

Date: May 13, 2009

To: University Senate – Western Connecticut State University

From: Enrollment Management Committee

Re: 2008/2009 Annual Report of the Committee

Members: During the 2008/2009 Academic Year faculty members included Thomas Monks (Elected, Ancell, and Committee Chair); Kimberley Bernstein (Elected, Librarians, Coaches and Counselors); Joan Palladino (Elected, Professional Studies); Patricia O’Neill (Elected, Arts and Sciences); Frank Herbert (Elected, Visual and Performing Arts) and Shane Murphy (Appointed, Arts and Sciences).

Ex-officio members included Steve Goetsch (Director of Admissions) and William Hawkins (Enrollment Management Officer)

Jennifer Kancler served as student representative. .

Meetings: Committee meetings were held on September 17<sup>th</sup> and December 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008 and February 18<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> 2009. The October 29, 2008 and March 18, 2009 meetings were cancelled due to a lack of a quorum.

At each meeting the committee was updated by the Director of Admissions or his representative about the status of the university’s enrollment statistics, as and when that information became available. This included information about new and transfer applications, acceptances, commitments, enrollments and retention. The committee was also updated on the status of on and off campus housing issues. The purpose of these briefings was to update the members on enrollment numbers and trends and to receive input from the administration as to its enrollment goals and progress in achieving those goals.

In addition to its regular business, the committee picked up where it left off at the end of the previous academic year with respect to exploring opportunities presented by the Army and/or Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps as a way to attract quality students. The committee was briefed by William Hawkins on the history of ROTC and the current ROTC programs available at WCSU. After the briefing, the committee decided not to pursue further action on the issue.

Accomplishments: During the 2007/2008 academic year the committee engaged in two special projects: Academic Department Profiles and review and amending the Fresh Start admission policy.

### Academic Department Profiles

The Admission's Office notified the Committee that it would like to put together a Profile of each academic department to use in recruitment. Profiles will be targeted to prospective students and their parents. Profiles will list the recent achievements of a department's faculty and students, to the extent such information is available. The goal of the Profiles is to showcase academic departments and their students in an attempt to attract quality students to the university.

In response to the Admission's Office request, the Committee solicited each department chair to put together a department profile. The returned profiles are being compiled and will be submitted to the Admissions Office for processing.

### Amendments to the Fresh Start Program

In response to the request of the Admission's Office, the Committee reviewed whether a change was warranted to WCSU's Fresh Start admission policy. The Fresh Start Program allows a student who withdrew from the university to apply for re-admission and, upon return, to "shed" the failing and below average grades he/she received during their original enrollment (i.e. those grades will not be factored into the student's new GPA). Under the current policy, one of the conditions to qualify for Fresh Start is that a student may not take any courses at a college or university, save remedial math and English, for at least a one-year period his/her withdrawal from WCSU.

Based on its review, the Committee found that the "one-year" rule, as currently written, unreasonably restricts the academic growth of students. Further, it can detrimentally affect those students who have made efforts to improve themselves academically during the period of their withdrawal. As such, the Committee is recommending that WCSU change its Fresh Start Policy to provide that the one-year-rule only apply to courses taken at WCSU. Further, that the Admission's Director be given the discretion to waive the one-year rule with respect to students who have objectively demonstrated an academic turn around during their period of withdrawal. The proposed changes are on the agenda for the May 20, 2009 University Senate meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas J. Monks, LL.M., JD, CPA, CFE  
Chair