

Special Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Draft Minutes
August 07, 2020
WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC

Absent:

Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large Rep, MCC
Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU

Lugo, William, Fac, ECSU
Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Guest:

Doninger, Lauren, GWCC

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; Lugo, William, ECSU; Raczewski, MaryBeth, ACC; Richards, Barbara, HCC; Sesanker, Colena, GCC; Shea, Mike, SCSU; Wilder, Linda, COSC]

Meeting called to order by Chair, David Blitz, at 1:05 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Plans for Re-opening CSCU System for fall 2020 term
- Dave had requested an agenda item for the 7/29/20 BOR meeting on campus re-opening to discuss and strengthen the processes outlined in documentation posted by BOR. That request was denied on grounds that special meeting could not add agenda items and the FAC could always ask Mr. Ojakian questions on these procedures. Chair and Vice-Chair of FAC did ask questions about testing and whether there would be exemptions for faculty age 65 and over to not teach on campus. Response on testing was that nothing would change what had already been decided. In addition, request for “point-of-entry” checks at the entrance of buildings was also denied. It was noted by the Acting Public Health Commissioner that “testing is not a strategy for containment of spread” and “testing poses the risk of giving perceived safety and they will let their guard down on mask wearing and social distancing” Also, BOR noted that being over 65 is not a consideration for being on campus
- Gateway CC – Question to Admin - could we at least take temperatures as random sampling? Response – No, we are not health care facility. Classes on campus not a problem. Teaching on ground is by

choice. 90% of classes will be online. More concerns with staff who have been told to be on campus even if job can be performed remotely. Encouraged to come on campus and if ill need to sick time or come to work.

- Tunxis CC - similar to Gateway CC for both faculty and staff
- Northwestern CC – some similar concerns to Tunxis and Gateway. To enter and exit building must scan QR code. Management supportive and will make accommodations. If student refuses to wear mask s/he will be asked to leave.
- Quinebaug Valley CC – most classes are remote; labs on campus; one entrance and one exit unlocked; everyone needs masks; staff have specific hours
- Housatonic CC – two entrances will be open; most faculty teaching online; if told needed on campus must fill out disability forms
- Three Rivers CC – one main entrance open; faculty concerned about going on campus; must have one section of every course offering must be on-ground; if asking for special accommodations dean and/or president will not respond – must talk to HR and fill out ADA forms. This process is very slow and system HR people are downplaying importance of ADA issues.
- Eastern CSU – admin believes it can control modality for teaching; all first year courses must be on-ground and 60% must be on-ground, but that changed and now about 50% of courses will be on-ground Hy-Flex sections.
- Central CSU – had soft opening with Admin Faculty starting July 15; Grievance from SOUAF union on this process; if choosing not to come on campus must contact HR and they will decide; promised supplies for cleaning but have received nothing except hand sanitizer and wipes; some faculty are being required to teach on-ground; Many sections will be Hy-Flex (some students on-ground and some students online); unclear how to handle students who refuse to wear masks; special senate meeting on this topic.
- Asnuntuck CC – majority classes online; no faculty required to be on campus if don't want to be there; staff are back but limited capacity; no complaints so far; no contact tracing will be done
- At community colleges no one will really know if/when there are positive cases since there is no testing
- Norwalk CC – no support for testing; supposed to sign in but only asked to do so once; security guard not wearing mask; no crowd control for students with limited number of students there right now
- Charter Oak SC – staff can come in if they want to; will allow students to come in by appt. only
- Resolution from FAC regarding re-opening procedures. Motion made by Fran Coan, seconded:
- Whereas we value the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, employees, and the general public, the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education (FAC) recommends the following supplementary measures to the existing reopening procedures:
 - (1) extending virus testing beyond residential students to all students, faculty and staff and establishing a consistent schedule of testing throughout the semester. (See the Courant's July 30th article on testing plans at Yale and Wesleyan, and the Yale-Harvard study it cites for contrast.)
 - (2) establishing point of entry monitoring at academic buildings for face masks (use and quality), temperature reading, and hand sanitizing; accommodations for those with conditions that exempt them from mask-wearing must not place others at risk.
 - (3) respecting faculty preferences for mode of course delivery and other duties, and staff preferences for telecommuting; Special consideration must be afforded to those over 65, given the specific nature of our college populations. Presence on campus should continue to be at faculty/staff discretion as conditions change throughout the semester.
 - (4) providing specific details about procedures for contact tracing, criteria for shutdown and move to remote learning, and conditions for reopening. The method of communication about the details of any such shutdown or reopening must be clarified.

(5) reporting on the adequacy of ventilation systems must be provided for each building that will be used on each campus and deficiencies addressed to ensure equal access to a safe working environment for students, as well as for faculty and staff.

Approved: 9 – 0 – 1

Motion to publish resolution in media from the whole Faculty Advisory Committee –

Approved; 11 – 0 – 2

- College and Career Success Course
- Jen Long summarized a letter to the members of the College and Career Success Course committee from the FAC members (Colena Sesanker, Jennifer Long, Ron Picard, Mike Shea) who discussed this, to invite the committee to an FAC meeting. There were a number of questions that might be addressed to the members of this committee:
 - Miscommunications on course design – who would teach and what would qualifications be for teaching?
 - Writing assignments would be?
 - How will assessment of writing occur?
 - How will issues of diversity be addressed?
 - Qualifications for teaching Information Literacy?
 - Writing assignments for FYE courses overseen by whom? Qualifications?
 - Assessments of Learning Outcomes?
- Decision was made to defer this to the next FAC meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Fran Coan, Seconded - Meeting adjourned: 2:44 pm

Next meeting: August 28, 2020

Submitted by Lois Aimé