

university

# SENATE

October 15, 2003

WestSide

**Present:** J. Aina, A. Aslanian, S. DeLoughy, M. Dever, L. Vaden-Goad for E. Durnin, R. Eisenson, G. Ganchev, C. Hawkes, R. Hirshfield, K. Ierace, K. Koza, T. Kuther, P. Lyons, D. Moser, J. Munz, C. Rocca, P. Ross, J. Rajcula for J. Schlicht, P. Secondo, R. Whittemore, K. Wiss, E. Wong, M. Wright

**Guest:** E. Buccini, J. Cronin, W. Joel, A. Morton, C. Norelius

**President:** V. Nair

**Parliamentarian:** TBA

**I.** The meeting convened at 3:45 p.m.

## **II Announcements:**

- A. Senate President Nair invited members to write a message and sign their names for the Time Capsule.
- B. In response to a question raised by Senator Wiss at the September meeting, CUCAS has revised its annual report.
- C. University President Roach has approved the Senate resolution concerning the revision of the Graduate Council bylaws.
- D. Matters discussed at the September meeting concerning reassigned time for research will be forwarded to the Research & Development Committee with a request for a response.
- E. Senate President Nair asked members who preferred to get their Senate material off the Senate website to sign a list that was being circulated.

## **III. Approval of Minutes**

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS SEPTEMBER 2003 MEETING. (Wiss/Munz).

Corrections to the minutes: page 2 “Pinney” Hall not “Penny,” page 2 second paragraph *Dr. Roach said that work will begin **on** the new . . .* add the word on. Page 1, II. B. centennial is misspelled.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Old Business**

No old business

#### **V. New Business**

**A. Time Capsule** – has been taken care of.

**B. Student Life Committee Annual Report**

Sen. Pres. Nair noted that Dr. Simon was not in attendance and asked members if they had any questions or comments about the report. There were neither questions nor comments.

**C. WCSU Strategic Plan**

Senator Ross asked Academic Vice-President Buccini about any input he had received on the Strategic Plan, since she was under the impression that senators would be getting a plan revised according to that input. V-P Buccini said that when the Plan was initially distributed, he had received a large number of suggestions on the first part of the Plan, which described the programs. Those changes have been made. After that opening flurry of suggestions, he has received only one, from Math and Computer Science: the departments are now separate, a change that the initial Plan did not reflect. That change will be made, V-P Buccini assured the senators. Sen. Ross said that members of her department wanted to take a serious look at the portrayal of the School of Professional Studies and the Department of Social Work in particular, a process that could not be done with emails.

Sen. President Nair pointed out that senators had three options concerning the Plan: 1) to vote in favor of the motion to approve; 2) to vote against the motion; 3) to postpone. He then suggested, as he had years ago suggested, that our Mission Statement (on page two of the Plan) should stress the integrity of all that we do, not just of our teaching and learning. V-P Buccini said that he would be happy to make that change, after an appropriate discussion.

Sen Aina said that his department (Nursing) was not appropriately described in the Plan. V-P Buccini asked that if any changes were needed in this part of the Plan that the changes be sent to him and he would see to it that they made it into the Plan. He had made this suggestion at the last meeting of the Senate. In response to a question from Sen. Ross, V-P Buccini said that comments about the second part of the Plan are better discussed in the University Senate.

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE PROPOSED WCSU STRATEGIC PLAN (Aina/Wiss)

Motion: THE SENATE SHALL POSTPONE ACTION ON THE MAIN MOTION UNTIL ITS NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING. (Ross/Munz).

Sen. Ross told V-P Buccini that she would like a revised version of the Plan for the November meeting. V-P Buccini said that as long as the suggested changes were in his office within two weeks, he would see to it that a revised Plan would be available in November.

Sen. President Nair pointed out that “the first part” of the Plan, in the latest version, goes up to page 13. Sen. Lyons pointed out that something needed to be said about the General Education Requirements; he referred to p. 17, # 5. V-P Buccini asked for an email on this matter. Sen. Wiss asked about a possible typing error on p. 20, # 3.B. V-P Buccini said that he would check on the issue with Dr. Walter Bernstein, V-P for Student Affairs.

Motion to postpone passed, with one opposed.

#### **D. Center for Graphics Research**

Dr. William Joel (Professor, Computer Science) reported that he had begun a Graphics Research Group in 1999. Since that time the activities of the group have expanded and multiplied to the point that, as the faculty in charge of the group, he was doing the work of a Director of a Center. At the suggestion of Dean Vaden-Goad, therefore, he was asking the Senate to approve his group as a Center and to approve the position of the Director of the Center.

Sen. Whittemore expressed a concern over budget creep, drawing revenue in addition to what was needed for the Director from the University’s limited resources. Professor Joel assured the senators that such additional funds would come from internal/external grants, a proviso written into the proposal before the Senate.

