Madame Chair, fellow Regents, Dr. Gray, faculty, staff and members of the public, it is my honor to present to you on behalf the Faculty Advisory Committee. I am accompanied by our Vice Chair Stephen Adair from Central Connecticut State University, and other members of the FAC.

Today, I will briefly review the work of the committee during its first two-year term and outline the work that lies ahead. Through the momentous change associated with creating a new system for public higher education in Connecticut, the founding of the new Board of Regents, and the changes in senior leadership, the thousands of faculty and staff across the 17 institutions have remained committed to the core mission: transforming student’s lives so that they can be engaged citizens and key contributors to Connecticut’s economic and social vitality.

During this period, the Faculty Advisory Committee has advanced ConnSCU’s mission by:

- Creating and sustaining communication across campuses,
- Building a context for collaboration and collegiality among the state universities, the community colleges and Charter Oak,
- Promoting the key principles of academic freedom and shared governance, and shaping sound policy to further student success.

We believe our efforts have made valuable contributions to a number of system initiatives while at the same time creating a structure for continuation of an effective Faculty Advisory Council in the years ahead. We remain fully committed in the belief that our steady, constructive advice – with the long view in mind – provides value and untapped potential for the system. We also appreciate the encouragement and willingness to listen that many Regents have afforded us.

First, we will review the major initiatives where we contributed sound guidance and advice. Then, we will briefly summarize the structures we have put in place to bring to life the legislation that enabled our existence.

**Major Initiatives**

- At the first FAC meeting in February 2012, we agreed on the priorities of establishing a structure for meaningful communication and collaboration among faculty, the Board,
and the senior administration. We also agreed to work through a number of substantive issues that required faculty involvement

- Our first task was to review the BOR’s initial draft of a Transfer and Articulation Policy. In March 2012, we presented ten recommendations to the ASA committee for changes in the initial draft of the Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) based on hundreds of faculty e-mails solicited from across the 17 institutions. Eight of these recommendations were accepted by ASA and the BOR

- We advised senior management and the ASA committee to conduct campus-wide votes on the General Education TAP framework following best practices of shared governance as stated in the BOR policy on TAP. In the subsequent voting, 15 of the 17 institutions voted in favor of adopting the TAP framework.

- We then joined members of the Academic Council on the TAP Coordinating Council to write and adopt an implementation plan for TAP that included the formation of the TAP Steering Committee. Work on the Coordinating Council continued this past year as we developed procedures for the next stages of TAP implementation.

- Since then, the FAC has been instrumental in promoting progress toward the goal of 20 majors articulated by June 2014, as well as a structure for ongoing guidance in the operation of TAP.

- Following the passage of PA 12-40, the developmental education bill, we advised senior management on faculty concerns. We continue to engage with faculty on our respective campuses and the PA12-40 Advisory Group to meet the legislative challenge and to ensure student success. The advisory group is making good progress in assessing and developing a catalog of best practices and defining multiple measures for student placement. In the coming months, data from the campus pilot programs will need to be reviewed to document practices leading to student success that can be adopted for Fall 2014 and beyond. Renewed emphasis across the state in the K-12 level also holds promise for increasing the numbers of students who are college ready.

- Through constructive meetings with Regent Lerer in 2013, we contributed to the positive revision of the system’s mission statement that had initially been approved by the Board in September 2012. We also contributed to the crafting and revision of the mission statements for the community colleges, the state universities and Charter Oak.

- Through acting IT director Joe McAuliffe and the IT Committee led by Regents Donofrio, Pollard and Fleury we have engaged in productive dialogue toward establishment of system-wide IT governance, collaboration and focus on needs of faculty and students.

- Recently, we began a dialogue with Regent Cohen, chair of the Administration Committee, and we look forward to offering constructive advice on the committee’s efforts to harmonize system policies.

Structural Activities

- We also have established communication links across the faculty governance bodies of the 17 institutions and recently met with them at Central Connecticut. Dr. Gray presented to the group.
• We worked with IT to establish a method for system-wide e-mail communication between the FAC and the faculty across the seventeen institutions.
• In fulfillment of our annual statutory obligation, we testified before the General Assembly’s Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee in Feb. 2013. The committee heard from four FAC members and the dialogue gave lawmakers a strong impression of the high level of commitment, resolve and skill in carrying out the mission of the academy.
• We supported change in the legislation that allowed for a member of the FAC to serve on the Board of Regents ex officio and to include seats on the FAC for administrative faculty.
• Three FAC representatives participated in the Presidential search advisory committee, which resulted in the selection of Dr. Gray.
• Three of our members are currently participating in the search committee for a system Chief Academic Officer and the entire FAC serves as an advisory committee to the search committee.
• We developed consistent procedures to facilitate FAC elections through campus governance bodies. The elections were completed in the spring term giving the FAC the practical benefit of allowing new members to participate in our fall meetings as they prepare for their term of office that starts in January.
• We have adopted by-laws to govern our activities.
• This summer we met with UConn Associate Provost, Sally Reis, to discuss concerns regarding UConn’s expansion of the number of major programs at the regional campuses and established a context for continuing dialog. We look forward to UConn faculty representatives meeting with us as appropriate in the future.

In the coming months, the FAC will remain constructively engaged. In addition to continuing its work on TAP and improving developmental education, the FAC looks forward to advising on President Gray’s, Excel CT plan, including several bold initiatives that will require system-wide dialog, collaboration, and compromise. We intend and expect that the FAC will play a significant role in the process of bringing these initiatives and ideas to life and advancing our institutional missions, promoting student success, and expanding opportunities for the citizens of Connecticut.

At this time, we would like to make one request. While we sincerely appreciate the single seat that we gained on the BOR, we would like to collaborate with the Board to secure additional avenues for communication, collaboration, and shared governance. To that end, we are requesting an opportunity to meet with the administration committee to review current policies and practices and to consider possible changes to the current organizational structure.

In closing it has been a pleasure serving on the Faculty Advisory Committee during these two years and now serving as a Regent. I believe the level of commitment and collaboration among my colleagues stands as a shining model of constructive cooperation and positive energy for the entire system.