10:00 a.m. - Tuesday, September 14, 2010

Eastern Connecticut State University
Student Center, Room 217
Willimantic, CT

1. **ACTION ITEMS**

   A. The minutes of the March 16, 2010 Student Life Committees meeting were approved on a motion by Trustee Gagne and seconded by Trustee Chu.

2. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

   A. **CSUS Admission Standards**

   Dr. Feroe explained that the State of Connecticut has implemented new graduation requirements for all high school graduates commencing with the graduating class of 2018. The CSU System in 2009 put into place more defined high school requirements (BR# 09-64) with an effective date of 2015. Following the stipulated guidelines by the State of Connecticut the CSU System decided to align our standards with theirs. Dr. Feroe reviewed the changes with the committee noting the math requirements for the State of Connecticut did not include Algebra 2. Trustee DeMasi asked what would be used to define a home schooled student as qualified since there would not be a transcript (Letter C). Dr. Feroe noted that some universities may require SAT scores or a portfolio. Trustee DeMasi also asked why the word “may” was used when admission is considered (Letter E). Dr. Feroe explained that it was being used to indicated that admissions officers are permitted to consider students with other than public school preparation. Dr. Feroe and the committee agreed they will revisit the language before it goes to the Academic Affairs Committee. Dr. Feroe noted that most high school students aiming at college are already taking this curriculum. This fall, we will be communicating the new standards by visiting middle and high schools.

   B. **Update on Textbook Rentals**

   CCSU – Dr. Tordenti was anxious to share Central’s report on textbook rentals. Dr. Tordenti distributed CCSU’s report and noted that it was a big success. Students saved between textbook rentals and used textbook purchases. Dr. Tordenti indicated the students were happy and the program will expand.
ECSU – Mr. Bedini reported on ECSU’s textbook rental program. He also noted that Eastern’s program was a big success and students were happy. At ECSU the Faculty Senate agreed to a date in which textbook orders have to be into the bookstore.

SCSU – Dr. Herron distributed Southern’s report indicating a savings of $160,000 for students who rented textbooks. Dr. Herron’s reported showed an estimated 1,500 students opted to rent this semester. Students were happy with the rental program.

WCSU – Dr. Bernstein reported textbook rentals were very good, had a lot of positive feedback from students. He estimates Western did about half of what CCSU and SCSU did because they are a smaller campus. Western is not going to run any figures until after the 3rd week of classes after the freeze date. Dr. Bernstein indicated their hope is to expand the number of titles available for rentals.

It was also noted that the bookstores at all of the Universities also offer textbook titles in e-book format, but that these were more expensive than rentals, though less expensive than new print texts.

Chairman Panciera asked the students attending the meeting if they took advantage of the rentals or if they had any comments or concerns. Trustee Chu reported that he had rented his textbooks this semester from another rental service and saved a lot of money. Students purchase used books and some students purchase new/used textbooks because they want to keep them as a reference. In some case it was less expensive to buy the used book as opposed to the rental price. The bookstores piloted the rental program this semester and only ordered books that would be available to rent again. A student concern was that not all titles were available to rent from the bookstore; texts were not given to the bookstore by the faculty in time to use the rental service. Mr. Dawson reported that some faculty members will make their textbooks available in the library and students can sign up to use the text.

Dr. Feroe encouraged students to communicate their resources to other students. Collegebookstores are more than just for books! Mr. Dawson asked how the bookstore benefits the university and how it affects tuition and fees. It does not affect tuition and fees; each university has a service agreement with the bookstore and receives a percentage for overhead costs.

Trustee Williams asked if there was a sense that the rental program was something they wanted to continue. Trustee Nolan felt it was absolutely worth continuing. He noted as word get around other students will see the value of the rental program, however, the competitors beat the university bookstores rental price.

3. OTHER

C. ECSU WOMEN’S SOFTBALL FIELD AND PARKING GARAGE

Chairman Panciera noted that prior to the start of the meeting Mr. Dawson asked what the status of the women’s softball field and parking garage at the campus. Chairman Panciera reported that the parking garage that took the space of the softball field had a completion date of January 2011. The release of the approved bond funds for the softball field was delayed for September. A request for October release is in the works. Chairman Panciera noted this is a serious issue because of Title 9. Dr. Feroe confirmed that the beginning the softball field project is dependent on the Bond Commission releasing the funds.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Panciera thanked Mr. Bedini for hosting the committee meeting and thanked the student visitors for attending and offering their comments, concerns and suggestions.

Trustee Gagne moved to adjourn; Trustee DeMasi seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

/jsn