



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Early College Program Steering Committee Meeting
61 Woodland Street, Hartford
Minutes of March 10, 2015**

Present: Robin Golden (BOR), Carmen Cid (ECSU), Katie Magboo (BOR), Arthur Poole (BOR), Michael Breen (CEA), Robert Henderson (MCC), Mary Skelly (CTHSS), Steven Minkler (MxCC), Ray Rossomando (CEA), June Sanford (SDE), Lori Matyjas (SDE), Tracy Ariel (BOR), Tony Gasper (WPS), Gillian Thorne (UCONN), Elizabeth Cowles (ECSU), Judy Resnick (CBIA),

Called in: Elliot Ginsberg (CCAT), Sal Pascarella (DPS), and Katie Carter (SWPS)

Guests: Andrea Comer (CBIA), Rick Walker (COSC) and Ken Klucznik (BOR),

I. Welcome & Introductions

The meeting was called to order by Robin Golden at 3 PM, who bid farewell to Judy Resnick who is retiring. Judy's replacement at CBIA, Andrea Comer, was introduced to the EC Steering Committee.

II. Discussion on Planning Commission for Higher Education Strategic Master Plan Goals (attached).

Judy distributed the final Planning Commission for Higher Education's Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in CT (an electronic version was distributed in advance of the meeting). Judy explained that this legislatively mandated group was formed in 2007 and began meeting monthly in 2012 when they started by looking at trends and establishing goals. They hired the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) consulting firm to help establish goals, and make recommendations for an economically stable higher education system which would in turn support a robust future for the state's economy. Outreach efforts included six business forums, meeting with higher education Presidents and Deans, workforce representatives, and legislators. Judy made clear that the private colleges are also critical to this planning process. Judy went on to explain that the Strategic Master Plan was not intended to instruct units on how to conduct themselves but rather to highlight areas of need and make recommendations. The Planning Commission found the following to be true of the educational and workforce landscapes in Connecticut:

- Projections indicate that by the year of 2025, the economy in CT will require 70 percent of the workforce to have some education beyond high school;
- At the 70 percent target, 300,000 more graduates will be needed; i.e. 40 percent with baccalaureate degrees; 30 percent with associate degrees and certificates (17 percent certificate, and 13 percent associate degrees).

- While the overall number of high school student graduates will decline over the next decade, the percentage of minority populations will increase.

The Planning Commission consequently recommended:

- 1) Reducing gaps between whites and minorities from 29 percent to 15 percent by 2025;
- 2) Increase adult education level in CT by doubling the number by 2025;
- 3) Reduce socioeconomic disparities in CT and increase the number of degrees to adult students; and,
- 4) Ensure that higher education is affordable to CT residents—and reduce average student loans debt to the national average by 2025.

Judy elaborated on the goals to overcome the barriers by having everyone work more collaboratively to avoid over producing in the wrong areas (i.e., areas where there are fewer jobs). Connecticut education institutions need to change their paradigm and align goals with intended outcomes focused on strategy. While Judy reiterated that this document was not meant to be a plan of conduct, NCHEMS does make specific recommendations for how the plan could be used and tied to funding in Appendix B of the document.

One of the issues that the Commission identified is the need to rethink the funding system in Connecticut. Our current funding policy rewards the status quo. The proposed second phase of this work, including another contract for NCHEMS, will focus on the financial policy issues.

Once this plan is approved by the legislature, Judy suggests that all new and existing programs should be measured against the goals set forth in the plan. Programs should be required to come to the table with evidence that their work will be tied to the goals outlined in the plan in order to receive state funding. Connecticut has a history of implementing pilot programs that seldom have long-term systemic impact. With this plan, there is a chance to change that. Robin suggested that tying our Early College goals to the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Connecticut would be wise and help to raise awareness on the impact our programs have the potential to make.

