



CONNECTICUT STATE  
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Early College Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Monday, June 8, 2015 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**  
**61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT, 06105, Room 331**

**Minutes Prepared by Katie Magboo**

**Present:** Tracy Ariel (BOR), Mike Breen (CEA), Carmen Cid (ECSU), Andrea Comer (CBIA), Tony Gasper (WPS), Robin Golden (BOR), Bob Henderson (MCC), Katie Kelly (ACC), Katie Magboo (BOR), Lori Matjyas for Dianna Roberge-Wentzell (SDE), Arthur Poole (BOR), Mary Skelly for Robert Trefry (CTHSS)

**Absent:** Sally Biggs (HMTCA), Dennis Bogusky (AFT), Melony Brady-Shanley (HPS), Kate Carter (SWPS), Liz Cowles (ECSU), Suzanne D'Annolfo (CASBD), Lola Garcia-Blocker (NHPS), Elliot Ginsberg (CCAT), Stephen McKeever (AFT), Sal Pascarella (DPS), Wendi Richardson (UCONN), Manuel Rivera (NLPS), Ray Rossomando (CEA), Gail Stevens (NCC), , Kristen Wheaton (College Board)

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Katie Magboo who thanked everyone for coming.

**1. June 5<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Early College Opportunity (CT-ECO) Programs Statewide Convening Debrief**

Katie and Robin were pleased to report that the June 5<sup>th</sup> CT-ECO Programs Statewide Convening was a huge success. Although many of the invited legislators from the appropriations, higher education and employment, and education committees were unable to attend Hilda Santiago, Pat Dillon, and Susan Johnson were there for most of the morning session. A plan is in place to distribute information to the targeted legislators both via email and in hard copy. (See attached)

Katie distributed the folders that were given to Representatives Santiago, Dillon, and Johnson. The group reviewed the materials including the program and agenda, 2 page CT-ECO program description, fact sheet, and various news articles about CT-ECO and P-TECH programs. Robin then asked members who were able to attend the event to share their thoughts from the day.

Carmen Cid shared that she was impressed by the event and encouraged Tracy Ariel to look for regional opportunities throughout the year to “take the show on the road.” The turnout for legislators might be better if you meet them in the communities where they live.

The three legislators who attended urged us to have regional meetings with other legislators. In fact, Hilda Santiago, who is from Meriden, is working with Jim Ieronimo (the Executive Director of Meriden United Way and a supporter of CT-ECO) to plan a meeting with Dante Bartolomeo, Catherine Abercrombie and the

Superintendent of Meriden Public Schools. John Beauregard, the Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board and others from the two eastern CT-ECO programs are planning to have a regional meeting with their legislators about the program in the future.

Arthur Poole said that he was “blown away by the students.” He was impressed that every student mentioned the benefits of the Work Place Learning course. He noted that Radcliffe Saddler from P-TECH Brooklyn even went so far as to say that Work Place Learning literally changed his life.

Tony Gasper shared that while he learned from and respected those attending from New York; he feels it is important to note that in Connecticut we will not be able to simply copy their model verbatim. Robin agreed that some flexibility needs to be granted from program to program but there are certain non-negotiable aspects of the program that must be adhered to such as the cohort model and dedicated work place learning courses to name a few. Tony agreed and also noted that as CT-ECO programs move forward it will be important to have a defined set of metrics for each stakeholder to gauge the success of the initiative. What do K-12, higher education, and industry successes look like?

Tracy stated that Catherine Smith, Commissioner of the State Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), was compelling in her remarks and got everyone excited for the day. Robin agreed and explained that a meeting would hopefully be scheduled for Tracy, Estela Lopez, and Commissioner Smith to meet and discuss possible funding options for CT-ECO programs that DECD could help with.

