that having the debaters contend over the un-revised version of the Plan would be unproductive. Sen. President Nair, agreeing with Sen. Rocca, said that the UPBC will have an opportunity to look at the revised plan in early February and that the Senate would have the revised document in time for its February meeting. Sen. Lyons asked how close the library was to completing its portion of the Strategic Plan. Sen. President Nair

thought that the intervention of the Academic Vice-President might result in a library Plan by the end of January. If so, he thought that the library's Plan will also be submitted to the UPBC for its February meeting. Sen. Rocca said that if the revised Strategic Plan is available at the beginning of February the debate team would have time to prepare; if the Plan was not available at that time, the debate should be postponed until such time that the revised Plan is available. There was general agreement on this matter.

IV New Business

- A. **UPBC Bylaws amendment.** Sen. President Nair brought before the Senate a motion to amend the by-laws of the UPBC.

Motion: RULES SHALL BE SUSPENDED IN ORDER TO ACT ON THE PROPOSED UPBC BYLAWS AMENDMENT. (Munz/ Rocca). Passed with one abstention.

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN THE UNIVERSITY PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE BYLAWS (Munz/Rocca):

III. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

A. Meetings

1. *The first meeting of each academic year shall be convened by the previous chair. In the absence of the chair, the President of the University Senate will designate a committee member to convene the committee.*

Passed unanimously.

- B. **General Education course labeling.** Sen. Schlicht explained that some advisors had difficulty determining which courses fulfill which of the General Education Requirements. Registrar Irene Duffy, after some research into the matter suggested that a short statement be added to the course descriptions of courses that can be used to fulfill, in part, one of the Gen. Ed. Requirements: a statement such as, "This course can be used to fulfill in part a Humanities requirement." There was a general discussion about the ability and willingness of some to read the catalog and about the best way to guide both advisors and students. Sen. Lyons pointed out that his department (English) was one of those that offered courses that needed to be identified as partially fulfilling a Gen. Ed. Requirement. He had gone through the committee structure to insert a clarifying statement in each course description. He suggested that the Registrar be empowered to add some clarifying sentence to each course description for courses that fulfill in part one of our General Education Requirements. Sen. President Nair thought this a stellar idea. The Senate asked Registrar Duffy and Sen. Schlicht to devise the most efficient way of indicating whether or not a course fulfills, in part, one of the Gen. Ed. Requirements. Both were willing to take on the task.

V. Other Business

Sen. Rocca asked the Senate to consider adding ten minutes to all classes over 90 minutes long so that students could take a break without losing lecture time. A general discussion ensued. It was agreed to change the "90 minutes" to "100 minutes." Registrar Duffy said that making such an adjustment in 120-minute classes would cause multiple and serious scheduling problems. Sen. Wiss said that she understood the Registrar's concerns, but added

that students in longer classes who take breaks do lose lecture/discussion time; she thought it appropriate to add the ten minutes for lecture classes (as opposed to labs). Sen. Ganchev said that his department uses labs that are packed and that adding 10 minutes to the classes would be unreasonable.

Motion: ALL CLASSES OVER 100 MINUTES LONG SHALL BE SCHEDULED IN A TIME SLOT WITH TEN EXTRA MINUTES ALLOTTED FOR A BREAK (ie. A 120-MINUTE CLASS SHALL HAVE A 130 MINUTES TIME SLOT). (Rocca/Moser)

Motion: ACTION ON THE MAIN MOTION SHALL BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 2004 MEETING OF THE SENATE. (Rocca/Schlitch) Passed with two abstentions.

Senators were urged to check with their departments.

VI. The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Lyons - Senate Secretary
Maureen Gamache - Recording Secretary

WCSU Senate Resolutions

December 17, 2003

THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS OCTOBER 2003 MEETING
(Munz /Marcone). Motion passed. R-03-12-01

THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING
(Munz /Rocca). Motion passed. R-03-12-02

THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE PROPOSED BYLAWS OF THE CENTER FOR
GRAPHICS RESEARCH. (Lyons/Whittemore) Passed with one opposed. R-03-12-03

RULES SHALL BE SUSPENDED IN ORDER TO ACT ON THE PROPOSED UPBC
BYLAWS AMENDMENT. (Munz/ Rocca). Passed with one abstention. SR-03-12-04

THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING CHANGE IN THE UNIVERSITY
PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE BYLAWS (Munz/Rocca):

III. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS

A. Meetings

1. *The first meeting of each academic year shall be convened by the previous chair. In the absence of the chair, the President of the University Senate will designate a committee member to convene the committee.*

R-03-12-04 Passed unanimously

ALL CLASSES OVER 100 MINUTES LONG SHALL BE SCHEDULED IN A TIME SLOT
WITH TEN EXTRA MINUTES ALLOTTED FOR A BREAK (ie. A 120-MINUTE CLASS
SHALL HAVE A 130 MINUTES TIME SLOT). (Rocca/Moser) R-03-12-05

ACTION ON THE MAIN MOTION SHALL BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE FEBRUARY 2004
MEETING OF THE SENATE. (Rocca/Schlicht) Passed with two abstentions. P-03-12-05