Judy explained that a Bill was being raised during this legislative session to officially adopt the goals and set official targets. She will forward the Bill number to the group when she gets it. Since Judy plans to stay involved in the Commission, even after her retirement from CBIA, she committed to keeping the Steering Committee informed of progress

III. Norwalk Community College Automotive Program Update – Richard Walker

Richard Walker praised Norwalk Early College Academy (NECA) which partners with IBM, Norwalk Public Schools, and Norwalk Community College (NCC). NECA is the first Connecticut Early College Opportunity (CT-ECO)/ Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program in the State. He then spoke about a new automotive technology program that, if funded, would be housed in the New England Auto Museum in Norwalk and would feature collaboration with J. M. Wright Technical High School, NCC, and Gateway Community College (GCC). The Automotive Technician Program would enable students to complete an A.S. in General Studies with a concentration in Automotive Technology. Students would receive their general education credits from NCC and their technical credits from GCC.

Rick added that the potential to add other pathways within this museum/school existed.

Ralph Valenzisi then spoke about building the program from the school district's perspective, and referred to an article, Critical Thinking by Peter A. Facione.

<http://www.insightassessment.com/content/download/1176/7580/file/what&why.pdf>

Ralph went on to further explain that students, who participate in this program, like at NECA, would have the opportunity to complete internships in the field and capitalize on dual enrollment courses where possible.

IV. Dual Enrollment Teacher Application Process for 2015-16 Academic Year status report – Robin Golden and Katie Magboo

All CT Community Colleges are working on the Faculty Phase-In Plan. Robin and Katie provided a table as a snapshot of the stage the CCCs are at relative to the instructor applications.

V. Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) Process and Draft Policy Statement on Associate Degrees – Kenneth Klucznik

Ken explained that at the CCCs there are many degrees which do not allow students to transition smoothly to a 4-year degree. This results in students accruing as many as 1.5 years of credits that they either cannot use and don't count for the major. This leads to a student having to take more courses at additional cost in order to graduate. NEASC makes the distinction between credits that "transfer" and credits that "transfer into a degree." All of the TAP compliant associate degrees will fully transfer into a four year degree program. The purpose of the TAP process is to ensure that the TAP degrees are accepted system-wide. So, representatives from each CSCU institution has been brought to the table in work groups to develop the fully articulated pathways. Ken reported there are 14 such workgroups currently. Their work should lead to the establishment of up to 18 pathways for the fall 2016 catalogues. One issue is that, although all the community colleges now have a common course catalogue, the CSUs do not. Gillian Thorne asked Ken if there are policy reviews. Ken explained that yearly reviews are part of the process.

The section below outlines each of the pathways that are currently under review:

Pathways for Transfer Associate's Degrees:

Round 1 Reconvened fall 2014 and to be completed by end of Spring 2015: Biology, Business/Management, Communication, Nursing (temporary exemption) and Psychology.

Round 2 Convened fall 2014 and to be completed by end of Spring 2015: English¹, Chemistry, History², Political Science, Mathematics² and Sociology.

Round 3 Convened late fall 2014, and to be completed by end of fall 2015: Accounting, Social Work, Computer Science, Criminology and Marketing².

¹ Has a secondary education track; initial focus should be on non-education track

² May be encompassed by Business/Management for several institutions

Round 4 To be convened in early fall 2015 and to be completed by end of spring 2016: Elementary Education³, Physical Education, Exercise Science, Art², Finance³ -- The Business work group is hoping to complete Finance, Accounting, Marketing and MIS, and Theater/Drama.

The following degrees are available at only one CSU; transfer pathway may already exist and should not be placed into TAP: Sport and Fitness Administration/Management, Industrial Technology/Technician, and Construction Management.

Ken welcomed suggestions for new TAP pathways for consideration in the future. He would also like to see the TAP process start to look backwards into the K-12 system. Robin invited Ken and Candace to become involved in conversations she is beginning to have around early college initiatives with the CSUs (see below under "Other Business").

In addition to his report on the TAP process, Ken reported on a new policy on Associate Degrees that will be going to the full board for approval on March 26th. (See attached).

