



RESOLUTION

concerning

APPROVAL OF UNIVERSITY MISSION STATEMENTS

for

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

November 6, 1998

WHEREAS, The Connecticut State University System mission was approved by the Board of Trustees in December 1997, and

WHEREAS, Throughout 1998 each of the four CSU universities, Central, Eastern, Southern and Western has been working with faculty and staff to develop its own individual mission statement describing its own individual characteristics, and

WHEREAS, Eastern and Southern have completed the process of review and approval at their campuses, therefore let it be

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System approves the university mission statements for Eastern Connecticut State University and Southern Connecticut State University as attached.

A Certified True Copy:

William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor

EASTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement

Eastern Connecticut State University is the state's public liberal arts university. As a predominantly undergraduate institution, Eastern develops outstanding students who integrate learning with expertise in their chosen fields of study for both civic and career success in a highly technological and rapidly changing world.

Eastern offers a wide range of undergraduate majors in the arts and sciences and professional studies, and selected graduate programs, encompassing interdisciplinary and integrated approaches to teaching and learning. The Eastern experience affords students the opportunity to acquire knowledge, values and skills necessary to pursue meaningful careers and advanced study, become productive members of their communities, and embrace lifelong learning. The University strives to be a model community of learners of different ages from diverse cultural, racial and social backgrounds.

Fulfilling the Mission

To accomplish its mission, Eastern offers a distinctive undergraduate educational experience that combines a strong academic program, a student-centered learning environment and an enriching campus life.

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM. Eastern's academic program provides students with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and a solid knowledge of an academic discipline or preparation in a profession. Students are encouraged to make connections across the curriculum and to achieve an effective balance between individual and collaborative effort. Modern technologies are incorporated in teaching, learning, and research activities.

New students make an effective transition to the university community by participating in a *first year program*. This program encourages academic excellence, creativity, student involvement and self-understanding and fosters a commitment to diversity and civility.

The *General Education* curriculum introduces students to different modes of inquiry within the arts, humanities, and natural and social sciences. This curriculum is distinctive in its emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches to inquiry and analysis, aesthetic awareness, and the understanding of many cultures. Students learn to think imaginatively, examine their beliefs and develop essential skills in technologies, communication, and in qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Academic majors offer experiential learning opportunities that encourage independent thought and decision-making and prepare students for a career, a profession, or advanced study. Both traditional majors and interdisciplinary majors are available.

STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT. Learning takes place in a challenging student-centered environment that rests on a century long tradition of teaching excellence, intellectual integrity, and social responsibility. Faculty members, whose first priority is excellence in teaching, are committed to working closely with students as instructors, academic advisers, and mentors. Faculty research, creative and scholarly activities and public service also enhance student learning. Further, faculty and staff continually engage in educational and program assessment in order to improve student learning and university services.

ENRICHING CAMPUS LIFE. Students participate in a wide range of co-curricular activities, university-wide intellectual and cultural events, service-learning projects, and community service that contribute to the development of the whole person. The campus community upholds the highest ethical standards and promotes debate in a civil manner. The University is committed to the advancement of the region and the state by offering off-campus instruction, professional development and service programs, including distance-learning options. It also serves as an important resource for meeting social and cultural needs of the local and regional communities.

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement

The Mission:

The mission of SCSU is to enhance its position as the preeminent comprehensive metropolitan public university of the State of Connecticut. As a learning community grounded in the values of liberal education, SCSU is committed to students distinguished by their intellectual competencies, their skills for flexible adaptation to global change, and by their habits of cultural enrichment for life-long inquiry. As the lead institution for advanced study in the CSU system, SCSU is committed to the professional preparation of graduate learners for success in their careers and in service to their communities. As an academic environment, SCSU is committed to innovative teaching strategies and to scholarship and creative activity that produces knowledge, refreshes faculty expertise and amplifies teaching effectiveness.

To fulfill this mission:

- SCSU will build on the strengths and values of current programs and services. The University will continue to respond to the evolution of society by enhancing current programs and developing additional ones to meet the changing needs of the state, the nation and the world.
- SCSU embraces its responsibility to design a culture of competencies in which undergraduate learners demonstrate ability to investigate, question, appreciate, communicate, collaborate, evaluate, and adapt to change. The University encourages learners to value responsible citizenship, sensitivity toward others, historical and cultural diversity, and awareness of the global environment. Undergraduates master both a well-defined general education curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences and a coherent major field of study.
- SCSU presents programs of advanced study that offer advanced learners state-of-the-art professional preparation and quality learning experiences. The University regards career preparation and placement of graduates as one of its greatest strengths and highest priorities. Learners meet the most rigorous expectations of their chosen professions, so that they may better serve Connecticut's schools, businesses, and health and human services.
- SCSU will continue its service to Connecticut's diverse communities. The University will improve collaboration with the social, economic, educational, cultural and community institutions that comprise its region. SCSU will expand its range of accessible cultural and social programs responsive to community interests.

- SCSU will continue vigorously to foster teaching excellence and the most progressive teaching strategies. The University seeks to match attention to the latest information and learning technologies with traditional methods of classroom and non – classroom learning. SCSU generates knowledge and advances its transmission to the academic community through the scholarship and creativity of the faculty. The University encourages all those who work and study at SCSU to pursue engagement in their disciplines, and to keep current with the information and skills required by all academic fields, occupations and professions. SCSU

- SCSU commits itself to strive for continuous quality improvement in all its efforts. The University continually will verify the effectiveness of this mission and its accompanying agenda through systematic self-evaluation and assessment of outcomes.

ITEM

University Mission Statements

BACKGROUND

The Connecticut State University mission statement was approved by the Board of Trustees in December 1997. Throughout 1998 the four CSU universities have been working with the faculty and staff in crafting individual mission statements which would define their distinct characteristics within the CSU system.

These mission statements together with the system mission will form the foundation for strategic planning for the CSU universities.

The Board of Governors for Higher Education has recently adopted a five point agenda entitled "Transforming Connecticut Postsecondary Education". One of the "five points" is *Define distinct missions and roles in the public higher education sector to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the public system.*

The university mission statements will be submitted to the Board of Governors for their use in reviewing and approving academic programs offered by CSU.

ANALYSIS

The four university missions can be summarized as follows:

- * ~~• Central Connecticut State University believes its mission is to be "accessible, learner centered, innovative and responsive."~~
- Eastern Connecticut State University defines itself as the "state's public liberal arts university."
- Southern Connecticut State university defines itself as the "lead university for advanced study in the CSU system."
- * ~~• Western Connecticut State University defines itself as the "state's public University of choice for programs of excellence leading to success in the professions."~~

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the four CSU university mission statements.

* Removed from agenda @ request of
President Judd & President Roach