

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Draft Minutes
August 28, 2020
WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large Rep, MCC
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC
Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, NWCCC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC
Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC

Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Absent:

Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC

Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU

Guests:

Levinson, David, Interim President CSCC
Stephen Marcelynas, Director for the Office of Transfer and Articulation (System Office)

[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 1:03 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.

Report of the Chair:

- Included in agenda packet section 185 of CT statutes regarding BOR, CSCU System, and FAC. Section on selection of CSCU president is pertinent right now. In addition, will bring up at the next BOR meeting that there should be regularization of FAC reporting at the BOR. There is a *minimum* requirement that the FAC report to the BOR at least twice a year, but there should be reports much more often.
- FAC resolution on re-opening concerns has been forwarded to all BOR members. There has been no response
- William Lugo has to resign from the FAC. David Stoloff will take William Lugo's place
- CCSU concerned that they had not been included in a Criminal Justice system task force. Additionally, no one was contacted from the NWCCC Criminal Justice program to serve on this committee

Report of the Vice-Chair:

- Deferred

David Levinson comments to FAC

- He is willing to attend FAC meetings when asked
- Sociologist by background; was Sociology faculty before becoming administration

- President of NCC for 15 years and appointed Interim President of CSCC this past May
- Feels that there is obscene amount of racial injustice in CT; student success an issue; was offered a “nice salary”
- Org Charts of single college should reflect importance of local campuses
- Faculty should play critical role in curriculum
- Wants to steer college to represent the wishes of faculty and staff, to promote student success, to equalize inequities, to adhere to important social justice mission
- Aware of controversies over last couple of years; wants engagement by people; everyone should have a stake in result; black and brown students are not succeeding as they should, also white students
- Question from Ron Picard: How do we justify consolidation on financial basis when state is putting money into a rainy-day fund that is over the legal allotment?
 - DL Response – cannot justify what state of CT does. Don’t understand what plan the state has; He cannot justify why there isn’t a stronger investment in higher ed; He is very concerned
 - RP follow-up – if colleges are struggling and state has resources why isn’t state putting more money into higher ed instead of promoting consolidation that will not save money
 - DL response – he does not know
- Question from Barbara Richards: The FAC not CC shared governance body. Those on Shared Governance committee were told they could not work on anything that would be part of governance prior to 2023. The CC system has no senate or curriculum committee. What are your thoughts on this?
 - DL response - I am in favor of governance and faculty need to have a voice in this.
 - Barbara asked Lois & Colena, as previous members of that ctte., to comment; LA: Committee put forward items SO felt were controversial and didn’t want to pursue so members were sent letter by Provost that stated if we did not want to be part of committee as it was established we could quit. Our charge was not going to be changed to include matters prior to 2023. Most people stepped down so vast majority still on committee are SO appointees. CS: stated that requests that were made included a governance process that would be in place prior to 2023. Additional request was that quality of curriculum must take precedence over haste. Neither agreed to.
 - DL saw Provost Gates’ letter but was not part of this decision; NECHE stated we need a governance process; DL wants to reconstitute this or similar committee
 - Paul Creech noted that he was on this committee and was treated with great disrespect by SO people at meetings
 - DL: faculty need to approve all curriculum decisions
 - Colena: at BOR ASA meeting Klucznik stated no need for colleges to approve curriculum content, just information item; BOR approved Gen Ed and College/Career Success Course even though colleges did not endorse, and had concerns with, both.
- Question from Fran Coan: Explain rationale for proposed elimination of Department Chairs
 - DL: questioned that, was told there would be Department Chairs at state level and discipline heads at the campuses
 - FC: there are no Department Chairs at state level and discipline heads have very little authority
 - DL: doesn’t know; needs to find out more
- Question from Lois Aime: How, specifically, would the creation of a single community college improve equity and student success issues for students attending community colleges in the state of CT?
 - DL: Guided Pathways with case managers would do this; greater sharing of resources; colleges maintain local foundations but inequities would be balanced off and everyone would be on level playing field; The CSCC should be able to balance off funding for campuses so they are all equal
 - LA: Guided Pathways and other funding does not rely on a single community college structure; could happen with independently accredited colleges.
 - DL: Yes

