Faculty Advisory Committee Report

to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

September 16, 2016

Presented at Southern Connecticut State University

Unlike recent presentations that have taken the form of thematic-based narratives, we would like this one to consist of a series of individual points each presented by a different member of the FAC.

- The FAC would like to formally extend our congratulations to Matt Fleury on being named Chair. We look forward to the opportunity to work with him to build communication and trust between the Board and the faculty across the system. We would also like to recognize Nick Donofrio’s years of dedicated service.

- An important new development is an FAC presence on the system website. The content is not yet complete so dedicated links have not yet been created, but it can be viewed by typing the uri www.ct.edu/faculty. The site includes video recordings of the plenaries and workshop sessions from the conference held at Housatonic last April. We hope that some of these great presentations will be of interest to the members of the BOR, as well as CSCU faculty and staff and the general public.

- The third annual conference on student success and shared governance, presented by the FAC and co-sponsored by the system office, will be held at CCSU on April 7, 2017. Planning for that conference is already well underway. We would like to invite the Board to consider holding one of its regular meetings on that day at the conference site and to use this an opportunity to announce the recipients of the teaching and research awards and the new award on shared governance. This would bring greater recognition to both the Board and the winners of the awards. It would also serve as an opportunity for the Board to attend parts of the conference and engage in discussion on issues of common concern.

- Representatives from the FAC have been invited by the system administration to participate in the six planning work groups formed by President Ojakian. Although the work of these groups is just getting underway, we simply want the Board to recognize our appreciation of the efforts to include faculty in the planning process and to work toward system goals using expertise available on our campuses.

- Last year, the FAC was instrumental in opening a dialog with the Community College Research Center at Columbia University with the explicit aim of developing a partnership to seek outside grant-based funding to support research to measure the impact of PA 12-40 and to assess the adequacy of developmental or remedial education across the state colleges and universities. The FAC supports the development of such a partnership and pledges to do what we can to realize a meaningful assessment of developmental education and adoption of best practices.

- This summer, the FAC passed a resolution concerning faculty representation in the hiring process for senior staff at the system office. The resolution outlines our expectation that principles of shared governance in the hiring process, as embodied in search committee procedures, apply to the
system-level administration as they do across our individual institutions. A copy of the resolution will be included for the agenda.

- Last year, members of the FAC worked closely with the system administration to develop a new policy that aligns financial aid eligibility at the community colleges with the standards for satisfactory academic progress (SAP). We believe that the new SAP policy will allow us to provide timely counseling to more students at risk and help them avoid failure.

- Several members of the FAC were appointed to a legislative commission set up by the Higher Education Committee to study and make recommendations on Outcomes-Based Financing. We worked very closely and cooperatively with President Mark Ojakian, Provost Estela Lopez, and CFO Erika Steiner, to successfully create a new program for low-income students, offering work-study jobs on campus to reduce dependence on off-campus jobs in order to increase retention and help to close the achievement gap in Connecticut.

- Finally, we would like to say that over the last year, we have been gratified by the significant opportunities to participate in a productive way, and we appreciate this Board’s role in facilitating the collaborative atmosphere. We hope to continue to play an important role in system planning. And as we anticipate the 2017 state legislative session we would like to encourage the Board and the system administration to work closely with faculty and students in a coordinated campaign to garner sufficient state support so that we can realize our mission, sustain our institutions, and mitigate the crisis associated with mounting levels of student debt.

Members of the FAC:
Stephen Adair (Chair), CCSU
Barbara Richards (Vice Chair), HCC
TJ Barber, MCC
Del Cummings, NVCC
Patrice Farquharson, COSC
Myrna Garcia-Bowen, CCSU
William Lugo, ECSU
Mike Shea, SCSU
Judy Wallace, MXCC
Linda Wilder, CASC

Alternates
Jay Brower, WCSU
Robert Brown, TXCC
Greg DeSantis (Secretary), HCC
Ann Marie Gagnon, COSC
Krystyna Gorniak-Kocikowska, COSC
Meg Leake, CCSU
Lynn Roller, GCC
Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)
to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

July 7, 2016

RESOLUTION

On Searches at the System Office

WHEREAS expectations, procedures, and policies for searches for senior administrative personnel are generally well institutionalized at the public colleges and universities in the CSCU system;

WHEREAS the 1966 Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities, which was jointly formulated by the American Council of Education, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges and the American Association of University Professors, calls for "consultation with the appropriate faculty" in "the selection of academic deans and other chief academic officers";

WHEREAS the 1966 statement also includes the expectation that "faculty representatives should be selected by the faculty according to procedures determined by the faculty";

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Advisory Committee recommends that CSCU system office institute expectations, procedures, and policies for searches for senior administrative personnel (including but not limited to presidents, vice presidents, provosts, and any chief positions) that are generally consistent with those that operate on the individual campuses and that include appropriate consultation from both instructional and non-instructional faculty selected by procedures determined by the Faculty Advisory Committee or other appropriate representative body.