

**State of Connecticut**  
**Board of Regents Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Friday, September 20, 2013**  
**39 Woodland St.**  
**Hartford, Conn.**

Present: Vice Chair Stephen Adair, Alternate, CCSU; Peter Bachiochi, Member, ECSU; Christine Barrett, Member, SCSU; Ilene Crawford, Member, SCSU; Chair Tom Failla, Member, NCC; Nick Lefakis, Member, ACC; Patty O'Neill, Member, WCSU; Barbara Richards, Alternate, HCC; Mary Jean Thornton, Member, CCC.

Guests: T. J. Barber, Member, 2014 – 2015, MCC; Elizabeth Caswell, Chief of Staff to President Gray; Del Cummings, Alternate 2014 – 2015, NVCC; Dan Facchinetti, Member, 2014-2015, COSC; Braden Hosch, Board of Regents; Juliet Manalan, Director of Public Affairs and Marketing, BOR; Steven Moore, Member 2014-2015, MCC; Erin Pagano, Member, 2014 – 2015, QVCC; Kyle Thomas, Board of Regents; Judy Wallace, Alternate, 2014 – 2015, MxCC;

1. Call to Order. Meeting was convened at 2:03 PM.
2. Review of minutes from Aug. 23, 2013 meeting.

Motion to accept (Lefakis/Hoyser), approved unanimously.

3. Review of proposed by-laws and revisions. After discussion, two additional revisions were suggested. In section V (B), FAC was inserted in front of "officers or chairs of task forces" (referring to the role of alternates on the FAC). In section VI (B), a quorum for FAC meetings was defined as "seven (7) – majority plus one".

Motion to approve bylaws, and publicly thank Barbara Richards and Tom Failla for their work in preparing the bylaws (Crawford/Thornton), approved unanimously.

4. Update on Chief Academic Officer job description and search. Elizabeth Caswell discussed the status of the search for a Chief Academic Officer (Provost) for the BOR. It is expected that the search committee will be convened mid-October. The committee will consist of 2 Presidents (of the 17 member institutions), 2 members from the ConnSCU System Office, and two faculty members, one from the CSU institutions, and one from the CTC institutions. The FAC was asked to provide the faculty nominees. Mary Jean Thornton agreed to serve as the CTC representative. Stephen Adair initially agreed to serve as the CSU representative. Later in the meeting, Ilene Crawford asked to be considered the CSU representative, given the tremendous work Stephen Adair has already contributed to the FAC. It is the consensus of the FAC that Ilene should serve and there should also be a representative for the Charter Oak system.

5. TAP Coordinating Council Update. Braden Hosch shared the most recent TAP Implementation Plan for 2013-14 and 2014-15. It is a detailed description of the process of implementation. There will be three groups working on different aspects of implementation. The TAP Coordinating Council, with academic officers and members of the FAC will oversee the process. The TAP Framework Implementation and

Review Committee will have 17 faculty members, one elected from each campus. This committee is a descendent of the Core Competency Committee. There will be TAP Pathways Work Groups, 1 per discipline, with members from each of the 17 institutions. These Work Groups will have temporary co-chairs, one from the CSU institutions, and one from the CTC institutions, who will undergo orientation to learn the charge and the expected end product of the Work Groups. The temporary co-chairs will then call the first meeting of each Work Group, and permanent co-chairs will then be elected. The output Pathway Work Groups will be sent to the CSU institutions for articulation agreements (created in consultation with the specific departments). Finally, there will be full-time TAP Program Manager, in charge of day-to-day implementation of TAP. The TAP Program Manager will be a permanent, full-time employee of the BOR and report to the BOR Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs.

Motion to endorse the recent TAP Implementation Plan for 2013-14 and 2014-15 and emphasize the importance of filling the TAP Program Manager position (Crawford/Thornton), approved unanimously. The FAC thanks Braden Hosch for the diligent and careful work evident in the development of this plan.

6. Follow up on discussion with ConnSCU President Gregory Gray. The FAC engaged in a lengthy discussion of President Gregory Gray's plans for ConnSCU. Specific items of discussion included the meaning of "specialization centers", and how faculty at individual campuses had responded to the report that each CSU institution would be expected to be known for its unique contributions to Connecticut (e.g., Eastern is the "public liberal arts" university, Western, the "public performing arts" university, Southern, the "allied health professions" university, and Central, the "engineering" university). For the CTCs, programs in Hospitality, Allied Health, Advanced Manufacturing, Information Technology and Financial Services are viewed as critical in terms of future workforce needs for Connecticut. Faculty at individual institutions have expressed concerns about what this means for other programs at these institutions. The FAC emphasized to Elizabeth Caswell that the thinking behind this approach needed to be shared with faculty. Caswell shared the fact that President Gray will be visiting each of the 17 institutions to explain his plan in more detail. Furthermore, President Gray has met with the Council of Presidents to discuss Gray's tentative plan. The Board of Regents has encouraged Gray to not rush the process of planning, but to be sure to get the process right. Questions were raised by FAC members about how Gray's ultimate plan will connect to the work of the special Committee on Strategic Planning. Braden Hosch described the work of the Committee on Strategic Planning as a framework, while Gray's ultimate plan will provide the steps for implementation.

7. IT governance. Multiple campuses are reporting serious issues with the availability and use of Blackboard Learn. Braden Hosch pointed out that the centralization of Blackboard Learn administration had produced savings and also that that centralization has inadvertently produced major difficulties in ensuring the availability of Blackboard Learn. A decision about a solution moving forward will be made soon. Elizabeth Caswell indicated that the CIOS of the member institutions had met September 19, 2013, and an informal plan for moving forward had been developed. Tom Failla noted that directors of distance learning need to be included in the process as well.

8. Revisions in legislation that enacted the FAC. The original language mandated that the chairperson and vice-chairperson serve a two year term. Kyle Thomas provided draft language for Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a of the general statutes that deleted the length of term that the chairperson of the FAC will serve as FAC representative on the BOR. Two versions of possible changes to Subsection (c) of section 10a-3a, which discussed the chairperson and vice-chairperson terms were also provided.

Motion that the FAC adopt the proposed change to Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a, and adopt the following version to the change in Subsection (c) of section 10a-31: "(c) The committee shall, on a rotating basis among its members, elect its own chairperson and vice-chairperson, one of whom shall be a member from the Connecticut State University System and the other of whom shall be member from the regional community-technical colleges, and such other officers at it deems necessary to serve for a term of one year. The committee shall be deemed to be a public agency within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section 1-200, and shall keep such records as may be appropriate." (O'Neill/Lefakis), approved unanimously.

9. Guidance for FAC chair in role as a member of the BOR (first official meeting Oct. 17)

Discussion continued on the possibility of the chairperson of the FAC, now an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the BOR, serving on BOR Committees, and whether the chairperson would have voting rights on those committees. The FAC agreed that if the Chairperson of the BOR asks Tom Failla which committee(s) he would like to serve on, the Finance Committee would be the top priority, followed by the ASA Committee. Stephen Adair and Tom Failla had a conversation with Erin Fitzgerald, Associate Director of Board Affairs, who explained that non-voting members of the BOR can serve on BOR committees, but they do not have voting rights on those committees. The FAC may consider raising this voting issue at the November 21, 2013 BOR meeting.

10. Finance committee discussion on pension; latest media reports. Stephen Adair reported on the Finance Committee report to the BOR, September 19, 2013, and raised concerns about the report, and the perception of the cost of state employees pension funding that might result from this report.

11. Items for possible inclusion in the next meeting (Oct. 18), possible visit to CCSU and invitation to campus governance leaders, items for meeting with BOR Nov. 21. The FAC will hold its October 18, 2013 meeting at Central Connecticut State University. Governance leaders from all 17 institutions will be invited to attend, and the FAC will extend an invitation to President Gray to speak at this meeting.

12. Other business. The FAC thanks Braden Hosch for his outstanding work over the past two years. It hasn't always been fun, but it has always been congenial.