



March 31, 2022

Mr. Terrence Cheng
President
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
61 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear President Cheng:

I write to inform you that at its meeting on March 4, 2021, the New England Commission of Higher Education considered the public comments regarding the Students First Initiative of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System (CSCU) submitted by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the CSCU Board of Regents, Naugatuck Valley Community College Faculty Senate, and a group of faculty and staff from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and the System's response to those comments, and voted the following:

that the System's response to the public comments submitted by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the CSCU Board of Regents (FAC), Naugatuck Valley Community College Faculty Senate, and a group of faculty and staff from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities be accepted;

that the progress reports scheduled for consideration in September 2022, February 2023, and June 2023 be confirmed.

The Commission gives the following reasons for its action.

After reviewing the public comments submitted by the FAC, Naugatuck Valley Community College Faculty Senate, and a group of faculty and staff from Connecticut State Colleges and Universities, and considering the materials submitted by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System in response, the Commission determined that the response generally addressed the public comments.

We appreciate learning about the System's continuing efforts to engage with those expressing concerns about the Students First Initiative and to take advantage of "opportunities for compromise and change" when possible.

We remind you of the Commission's March 21, 2022 letter regarding matters related to the implementation of the Students First Initiative. We look forward, through progress reports that will be submitted by CT State in September 2022, February 2023, and June 2023, to learning of the continued progress made to implement the Students First Initiative. We acknowledge that in providing these updates, the institution will also be able to report on its success in addressing the recurring themes of the concerns expressed by faculty and staff throughout the consolidation process, including: 1) the possible erosion of student support services; 2) issues related to diversity, equity, and

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inclusion; and 3) the lack of collaboration, participation, and communication between leadership and members of the campus community who are not fully supportive of the consolidation.

Those submitting the public comments will be informed of Commission's disposition of this matter.

If you have any questions about the Commission's action, please contact Lawrence M. Schall, President of the Commission.

Sincerely,



George W. Tetler

GWT/jm