Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

February 20, 2015

FAC Resolution on Opacity

WHEREAS President Gray pledged in his first days in office in the summer of 2013 to bring an ambitious plan for change to the state legislature and the Governor;

WHEREAS the Board of Regents contracted with Boston Consulting Group for $1.97 million in April 2014 "to implement an integrated strategic plan;"

WHEREAS President Gray in his speaking tour of the colleges and universities early in the fall of 2014 to promote the initiatives included in Transform CSCU 2020 pledged to bring the plan to the state legislature and the Governor, but repeatedly failed to reveal the underlying intent of the plan;

WHEREAS President Gray stated before a committee of the state legislature in December 2014 that the system did not yet have a plan but had a set of ideas and initiatives that would serve as the foundation of a plan entitled Transform CSCU 2020;

WHEREAS President Gray further indicated in that December meeting with the state legislature that Transform would seek to realize a once-in-a-century opportunity for a revolutionary change in higher education;

WHEREAS a change in organizational capacity, structure or processes of a public state agency that could reasonably be described as "revolutionary" ought to be subject to a spirited, public, and democratic discussion by the public, the legislature, the taxpayers, and the affected constituencies;

WHEREAS by October 2014 Boston Consulting Group had invoiced and been paid the full $1.97 million described in the contract;

WHEREAS the October 2014 invoice from Boston Consulting Group to the Board of Regents stated that BCG had drafted and refined "the CSCU ambition statement," and drafted "half of [a] strategic plan including introductory chapters (letter to CT community, executive summary, case for change, strategic planning and community involvement, introduction to Transform initiatives), two initiative chapters (organizational effectiveness and shared metrics), and conclusion chapters (what success looks like, path forward, acknowledgements);"

WHEREAS the Faculty Senates at each of the four state universities recently endorsed a document that indicated lack of support for several initiatives in current form and also indicated that most of the remaining initiatives should be based on the campuses rather than administered through a centralized state office;
WHEREAS the system administration continues to move forward on the initiatives despite the lack of support from the faculty governance bodies and despite the lack of a systemic review and vote by the Board of Regents;

WHEREAS innumerable hours by students, faculty, and administrators have been wasted trying to divine the intent behind the myriad initiatives and 743 milestones, as the aim of Transform CSCS 2020 remains shrouded in opacity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Advisory Committee calls on the system administration to fulfill its pledge and make its intentions explicit by providing a vision statement and a rationale for change that can be reviewed, discussed, and debated by all stakeholders—students, faculty, staff, administrators, the legislature, and the public—in a democratic process.