Andrea Comer explained that she was pleased to have been able to attend the morning session on behalf of CBIA. She was excited to see how the model could be incorporated into CBIA’s Education Foundation’s work. Robin explained that she had approached Andrea about this because in New York, P-TECH programs are supported through a business intermediary. The Business Council of New York has a non-profit arm that houses the Leadership Council. In turn, the Leadership Council has a staff person (Robin Willner) who ensures fidelity to the P-TECH model in the start-up of new programs. It would be great if CBIA, the Connecticut Technology Council (CTC), and the Business Council of Fairfield County could come together in this effort. The group agreed that this made sense for the sustainability of the model.

Katie will be creating a photo essay from the event and distributing it to the group. (The essay is attached as the first page of the PDF titled “We\_Are\_Sorry\_We\_Missed\_You\_On\_June\_5<sup>th</sup>.”)

## **2. Update on Draft Policy to Implement a Fee Structure for Concurrent Enrollment Programs**

The draft policy was distributed to the group prior to the meeting. Robin explained that she has officially started referring to college courses taught to high school students by approved high school faculty as concurrent enrollment. The term “concurrent enrollment” used by NACEP and by UCONN ECE, will be used to refer specifically to the courses that used to be referred to as CCP courses in Connecticut. The term “dual enrollment” refers to both concurrent enrollment courses and courses taught by college faculty either on the college campus or at the high school remotely.

The group took some time to review the document and then a robust discussion occurred around the phrasing and inclusion of language to accommodate for dual enrollment course offerings where the college instructor would teach at the high school. The group agreed to change the line from:

- “College faculty members may be employed to teach dual enrollment courses conducted at the college, the partnering high school or elsewhere.”

to:

- “College faculty members may be employed to teach dual enrollment courses, that are not part of the high school curriculum, conducted at the college, the partnering high school, or elsewhere.”

The group agreed that clarification would ensure that the Colleges would not be able to require that all courses be taught by their faculty members.

Mike Breen from the Connecticut Education Association (CEA) expressed concern that implementing the fee part of this policy now would be devastating for the high schools who feel that they were just dealt the blow of the new teacher credentialing process. Katie Kelley from Asnuntuck Community College (ACC) agreed with Mike and indicated that the fee structure would likely mean a brief decline in enrollment from ACC’s partnering high schools. However, she explained that without funding from the Legislature for Concurrent Enrollment programs, there really is no other choice but to charge.

Andrea added that it might be wise to include the State Board of Education in the conversation. She then suggested that the group reach out to local community foundations to help with funding Concurrent Enrollment programs.

Robin explained that there was no guarantee that the policy would move forward. She had hoped to bring the policy to the Academic Council meeting scheduled for June 10, 2015 but the meeting was unfortunately canceled and they are not set to meet again until after her departure.

Bob Henderson stated that his program at Manchester Community College (MCC) would be moving forward to implement a fee structure regardless beginning in the fall of 2016. For his program, which continues to grow despite the NEASC policy changes, he feels there is no other way to continue to run the program without generating income. Robin cautioned that, it is her understanding that, implementing a fee structure would have to be done as a system with BOR approval.

Robin thanked Bob, Steve Minkler from Middlesex Community College, and Taylor Van Antwerp from Gateway Community College for their help in creating this draft policy and encouraged the college representatives to speak with their Deans and Presidents about the importance of finding a sustainable funding structure for Concurrent Enrollment programs be it this policy or something else.

**3. Updates on Transition Plan**

Robin and Tracy went over the scope of work that they created in partnership with Estela Lopez, for Tracy as the new point person for CT-ECO programs. (See attached) Tracy is excited to be taking a leadership role with CT-ECO programs and Katie will continue to help her transition for the remainder of her Fellowship.

**4. Acknowledgement of Robin Golden's efforts to spearhead the initiatives encompassed in Early College and her dedication the work**

Katie thanked Robin for her guidance and support throughout the past 18 months. The group acknowledged that under Robin's direction, Early College programs were given a voice that had been missing. Everyone is sorry that Robin will be leaving but wish her well in her future endeavors.

Bob gave Robin a "Distinguished Service Award" from MCC's College Career Pathway Program. In his comments he noted that Robin got people at the colleges and system office to take notice of the work being done and he was thankful for her efforts to move the programs forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.