

State of Connecticut
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents
January 22, 2016
39 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT

Present:

Stephen Adair, Chair, Member, CCSU
Barbara Richards, Vice-Chair, Member, HCC
Greg DeSantis, Secretary, Alternate, HCC
Judy Wallace, Member, MXCC
Del Cummings, Member, NVCC
Lynn Roller, Member, GCC
William Lugo, Member, ECSU
Patrice Farquharson, Member, COSC
T.J. Barber, Member, MCC
Mike Shea, Member, SCSU
Bob Brown, Alternate, TXCC
Linda Wilder, Member, COSC
Myrna Garcia-Bowen, Alternate, SUOAF
Jay Brower, Alternate, WCSU

Guests:

Merle Harris, Regent, BOR
Mark Ojakian, President, BOR
Estela Lopez, Provost, BOR
Erika Steiner, CFO, BOR
Sean Bradbury, Legislative Program Manager, BOR
Matt Dunne, HCC

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:04 PM.
2. Approval of minutes
 - a. 11/13/15 minutes approved (Barber/Adair), unanimous with corrections as updated.
 - b. 12/11/15 minutes approved (Barber/Adair), unanimous.
3. Elections
 - a. Bob Brown presided over the election of Chair from the State Universities
 - i. Stephen Adair had been nominated. He made a brief statement. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. No further nominations were made. Nominations were closed.
 - iii. Stephen Adair was elected unanimously as Chair from the State Universities.
 - b. Stephen Adair presided over the election of Vice Chair from the Community Colleges

- i. Barbara Richards had been nominated.
 - ii. No further nominations were made. Nominations were closed.
 - iii. Barbara Richards was elected unanimously as Vice Chair from the Community Colleges.
 - c. Stephen Adair presided over the election of the Secretary
 - i. Greg DeSantis had been nominated. He made a brief statement.
 - ii. No further nominations were made. Nominations were closed.
 - iii. Greg DeSantis was elected unanimously as Secretary.
 4. Members, alternates, and guests introduced themselves.
 5. Conversation with President Ojakian and Regent Harris – including possible FAC/BOR governance award
 - a. Regent Harris spoke about the FAC report to the BOR at the December 3, 2015 meeting, focusing on the five identified areas in the FAC report.
 - i. Regent Harris presented information about retention of and service to students at the CSCU institutions. Strategies were discussed including best practices, for example the Georgia study presented by the FAC to the BOR, and existing or potential initiatives such as TAP, financial aid incentives for community college students who complete the required 60 credits and transfer to the state universities, the normalization policy regarding credits in degree programs, and the ongoing response following PA 12-40.
 - ii. Regent Harris discussed expanding student services to increase retention, including mental health resources, outreach to veterans, child care centers especially those with subsidies for students, and online and hybrid courses done in a high quality way for students with child care concerns. Regent Harris discussed looking at the Governor's Scholarship for part-time students and dual Pell Grant initiatives, as well as supporting initiatives at the Federal level such as year-round Pell Grants. Regent Harris discussed the need for services for students with food insecurity.
 - iii. Regent Harris discussed the development of programs to address workforce needs and collaborating with state agencies to address workforce needs. She discussed working with the FAC and faculty to address these needs.
 - iv. Regent Harris discussed maintaining a commitment to a liberal arts education for CSCU students.
 - v. Regent Harris discussed furthering academic excellence and attracting students who might leave the state for higher education opportunities in other states. Regent Harris discussed continuing to focus on our academic quality and having conversations about that quality with the people of Connecticut.

- vi. Regent Harris concluded that the five identified areas in the FAC report are of significant importance to the system. It is apparent that there are many good things happening in the system and she is committed to ensuring that the dialogue continues between the BOR, the system office, the FAC, and other stakeholders.
 - b. President Ojakian concurred and emphasized the need for us to work together as a system to address these needs, especially focusing on a number of action campaigns to address the already established goals of the CSCU.
 - c. Discussion ensued regarding the items presented by Regent Harris and President Ojakian, especially regarding the need to maintain a liberal arts education, student needs such as child care or transportation and solutions via collaborations with state agencies, the opportunity for the system to work collaboratively to reverse enrollment decline, and working to attract students who are registering at proprietary colleges in the state and using some of the best practices of the proprietary colleges to attract those students. President Ojakian concluded that the CSCU must begin doing a good job of indicating why we are a valuable asset, changing the narrative, and moving the state forward via the good work we do with our students. One of President Ojakian's goals this year is to change the way the CSCU is perceived before the next legislative biennial budget is set. Discussion ensued that this must be a comprehensive effort that involves all stakeholders, including students and parents.
 - d. Discussion began regarding the possible FAC/BOR governance award. Clarification was provided regarding the award being granted to an institution, not to specific individuals in particular. The possibility was raised of the award being bestowed specifically by the FAC this year due to time constraints. The possibility was also raised of the award being announced at the conference, and that the award would be bestowed the following year. The specifics of the proposal were discussed further and there was agreement to continue working on the proposal collaboratively.
- 6. Outcomes-Based Financing
 - a. Barbara and William spoke about the Outcomes-Based Financing Task Force that occurred earlier today. Discussion ensued about the more collaborative and student-focused direction of the task force in recent meetings, as well as the future direction of the task force.
- 7. Bylaws situation and bylaws/legislation committee
 - a. Barbara reported that she compiled and reviewed all of the FAC minutes. She is 100% sure that the bylaws that were most recently attached to the minutes are not the most recent bylaws. She suggested that the existing committee on bylaws/legislation be expanded to ensure that the bylaws are up to date and accurate.

- i. TJ, Judy, Barbara, Bob, Stephen, Linda, and Greg will serve on the expanded bylaws committee.
- 8. BOR – committee assignment of chair and vice-chair
 - a. Discussion ensued regarding the BOR committee assignments of the FAC chair and vice chair.
 - b. Motion made (T.J./Mike) that the Faculty Advisory Committee recommends that the co-chairs of the Faculty Advisory Committee sit on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and the Finance Committee of the Board of Regents, respectively.
 - c. Motion passed unanimously.
- 9. Confirm meeting schedule and discussion of where to meet and what time
 - a. Discussion ensued regarding meeting times and locations. After discussion, there was agreement that the meeting dates and times would stand as published on the BOR Meetings and Agendas website. The location going forward will be at 39 Woodland.
- 10. Meeting with legislative Committee on Higher Education
 - a. The FAC is statutorily obligated to report annually to the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement of the Connecticut General Assembly. Stephen has communicated with Jeanie Phillips, the Clerk of the committee, to schedule a date for the report. Sean Bradbury was introduced and discussed the legislative agenda for this year, including the permission for community colleges to begin having certified armed police forces, and the right to privacy for human subjects of research.
- 11. Provost Lopez shared information about the recent report from The Aspen Institute and the Community College Research Center. Provost Lopez also shared that on March 18 the PA 12-40 task force has scheduled a day in conjunction with CCRC to review best practices.
- 12. Financial Aid – SAP and Governor’s Scholarship
 - a. Provost Lopez presented a brief report about the Connecticut Community Colleges Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy. Greg also detailed the current status of both the SAP policy proposal and the Planning Commission for Higher Education Student Financial Aid Working Group, which is considering adjustments to the Governor’s Scholarship.
- 13. Conference update
 - a. Bob, Greg, and other conference committee members discussed calls for proposals and the revised conference logo. Thomas Bailey, Director of the Community College Research Center at Columbia University (CCRC) will be the keynote speaker for our April 8 conference at Housatonic Community College. Options were discussed for other keynote speakers or panels, for example about liberal arts education.
- 14. CC presidents
 - a. Barbara discussed the possibility of future meetings with the community college presidents.

15. Other business

- a. Stephen reported on the educational summit on February 10 at CCSU about Inequality and the Crisis of Public Higher Education, presented by AAUP.
- b. Motion made (T.J./Greg) that the Faculty Advisory Committee expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the esteemed service of Patty O'Neill for her work as Faculty Advisory Committee secretary and as a highly valued colleague and contributor to the Faculty Advisory Committee.

16. Meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM