

university

# SENATE

December 19, 2007  
Westside Campus Center

Meeting convened at 3:37 p.m.

**Members present (alphabetical)** Jamie Begian, Marc Bourque, Eugene Buccini, Emilio Collar, Edward Duncanson, Abe Echevarria, Gancho Ganchev, Carol Hawkes, Karen Koza, Tara Kuther, Sam Lightwood, Susan Maskel, James Munz, John Murphy, Imran Qazi, S. Alba Skar, D. L. Stephenson, Cigdem Usekes, Lori Wagner, Rebecca Woodward

**Guests present:** Veronica Kenausis, Jennifer O'Brien

## **I. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Pres Kuther - We have no announcements and we have no minutes. We'll get the October and November minutes in your February packets. We have no unfinished business.

## **II. MINUTES**

(see above)

## **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(see above)

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Committee on General Education Bylaws.**

These appeared in your packet. Veronica is here to answer questions.

**Sen. Lightwood** – Let's see we add a member, to add a member it looks like you added a responsibility, why?

**Veronica Kenausis** - We weren't quite sure where the information went and we looked at a couple of models, admittedly they may not have been in the Senate committee but like the Honors Council with the files for the Honors Council has the responsibilities of the Director in that document so Vijay suggested that we put that in.

**Sen. Lightwood** – So, I just have a couple of thoughts and comments, it seems like you're doing more than reviewing and monitoring the first year program, I get that sense and I'm a little confused perhaps you can help and maybe everyone else. It seems like you're actually running it somehow. I mean somehow this program is yours. It's the committees and five says you're just reviewing and monitoring it. Perhaps you may want something stronger

**Veronica Kenausis** – Because the first year coordinator is actually the person responsible for the program from this point forward, we felt that responsibility or that position has to be a part of the Committee. We also wanted to be flexible enough at some point if this whole thing gets spun off the committee. We thought of having another by laws change but if we made it review and

monitor and wouldn't be locked into that (inaudible). What do you suggest instead of review and monitor?

**Sen. Lightwood** – I guess what I would suggest would be just say what you're doing. At this point it does seem like that this something that Gen. Ed was running or implementing and if that's what you're doing, say that's what you're doing and then if it needs to be changed it's no different to change that set of typeset than review and monitor.

**Veronica Kenausis** - So to change the language to say something like, I'm not exactly sure what else it would be besides review and monitor.

**Sen. Lightwood** – there's two parts, one is the language under II, F. 5 where it says review and monitor the first year experience program on the first page of my copy and then in III the Membership it starts talking about the Coordinator and then at that point when it's talking about who is in the membership, it not only tells us about the Coordinator, it also goes on and tells us a lot more about the Coordinator's job and maybe that ok sure so he's the coordinator and the membership at that point that's all we needed to know if we're talking about membership. But there's some information about the Coordinator that has to go someplace and perhaps it could go under another category. Responsibilities, G perhaps where you implement and supervise the First Year program and then there could be a G. 1. where there would be the Coordinator of the First Year Experience who is responsible, properties are they're a full time faculty member recommended and so forth and the rest of it would follow, for example that would be one way.

**Veronica Kenausis** – We could work together and put that together and then we could make it work. So, you're saying that it's not clear what our responsibility is terms of the First Year program, and you just want to clarify what the committee's responsibility is in terms of that program, not necessarily what the Coordinator's responsibilities are, what the committee's responsibility is?

**Sen. Lightwood** – Those comments were directed to both, It seems the language for the Coordinator was there, it just doesn't seem like it's in the right place it also doesn't quite seem as though the language for what the committee role on the First Year Program is and I was trying to suggest maybe that could be more accurate and then placed under the responsibilities of membership.

**Veronica Kenausis** – We'll work together then and do you want to table this, do you want to vote on it and then

**Pres. Kuther** – We can't vote on it until February anyway, if you want to make changes and come back in February. If we had a motion here, we'd vote on it next time. Do I have a motion to move to accept? Usekes/Qazi

**Sen. Qazi** – I did have a question, under Membership, in G you took out the Academic Vice President and

**Veronica Kenausis** – We just left the Provost.

**Sen. Qazi** – I thought the whole point why that was there in case at any given time the University would not have Provost, the VP of Academic Affairs would fill in so let's say there is no Provost, who fills in on 5 if you take away the VP of Academic Affairs?

**Veronica Kenausis** – Right now it's the same person, she's the Provost and the VP of Academic Affairs and the fact again was Vijay's suggestion to just be consistent instead of doing both, it's the same Provost.

**Sen. Qazi** – But, will it always be the same person? It doesn't necessarily always have to be

**Veronica Kenausis** – It's a dual title. I see your point and I asked the same question

**Sen. Qazi** – Well, if it's the same person, then it's fine.

**Sen. Maskel** – On the first page II, letter B if I read that correctly, if I wanted to propose a course a new Gen Ed course, right now the process would be to go through the department then go through my schools' program review committee then go to CUCAS.