Ken went on to explain that out of the process, two types of associate degrees: A.A.S. Degrees and A.A./A.S. Degrees will be acknowledged. These degrees will all be comprised of 60-61 credits. Where they differ is that an A.A.S degree will not fully articulate to the four year institutions and is considered to be more technical in nature as they provide a clear credential for direct entry into a job and/or career.

VI. CT-ECO Legislation Update – Robin Golden

Robin distributed the BOR CT ECO Statutory Proposal of March 2015 (see attached). She explained that, once approved, the legislation would formally create CT-ECO as a 9 to 14 program and will direct the SDE to review existing regulations and statutes and make the necessary changes for students enrolled in CT-ECO program on or before January 1, 2016. Either next year or, at the latest, the year after, supporters of the CT-ECO partnerships will look to get appropriated state funds to support the college courses for the CT-ECO cohorts.

VII. CT-ECO Program and Budget Update – Robin Golden

The Early College Program Budget Status and Recommended Revisions table of 3.9.15 was provided to the EC Steering Committee. The EC program received \$1M last year. Robin said, luckily, it was not regular appropriations (it came from a scholarship fund) and can be rolled over past June 30, 2015. Robin proposes hiring Katie Magboo for one year at \$120K (including benefits) and to provide the majority of the remaining funds (\$250,000) to the community colleges to use to continue to work on their dual enrollment programs. This is critical since the requested funding for staffing for colleges was not included in the Governor's budget. Robin asked for the EC Steering Committee's reaction and said to feel free to send her an email message. Assuming that Dr. Gray approves the revised budget, Katie will be here through mid-July 2016, providing the early college programs with continuity.

Given the current financial crisis, it is unlikely that we will ever get dedicated funding for colleges to hire staff to support their dual enrollment programs. She believes that the most responsible direction to take is to consider establishing a fee structure for dual enrollment courses. Robin added that UCONN

³ High enrollment but difficulties because students declare majors in various subjects

and the CSUs all already charge students to participate with the exception of those students who receive free or reduced lunch. Gillian added to the conversation by stating that UCONN maintained robust participation in their ECE program despite charging students. Robin acknowledged that charging students would cause a problem with the current CCP funding and raises serious concerns about equity issues that would have to be addressed.

Robin added that she and Katie were looking into having Connecticut become an experimental site for allowing high school students to access Pell Grants. This could help with the funding requirements of both dual enrollment and CT-ECO programs. She spoke with Representative Jim Himes during his recent visit to NECA about this and he indicated that he would help in any way he could in regards to securing CT as an experimental site.

Due to time constraints, a more in-depth discussion regarding these issues needed to be tabled until a later meeting.

VIII. Other Business

Robin contributed that she and Katie have begun to explore the idea of building pipelines to careers in teaching with the CSUs. They are focused specifically on recruiting and retaining minority teachers within the State. An initial meeting was held on February 25, 2015 at the SDE to discuss this possibility. Representatives from Southern Connecticut State University (CCSU), Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU), New Haven Public Schools, Windham Public Schools, and Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) were in attendance. A second meeting has been scheduled for April 24, 2015 and will include all four CSUs and their corresponding K-12 partner districts. Robin indicated that Ken might want to also come to the meeting and went on to suggest that as the initiative begins to take shape, more volunteers might be needed. Ray Rossomando offered to help. If there are other disciplines that are viable and valuable, please let Ken know.

Katie reminded everyone that the next Early College Steering Committee meeting is on April 8th from 9 – 11 AM at **Norwalk Early College Academy (NECA), 55 County Street, Norwalk, CT 06851**. EC Steering Committee members will need to RSVP directly to Constance Rotondo, CRotondo@commnet.edu and Katie, KMagboo@commnet.edu, so that the school officials know exactly how many participants will be attending. Members will need to sign-in at the main office and will be guided to the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Constance Rotondo, Administrative Assistant, BOR