

State of Connecticut
Board of Regents Faculty Advisory Committee
Friday, April 12, 2013
39 Woodland St.
Hartford, Conn.

Present: Vice Chair Stephen Adair, Alternate, CCSU; Peter Bachiochi, Member, ECSU; Ilene Crawford, Member, SCSU; Chair Tom Failla, Member, NCC; Catherine Hoyser, Member, Charter Oak; Patty O'Neill, Member, WCSU; Barbara Richards, Member, Housatonic; Mary Jean Thornton, Member, CCC.

Guest: Braden Hosch, Director of Policy & Research and Interim Director of Academic Affairs, ConnSCU.

Meeting was convened at 2:10 PM.

1. Review of minutes from March 15, 2013 meeting. Motion to accept (Crawford/Hoyser) passed, 6 – 0 - 1
2. Election Process. The committee reviewed the status of the election process for electing FAC members for the 2014 – 2015 term. Stephen Adair commended Tom Failla's outstanding work with community college members. Nominees from the various groupings will be turned in on 4/25/13, and the elections will be held before the end of the Spring 2013 semester.
3. SB 867. SB 867 has moved out of committee, with the language for faculty seats on BOR subcommittees removed.
5. Finance Committee Report to BOR at March 21 Meeting at ECSU. Students had a prominent presence at the March 21 BOR meeting at ECSU. The Finance Committee report to the BOR noted the following:
Changes to the state's retirement plans also impact cost. Employees who had elected the Alternative Retirement Plan (ARP) have the opportunity to shift to a hybrid version of the state employees' retirement system (SERS) plan. For each employee that elects this option, the cost to the institution increases from roughly 9% of salary to 46% of salary. As of today, 130 eligible employees in the CSUs have elected to make this transfer with a total cost impact to the system of more than \$4.5 million.

This seems difficult to reconcile with a subsequent statement in the report:

In a change from current practice, the Governor proposes that fringe benefit costs be included in the block grant to the state universities. The recommended amount for fringe benefits is \$83.3 million.

6. Developmental Ed Meetings at CTCs . A series of regional meetings led by Dennis Murphy and Braden Hosch have been held, opening up a dialogue about funding, support programs, factors necessary for success for developmental education. Barbara Richards has participated in statewide planning group. A persistent concern of this group is that there does not appear to be financial support for models that result in success.
7. TAP update. Stephen Adair, Lauren Donninger, and Deb Weiss will meet with Merle Harris, Elsa Nunez, and David Levinson about the creation of a permanent TAP Steering committee.
8. FAC Compensation update
9. Meeting with Dr. Lerer on Strategic Plan. Stephen Adair and Mary Jean Thornton met with Dr. Lerer to discuss FAC concerns with overall mission statement developed for the ConnSCU system. It was a productive and helpful discussion. Some of the issues discussed included the lack of any mention of research in the overall mission statement, the possibility of including faculty on the Strategic Planning Group, the possibility of revisions in the overall mission statement. The FAC continued to discuss the strengthening and revision of the individual mission statements and agreed to forward those statements to Tom Failla when finalized.
10. Awards Committee – Braden Hosch
11. Meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM. Respectfully Submitted P. O’Neill