**Veronica Kenausis** – then Gen. Ed. then CUCAS.

**Sen. Maskel** – Ok, when does it go through Gen. Ed, after program review committee or before?

**Veronica Kenausis** – after program review.

**Sen. Maskel** – That wasn't clear.

**Veronica Kenausis** – That hasn't changed in twenty years. That part of that, those by laws have been enforced since 2005 so that process has been in place since May, 2005 that we an advisory committee to CUCAS, so if you want a new course in Gen. Ed, you come to Gen. Ed. First, we sign off on it and then it goes to CUCAS. So they decide on the course itself, we decide or we recommend the (inaudible).

**Sen. Maskel** – Can that be clarified there, that could be easily misunderstood.

**Veronica Kenausis** – yes, it's clarified now in the new course proposal process, so if you look at a form it now says affected departments, PRC, Gen. Ed, CUCAS, so it's clarified in that sense.

**Sen. Maskel** – What if it were an FY course?

**Veronica Kenausis** – If it was going to be an FY course, it would mean it's already a Gen. Ed. Course, or if you want to do both you could come to the committee as well. If it's already a Gen. Ed. Course it would come to the committee, we'll designate it as FY, if it's a new course, it could be FY and Gen. Ed. If that's what you're looking for. All the FY courses already existed as Gen. Ed. Courses.

**Sen. Maskel** – I have a specific question, but it has nothing to do with this. I'll ask you later. It has nothing to do with Senate.

**Pres. Kuther** – I have a side question, it has nothing to do with the by laws, it's about the First year Experience, I'm trying to remember when we last talked about this, it was some time last year and I think the committee was going to report to the Senate about how it went.

**Veronica Kenausis** – This is the first semester, so we don't know yet. We're just finishing up the first semester and registering the students for the second semester of it so it's not going exactly as we had planned, because it's not surprising, because it's brand new so we'll have a report for you in the spring about the fall semester and that will come from the First Year Coordinator who is Patty O'Neill.

**Pres. Kuther** – Even though we don't know how well this is going we have a coordinator?

**Veronica Kenausis** – Well, a coordinator to move the program, yes. Somebody needs to keep track of the instructors who are teaching and the students who are taking the courses and then somebody who that coordinator is also charged with assessing the program. It was simply too much for the Committee itself to do and have other things to do.

**Sen. Lightwood** – I have a couple of questions. First of all I like the idea of the first year program, it seems like there's a shift going on here. The first year program used to be, it's a program, is it something that Gen. Ed Committee.. so my confusion is this, my understanding was that the whole purpose for the Gen. Ed. Committee was to be able to review and to monitor and to kind of look at the Gen. Ed. Requirements and how we organized it and try to make it better. Now it seems like you're running some stuff and it seems like somehow more has come out of this and I don't remember, I suspect it wasn't intentional but I see that somehow maybe there was a void and people said oh, the perfect people to run this is the Gen. Ed. Committee, it just seems like there's been a substantial change to the committee by doing this.

**Veronica Kenausis** – No, we are the ones who proposed this and we all voted on this. As a first step in reviewing and revising the General Education curriculum all of these courses are general education courses in the first year program. They're going to legion other courses changes in the entire program in terms of how students select general education courses, what kind of outcomes they're going to get from general education courses, this is the first step of it. It is bigger than even we had anticipated but it is going to become a requirement hopefully in two years but right now it is only 1/3 of the first year students, but we're hoping and we made this clear from the beginning that this program will always live with the General Education committee and we should, at some point, move beyond the General Education curriculum, in other words we should involve Student Affairs, we should involve all of the areas of the college campus. We sort of brought it out and with the appointment of the Coordinator and the support of the administration, we're trying to move it to its rightful place. Where that is, is still in discussion. I believe the General Education committee is to build on that program, to revitalize to re-envision the general education program.

**Sen. Lightwood** – do you have a mandate or some sort of resources given to you? We have a footnote that suggests that there's going to be a minimum as far as our coordinator, is there something somewhere that guarantees this? I don't know how we can do this.

**Veronica Kenausis** – I don't know, that's the case now, when the by laws change, we have a commitment from the Provost for that so I

**Sen. Lightwood** – if we sign off on this and the Provost signs off on this, then the provost is agreeing to provide this.

**Veronica Kenausis** – Yes. It should say recommended by the Committee and approved by the Provost as is the appointment of the First Year Coordinator.

**Sen. Lightwood** – We can look forward to a report about how it goes in the near future?

**Veronica Kenausis** – I'm sure you all understand that we're not going to know much, but we will have some information from faculty who taught in these sections, again one semester there isn't a lot, but we will tell you what we know.

**Pres. Kuther** – Further discussion? We'll return to this in February.

### **B. Gen Ed category descriptions for Non-Western Culture and Social Sciences**

**Veronica Kenausis** – I will comment that this is the form in the faculty handbook that is to accompany proposals for a course to be in the Gen. Ed. curriculum. It's a simple check box based on the current general education curriculum. My thought is that it really should be approved by CUCAS because we're an advisory committee to CUCAS for whatever reason we brought it to the Senate the first time so now we have to bring it to the Senate every time. I'm not sure how to get out of that cycle. Terry Buzaid will not change anything unless it's approved by the Senate.

**Sen. Maskel** – Since this went to CUCAS I'm assuming that Social sciences, I don't see their signature anywhere, but I assume they signed off on it.

**Veronica Kenausis** – They suggested the changes. We worked with Alba and with Joshua Rosenthal on the changes for non western cultures.

**Sen. Skar** – and I would like to speak in favor of this change and thank you for bringing this to CUCAS and the Senate.

**Pres. Kuther** – Sen. Skar is that a motion to

**Sen. Skar** – Yes, my first motion. Sen. Usekes seconded.

**Pres. Kuther** – This is policy so we can't vote on this until February unless we vote to suspend the rules. In order to suspend the rules we need a 2/3 majority vote to suspend the rule and vote today. Ok, we'll return to this in February.

### **C. Communication Department Grading Policy**

The last item that we have was also distributed today and this is a proposal from the Communication Dept. on the grading policy. Sam, do you know whether Dr. Wiss was going to come?

**Sen. Lightwood** – I don't know anything about that. Although, it would be nice if she was.

**Pres. Kuther** – Without a motion we cannot discuss this, why don't you take a moment and read through and we can make a decision as to whether to proceed today or whether to postpone this.

**Sen. Ganchev** – I think this document speaks for itself and so I would like to move to accept.

**Pres. Kuther** – ok, so we have a motion to accept, do we have a second? Sen. Buccini. Discussion?

**Sen. Qazi** – I have a question, are we trying to stipulate that attendance should be required in the grading policy? What is this really saying?

**Pres. Kuther** – I believe that this is just striking number 3 on attendance.

**Sen. Qazi** – it has to be demonstrated that there's a correlation between

**Sen. Ganchev** – I think it doesn't enforce attendance in any way but it says instructors should consider a policy that would encourage attendance this is number 2 d, and then it says attendance policy should be based on solid academic principles. I believe this is much better than the previous paragraph that was stricken out.

**Sen. Maskel** – I think the issue is that it was in the faculty handbook that number 3 on the first page was a federal guideline, when in fact it was not a federal guideline I don't know if it was a misinterpretation of a federal guideline, or what so I think it is taking it out because it is not a federal guideline as far as anyone can find, but it is replacing it with something that deals with the same issue. It's not saying whether it will or will not be part of the grade, I think that still depends on the individual course and how much participation, etc. counts in that particular course, but it's just correcting what is in the faculty handbook which is an error.

**Sen. Lightwood** – I think its adding new category. G was preceded by F. This is not a part of the federal guidelines. The federal guidelines are just being struck. Number 3 is being struck and then the new category H is some recommendations. Those recommendations are not to be used, if I read this correctly, not to be used as part of the federal guidelines, but stem from AAUP.

**Sen. Duncanson** – I found it interesting in part H-2-B where it says that instructors should make grading both behavioral and academically. I was curious about the word behavioral, at least in public schools teachers cannot grade students on their behavior at all and that has been shown over and over again in court cases. I wonder if here the word behavior, participation wasn't a better term in there than behavior. I don't know that we have a lot of you know people throwing spit balls and so on and so forth in class.

**Sen. Lightwood** – Do we know whether the items in H-2 are drawn from the AAUP sources ?

**Pres. Kuther** – I think that we need to wait until we have somebody address this specific choice of language here. We don't have a representative from the Communications Department here. We can continue to discuss this, but I can't answer questions when it comes to why the given language is as such.

**Sen. Qazi** – Can I make a motion to table this until we get a representative here to speak on our questions?

**Pres. Kuther** – So moved, I think it would be useful for you all to bring this back to your departments and gain input so that we can have a more fruitful discussion in February. Ok, so we'll return to this in February, other business?

#### **V. Other Business**

**Jennifer O'Brien** - My name is Jennifer O'Brien and I'm from the Library and I have been asked on behalf of the Chair for the Global Awareness Initiative this coming January to speak to all of you about the program. We are participating, WCSU is participating in the Focus the Nation, Global Warming Initiative this year and we have a wide range of programs that will be running all day, from 9 in the morning until approximately 5-6 in the evening, we'll have discussions, we've got a number of speakers who are coming and we have some faculty participating in debate and we would like to encourage all of you to speak with your students to suggest that they may want to come and participate. We're going to be holding this in the Student Center, we may have some of them going on in white hall depending on interest, we're going to have library books, the art department hopefully has indicated some interest in having art displays and I am here in case you have questions or would like to participate in any way. January 31<sup>st</sup> is the date.

#### **VI. Motion to adjourn**

Munz/ Duncanson [R-07-12-01]

Meeting adjourned 4:13pm

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Popiel – Senate Secretary

Linda D'Aurio – Recording Secretary

## **SENATE RESOLUTIONS**

None