Sen. Aina pointed out that the membership of the Advisory Committee might prove a problem: since there are four members, there is the distinct possibility that there might be a 2 / 2 vote on an issue. Sen. President Nair pointed out that such a tie vote would defeat a proposal, since a majority would be needed to pass the proposal. Sen. Lyons pointed out that the function of the Committee is strictly advisory: the Director of the Center will ultimately make all decisions, so a split vote, or any vote, is really

irrelevant to the actual running of the Center. Professor Joel agreed with this point.

There followed a discussion of compensation for the Director, Sen. Whittemore wanting to know how the distinction is made between a Coordinator and a Director. In response to an observation by Sen. Moser, Professor Joel agreed that the bylaws should specify that if the same person is both Director and chair of the Computer Science Department that another member of the department be appointed, since the Director cannot be a member of the Advisory Committee, but the Chair of the Computer Science Department is ex-officio a member. In response to questions by Sen. Moser, Professor Joel said that the bylaws could reflect the possibility of faculty working with both students and other faculty and that the Center could provide funding for faculty should there be enough grant money available and if a specific process were in place.

Sen. Ross wondered why a center is necessary: "I don't understand where it turns the corner and becomes a center rather than an exciting piece of work in the department that might require some additional time perhaps." Professor Joel responded by saying that the reason that a center is needed is that the work of his group reaches across departments, adding in response to another question by Sen. Ross, that in larger institutions such a group would be housed in a single department, but at a smaller institution such as WestConn that sort of arrangement is impractical.

Sen. Hawkes suggested that members of the Advisory Committee might be drawn from sources outside the University. Professor Joel thought this a good idea.

Sen. Wiss asked about the 12-month contract for the Director. Professor Joel said that such an arrangement was necessary because of the work the Director has to do. He used the example of the cycle of work for the Animation Festival: scouting in the summer, flyers and other advertisement in the fall, sifting through applications in the early spring, holding the actual Festival in April. The cycle then begins again. Sen. Wiss also asked about the Director of the Art Department's MFA being on the Advisory Committee. Professor Joel said that such a move would involve the graduate students in the use of computers. He added that he hoped that the Center would eventually be housed in the much-anticipated Fine Arts Building.

Sens. Whittemore and Ross returned to the matter of centers and their directors or coordinators and their compensation. In response, V-P Buccini named some of the centers at WestConn and reviewed the status of the director and the director's compensation:

√ The Weather Center (which may not still be in existence); its director was on a 12-month contract; his salary paid by fees charged to local entities that used the Center's service.  
The director of all other centers are paid through release time or not paid at all.

√ CELT's director has released time in the spring, as well as summer credit.

√ Center for Collaboration: no compensation  
V-P Buccini then explained the advantages and disadvantages of a 12-month contract:

We have a couple of 12 month positions: they are the Chairs of the Nursing Department and Social Work. Those departments have significant accreditation issues and field placement issues that have to be addressed [outside the normal 9-month academic year]. We usually find it more difficult to get faculty to accept a 12 month position because when you are in a 12 month position the cost of you increases by 20%; however, what that means is you are just like an administrator when it comes to time. You have to fill out a time sheet, you get 5 weeks vacation, you don't get all the vacation in January when we are off. So usually when we try to persuade someone to take a 12-month position there is great reluctance. Someone may want that, which is one thing, but usually most faculty don't want that. The way we compensate for it is we provide release time credits over the summer. So that doesn't lock the faculty member into the 9 – 5 syndrome.

Sen. Whittemore returned to the distinction between coordinator vs. director. V-P Buccini said that, technically, the SUOAF officials maintain that under their union contract they have authority over "directors" and that we are not supposed to use it. But we use it anyway because "director" has more panache than "coordinator." Sen. Wiss pointed out that the AAUP CBA mentions "director" but never defines it. Sen. Whittemore said, "So, coordinator is work without portfolio."

Motion: PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR THE CENTER FOR GRAPHICS RESEARCH SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO UPBC. (Lyons/ Ganchev). Motion passed with 2 abstentions.

Before adjourning, Sen. President Nair reminded members that they had been invited to the dedication of the Time Capsule on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

## **VI. Meeting adjourned 4:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Lyons – Senate Secretary  
Maureen Gamache – Recording Secretary

**WCSU Senate Resolutions**

October 15, 2003

THE SENATE SHALL APPROVE THE MINUTES OF ITS SEPTEMBER 2003 MEETING (Wiss/Munz) Corrections to the minutes: page 2, "Pinney" Hall not "Penny" page 2 second paragraph *Dr. Roach said that work will begin **on** the new . . .* add the word on. Page 1, II. B. centennial is misspelled. Passed unanimously. R-03-10-01

THE SENATE SHALL ACCEPT THE PROPOSED WCSU STRATEGIC PLAN (Aina/Wiss). R-03-10-02

THE SENATE SHALL POSTPONE ACTION ON R-03-10-02 UNTIL ITS NOVEMBER 2003 MEETING. (Ross/Munz). Passed with 1 opposed. T-03-10-02

PROPOSED BYLAWS FOR THE CENTER FOR GRAPHICS RESEARCH SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO UPBC. (Lyons/ Ganchev). Passed with 2 abstentions. R-03-10-03