

**State of Connecticut
Board of Regents Faculty Advisory Committee Minutes
Friday, October 18, 2013
Central CT State University
New Britain, 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; Myrna Garcia-Bowen, Member, CCSU; Catherine Hoyser, Member, COSC; Nick Lefakis, Member, ACC; Barbara Richards, Alternate, HCC; Mary Jean Thornton, Member, CCC.

Guests: John Ambenge, MxCC; T. J. Barber, Member, 2014 – 2015, MCC; Jody Barr, SUOAF President; Bob Brown, Member, 2014-2015, TxCC; Stephen Cohen, Faculty Senate President, CCSU; Del Cummings, Alternate 2014 – 2015, NVCC; Dan Facchinetti, Member, 2014-2015, COSC; Mehrdad Faezi, Senate President, MCC; Gregory Gray, ConnSCU President; Tim Haskell, NWCC; Kris Jacobi, ECSU AAUP President; William Lugo, Member, 2014-2015, ECSU; W. Otis Mamed, Faculty Senate, CCSU; Mark McGuire, Faculty Senate, CCSU; Cathy Milton, College Senate, NCC; Steven Moore, Member 2014-2015, MCC; Jennifer O'Brien, Senate, WCSU; K.C. Senie, NCC; Kim Shea, Alternate, 2014 – 2015, GCC; Kyle Thomas, Board of Regents; Judy Wallace, Alternate, 2014 – 2015, MxCC; Ted Yungclas, Board of Regents

1. Call to Order. Meeting was convened at 2:00 PM.

2. Review of minutes from Sept. 20, 2013 meeting.

Motion to accept (Thornton, Crawford), approved unanimously.

3. Updates on meetings with Senators Bye and Boucher. Stephen Adair reported on meeting with Sen. Bye: they discussed pension funding and cost implications of employees transitioning from ARP to Hybrid plan of SERS. They also discussed that BOR Finance Committee recently discussed cost overruns. SEBAC responded with letter from Daniel Livingston stating SEBAC's role in negotiating benefits-related issues.

Tom Failla reported on meeting with Sen. Boucher where they discussed FAC Chair rotation adjustments, which would require a technical change to the legislation. Future meetings with the senators are anticipated.

4. Update on Chief Academic Officer Job Description and Search. No new developments but FAC likely to serve as advisory committee in addition to the three FAC members on the CAO Search committee.

5. TAP Coordinating Council Update. Elections are being conducted on some campuses for TAP Framework Implementation and Review Committee. FAC members should follow up on their campuses to assess progress. The group discussed the overall structure and role of the previous Steering Committee and the new role of the Implementation and Review Committee. Ted Yungclas will check on progress on Program Manager selection process.

6. Items for BOR presentation in November. TAP progress and key success factors; Enrollment Management consultants; Strategic Plan; Morale issues on campuses (understaffing, service cuts, information vacuum, PA 1240 challenges, etc.)

7. Brief Search Update from President Gray. Chief Academic Officer search has yielded more than 20 applications thus far and if the pool is satisfactory, the committee will be charged to start selection process. TAP Program Manager search posting should be ready to go.

The group moved to the larger room to continue meeting, including campus governance leaders.

8. President Gray Opening Comments. President Gray reiterated that the ConnSCU system is still brand new and he has been impressed how the campuses have been undeterred in providing service to students in spite of challenges of the past year.

Developmental education is moving forward.

The inability to provide seamless transfer within the system is unacceptable. TAP rollout must continue apace this year. Perhaps incentives can be designed to keep students in the system.

President Gray briefly discussed budget processes and would like to see continued/increased campus autonomy and accountability.

Rebuilding of the management infrastructure (defining reporting lines, job descriptions, operational processes, etc.) continues.

Developing his plan for the system is moving quickly; he emphasized that closing of any Community Colleges is off the table. The CCs serve key missions in their communities and they will need to solidify their career development missions.

President Gray also discussed Early College scenarios. He has commissioned a task force to develop a model that would likely include high school juniors and seniors from specified feeder schools taking Community College courses.

The four universities will be asked to improve their core areas (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). COSC will see the most transformation, growing the online access to students and perhaps being the entry point to the system for returning veterans.

President Gray would like to systematize many of the processes across the 17 institutions (e.g., a common application, one academic calendar, and more) in a manner similar to the SUNY system.

President Gray reiterated his strategic plan is a tool to go to the legislature for enhanced financial support. The system has a good story to tell about benefits to the state.

9. Question & Answer Session with President Gray

Q: How do you get Presidents to do business differently?

A: Campus presidents are being asked to do things that they haven't done before (e.g., balancing campus budgets) and responding positively. Campuses need to share best practices more.

Q: Will students apply to individual institution or to system?

A: We will move to one application with 17 “boxes” to check.

Q: Will all online courses move to COSC?

A: Online courses will not be taken away from all campuses, but duplication of effort will be reduced by centralizing at COSC. Returning veterans will likely have previous experiences assessed at COSC and then go to school of choice.

Q: What is the purpose of the SUNY trip and who will attend?

A: A small group (a couple Regents, a couple Chief Academic Officers) will join President Gray to review SUNY processes to assess feasibility for ConnSCU. We could potentially pilot a system based on observations.

Q: Were faculty included in development of emphasis areas at the four CSUs?

A: Emphasis areas were based on input from campus presidents.

Q: Will resources be focused on those areas of emphasis?

A: Areas of emphasis may benefit from endowed chairs, facility improvements, student scholarship support, etc. Related to this, Community College presidents will be discussing which career clusters to focus on and selection of those clusters will impact resources allocation.

Q: Will faculty be invited to serve on a committee to create a common academic calendar for the system?

A: Yes. This will largely be a job for the faculty.

President Gray leaves the meeting.

10. Discussion of General Issues with Campus Governance Leaders.

Stephen Adair provided brief history of FAC.

Group discussed TAP implementation concerns (campus elections, committee composition, pressure to move quickly).

Cathy Milton expressed interest in broader representation on FAC (one rep from each campus). The group discussed that change would require change to legislation and benefits/drawbacks of large committees.

A final reminder was offered about public meeting rules and that FAC meetings are open to public.

11. Motion to Adjourn at 4:50 PM.