- LA: What I'm asking not being answered? DL: How so? LA: asked how creation of single community college would make equity and student success issues better than they are now?
- DL: If Guided Pathways and case managers done state-wide there would be equal footing. Resources are not there for this to be done at independently accredited colleges; LA: Why?
- DL: Admissions being hampered by lack of ability to do enrollment management; one admission application would be better for students. LA: why couldn't this be done right now? DL: not sure if could be done with independently accredited colleges: LA; why not, we are all open enrollment; DL: These things could be done and in a variety of ways
- Question from Jennifer Long: Sees tremendous success in classroom with under-prepared students; faculty doing amazing work but there is a continued lack of funding; Guided Pathways not the only answer
- DL: Governor's office needs to see metrics; struggle with metrics vs. actual work being done; need quantitative as well as qualitative metric; inequities in high schools. JL: funding needs to be used as it was intended
- Question from Brian Kaufman: We have not heard "a vision." Would you like to comment on that?
- DL: Vision: social equity and social justice; need to create something new we need to take on social inequities and social injustices. Need to equalize resources in CT. Need to totally reverse what is going on in the state of CT; encourage professional development; value expertise of faculty; make transformational change
- Question from Barbara Richards: incident at Gateway re Covid issue. SO being secretive. Any idea if there will be any public information on Covid issues in the CSCU system?
- DL: We need to be transparent
- Can extend invitation to Dr. Levinson to come back to the next meeting of the FAC
- Heard from CC faculty who have spent years trying to get the CC system working properly and have been met with disrespect and roadblocks from SO. Now complicated by dual-power situation with administrators at the SO and administrators in the CSCC system.
- Proposed revival of TAP committee -Stephen Marcelynas
 - TAP Coordinating Council now dormant. Would like to make it operative again.
 - Good will and good work of TAP has been weaponized in on-going governance conversation. Continued mischaracterization and lies about various actions taken by colleges and the committee in response to TAP. Appears the re-creation of this committee is window-dressing to make it appear that faculty are part of the process. SM wants support of faculty. SM reports to Ken Klucznik.
 - 4 options to vote on right now: 1) can vote to approve and elect 6 people 2) vote to defer to a later meeting and rebuild trust 3) reject completely 4) to abstain – suggestion to defer any vote until conversation with David Levinson
 - How does SO justify all of the positions being created if we are in the middle of a fiscal crisis? Especially since David Levinson emphasized that the current colleges could not do many things because of lack of funding.
 - Final decision to vote on following resolution: Motion moved by Lois Aime
 - Without a shared governance process in place the FAC cannot proceed to send representatives to TAP Coordinating Council Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 1
 - Stephen M. will look for ways to rebuild trust that will allow this committee to be re-constituted to support TAP moving forward.
- Search committee for CSCU president
 - What role should FAC play in this search and what criteria we would like to see in next CSCU president.
 - Fran Coan moved to endorse CCSU resolution on CSCU presidential search (see attached):
 - FAC endorses CCSU resolution on searching for the CSCU president
 - Yes – 9, No – 0, Abstain – 0

- Response from Higher Ed Committee to the Listening Session on reopening (see attached)
 - We are not aware of a response from the System Office or the BOR to this letter
- Reopening of campuses for fall 2020 (round table on successes and problems)
 - Fran Coan commented on HVAC recommendation on MERV rating from CSCU. They recommend MERV 8. However, MERV 13 should be the minimum. But if system is old, MERV 13 and above may negatively affect air flow. Need clarification on what has been installed, if anything and how the ventilation systems are supporting these changes if they have been implemented.
 - Lois Aime brought up sign in and other issues at NCC. Asked to sign in on only one of the three days on campus and never asked to sign out; afternoon security guard not wearing mask; student was tested because of outside issues and tested positive – would have come into college for class as positive and we would never have known, but was told this would be okay because he would have been wearing a mask.
 - David Stoloff – Zoom not allowed which came from System Office; ECSU still using Zoom;
 - TRCC had a Zoom meeting to tell everybody not to use Zoom
 - Need to continue to monitor situation through semester

Motion to adjourn – Fran Coan, seconded

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Next meeting – September 18, 2020