

Regular Meeting of the State of Connecticut
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
June 10, 2016
39 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT

Present:

Stephen Adair, Chair, Member, CCSU
Barbara Richards, Vice-Chair, Member, HCC
Greg DeSantis, Secretary, Alternate, HCC
William Lugo, Member, ECSU
Judy Wallace, Member, MXCC
Linda Wilder, Member, COSC
Lynn Roller, Alternate, GCC
Bob Brown, Alternate, TXCC
Meg Leake, Alternate, CCSU
Jay Brower, Alternate, WCSU

Guests:

Mark Ojakian, President, BOR
Estela Lopez, Provost, BOR
Erika Steiner, Chief Financial Officer, BOR
Joe Tolisano, Chief Information Officer, BOR

1. Meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM
2. Review and approval of agenda
 - a. Agenda approved as amended (Leake/Wallace), unanimous
3. President Ojakian remarks and discussion
 - a. President Ojakian discussed various budget items now that the legislative session has ended. The system is likely to have another \$8 million held back (about \$12 million including fringe benefits) for next year. Adjustments may continue over the course of the year. This is not a rescission, which would mean the funds are gone permanently; it is a hold back which might be restored if circumstances change. The system was not affected by any of the Governor's line item rescissions.
 - b. Reductions in staffing have been very limited and very targeted. There has not been any wholesale reduction in the CSCU workforce. The focus has been on reducing other spending. Some retirement and attrition has occurred.
 - c. Working Groups
 - i. President Ojakian discussed the need to look at how the colleges and the system do things. President Ojakian will propose to the BOR that six working groups be formed in the areas of:
 1. Financial Aid
 2. Purchasing and Contracts
 3. Human Resources

4. Compliance
 5. Enrollment and Retention
 6. Marketing and Branding
- ii. If this moves forward, these working groups would begin meeting in the summer. Talent that exists within the system would be utilized for this effort. The Faculty Advisory Committee and the Student Advisory Committee would be asked to name representatives to these working groups. The working groups would determine what they would focus on within their topic area with the goal of building consensus and making recommendations. Recommendations could come in stages; some might come prior to the next legislative session, and some beyond that time period.
 - iii. Stephen Adair asked for clarification about the “Compliance” group. President Ojakian indicated that the group would likely work on legal counsel issues, affirmative action issues, etc.
 - iv. There was further discussion amongst the committee about how individuals might be appointed to this committee. President Ojakian indicated that he would expect that the FAC would appoint two representatives to each of the six working groups.
 - v. Further information will be made widely available after the working groups concept is discussed with the BOR.
- d. Bob Brown raised the concept of individuals being guaranteed that their position would be filled if they retire; this might make some individuals more likely to choose to retire.
 - e. President Ojakian indicated that the potential upgrade in Ellucian/Blackboard services does not have the goal of reducing the staff workforce on any campus.
 - f. Barbara Richards asked a question about a CSCU Foundation, which President Ojakian discussed briefly; the intention would not be to intrude on the ability of individual college foundations to do their work or to compete for the same donors, but to seek new opportunities for funding for the system.
 - g. Lynn Roller asked about an email that had been received about open administrators and staff positions being automatically filled by individuals outside the CSCU. President Ojakian indicated that this is the result of bumping rights in statewide unions in very specific situations; this will not affect faculty.
 - h. Stephen Adair asked for an update about the Provost search. President Ojakian indicated that the candidates have met with the FAC, system staff members, the Presidents, and with Merle. No hiring decision has been made.
4. Discussion with Chief Information Officer Joe Tolisano concerning Ellucian upgrade and Blackboard
 - a. Joe Tolisano began by discussing current issues in Banner. There are five instances of Banner in the system; one for each CSU and one that is used by the twelve community colleges. All five instances respectively exist

within only one or two points of failure. As a result, there has been interest in moving this data to a cloud storage format. There are other issues with Banner functionality in various work areas. Some have suggested moving to a new system which is an expensive proposition; the five instances of Banner were purchased and are owned; only annual maintenance fees of approximately \$1.2 million system-wide are paid.

- b. A five-year project is being considered.
 - i. The first goal would be to move the five instances of Banner to the cloud. The focus of the project is security and risk management. The cost would be annually \$3.4 million system-wide.
 - ii. Simultaneously the plan calls for the purchase of other individual Banner modules offered by Ellucian.
 1. The modules being considered include:
 - a. CRM Advise – Early alert and engagement software
 - b. CRM Recruit – Support for the recruiting and admissions cycle
 - c. Imaging – Digitizing and document management
 - d. Data Warehouse – Historical data reports and trend analysis forecasting
 - e. Mobile – App that integrates with IT platforms and strategies
 - f. Integration for eProcurement – Coordinates purchasing, accounting, and financial management operations
 - g. EDI Smart – Electronic Data Interchange for the sending and receiving of electronic documents such as transcripts
 - h. Intelligent Learning Platform – Streamlining of administrative and academic tasks for online courses
 - i. Banner Employee Self Service – Human resources, payroll, etc.
 - j. Automatic Job Scheduler – Job queue and scheduling software for Banner
 - k. Evisions Intellectcheck AP – Payment processing software
 - l. Evisions Intellectcheck Email Direct Deposit for Statement for Accounts Payable – Software to electronically deliver direct deposit statements securely
 2. The use of these modules would be managed at the local institution and department levels. The data that is currently being collected would be consolidated and maintained into a single usable format that would still be locally owned by the institutions.

3. The cost for each individual module varies. If these modules are purchased, they may replace individual solutions currently owned and separately integrated into each instance of Banner.
 4. It may be advisable if a campus is currently considering software/module purchases in one or more of these content areas that the campus delay such purchases.
 - iii. Banner will need to be updated to the next version (Ellucian XE).
 - iv. After the possible lift to the cloud, module purchases, and other aspects of the five-year plan, CSCU may then look at whether it is preferable to condense to a single instance of Banner for the entire system rather than five instances.
 - c. Discussion about the purchase of customizations and modules will need to occur on the campuses. A decision about the lift to the cloud and which modules might be purchased will hopefully be made by August. The contract would be structured so that many modules will be purchased, and any modules purchased but unused might be credited back by Ellucian if they are not used in any instance of Banner.
 - d. Discussion followed amongst the committee regarding how such modules might be used and the need to ensure a balance in the use of the tools so it is respectful of all parties. Barbara Richards noted that as work possibilities change, union contracts may need to change. Further information was provided by Joe Tolisano about how these services and their purchase via potential bonding might actually yield the opportunity for increased staffing in some cases.
 - e. Joe Tolisano then discussed Blackboard. There is a year left on the current Blackboard contract. A bonded contract with Blackboard has been proposed for four years (including the final year of the current contract), with an option after the first two years. Joe Tolisano discussed various details of the potential contract and the Request for Proposal process.
 - f. Joe Tolisano indicated that there are quarterly meetings within IT and they would welcome a representative from the FAC to regularly attend. The next meeting is October 14.
 5. Review and approval of May minutes
 - a. 5/25/16 minutes approved (DeSantis/Wilder), unanimous
 - i. A brief discussion regarding votes in executive session occurred
 - b. 5/13/16 minutes approved (DeSantis/Brown), unanimous
 6. Discussion regarding a July FAC meeting
 - a. The group agreed to hold a meeting on July 7 from 1:30-4:00. Stephen will set up that meeting.
 7. Announcements and items for discussion
 - a. Academic and Student Affairs committee
 - i. Stephen Adair presented regarding the most recent meeting of ASA. There was a presentation about the integrated system library and the great effort being made to develop this shared system. There is an interactive data set on the ct.edu website regarding

CSCU graduates and income. Estela Lopez provided further information about this interactive data set.

- b. Estela Lopez announced that she is leaving June 30 although she has offered to stay a few additional weeks to assist with a transition. She asked that FAC report to her regarding what items and issues should be a priority going forward. Some related items were discussed.
 - c. Finance committee
 - i. Barbara Richards reported that the Finance committee recommended a two-year pilot program at Asnuntuck Community College to offer in-state tuition to Massachusetts residents. This may be expanded to other campuses.
 - d. Legislative report
 - i. Barbara Richards reported that she will delay a negotiation about when to report to the legislature until the higher education chairs in the legislature are named.
 - e. Outcomes Based Finance
 - i. Barbara Richards and William Lugo reported about the CSCU meeting of the members of the OBF working group. There was initial consensus that OBF funds be used for work-study and mentoring. Future meetings will occur to clarify this concept.
 - f. 2017 Conference
 - i. Meg Leake distributed a handout regarding this item; the committee agreed that further discussion about this item would be tabled.
8. Responsibilities for FAC webpage
- a. The committee agreed that this item would be tabled.
9. Discussion of student success award
- a. The committee agreed that this item would be tabled.
10. FAC recommendation on system searches
- a. Stephen Adair handed out a draft regarding this item; the committee agreed that further discussion about this item would be tabled.
11. Agenda items for future meetings
- a. As described earlier in the meeting, there was agreement that future agenda items should include:
 - i. FAC liaison to the CSCU IT meetings
 - ii. Further discussion about the six working groups that will be proposed by President Ojakian to the BOR
 - iii. The items tabled at this meeting, including:
 - 1. 2017 Conference Report
 - 2. Responsibilities for the FAC webpage
 - 3. Discussion of student success award
 - 4. FAC recommendation on system searches
12. Other Business
- a. The group proposed a resolution: (Wilder/DeSantis) “The Faculty Advisory Committee recognizes Dr. Estela Lopez for her many and great contributions to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. Her

recent service as Interim Provost to the CSCU system has been much appreciated. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty, graciously coming out of retirement to provide this latest service. Her presence has made a great impact in more ways than can be measured and will continue to be felt. We thank her for her service and wish her the very best.”

Approved unanimously.

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM