

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
November 20, 2020
WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC
Mendoza-Botelho, Martin, ECSU

Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC

Absent:

Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large Rep, MCC
Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC

Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU
Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Guests:

Heleen, Pamela, Associate Director Board Affairs
Latour, Fred, CCSU

Weiss, Deb, SCSU

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; Mendoza-Botelho, Martin, ECSU; Raczewski, MaryBeth, ACC; Richards, Barbara, HCC; Sesanker, Colena, GCC; Shea, Mike, SCSU; Wilder, Linda, COSC]

Meeting called to order by Chair, David Blitz, at 1:04 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- 10/16/2020 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve – Fran Coan; seconded
 - Approved unanimously
- Special Meeting of the BOR – 11/19/20 – Jane Gates named Interim President of the CSCU system after retirement of Mark Ojakian until search is finalized. She will retain her position as Provost of the CSCU.
 - She is eligible to apply for the position on a permanent basis
 - Regional Presidents also eligible to apply for the position
- Report on BOR Finance Committee and budget amendment affecting part-time faculty and university and graduate assistants at CSUs
 - FAC members objected to a last minute amendment that included \$8M cut in CSUs budgets based on the fact that implications were not assessed; member was told by BOR chair that as non-voting members of BOR they could not put forward any amendments
 - CSUs administration were not consulted on this decision and how it would affect students, faculty, and staff at the universities
- Nominations & Resolutions from colleges/universities on selection advisory committee for CSCU president

- Only 3 university reps for faculty and staff and 3 faculty and staff from CCCs based on regional representation – BOR would not entertain any recommendations to make this committee more representative.
- Search schedule for Advisory Committee – person who is chosen will need to deal with a crisis in the community colleges due to “Students First” actions. Search will launch on 11/23 and application submission will end on 2/05. Final candidate identified by April 1 and sent to BOR for action. April Fool’s Day might be good day for announcement.
- Bargaining for the Common Good (BCG) – both AAUP and 4Cs involved in this process. Need to find where the funding is located and should focus on mission of public higher education. Rally occurred on 11/19 that was well attended, approximately 100 people, and broadly focused. The BCG coalition which is statewide is thinking through policy issues for all areas including higher education. Any input would be welcomed
- Situation of SF consolidation and various campus resolutions
 - ACME document has been distributed and states that developmental education courses will be eliminated, among many other things, including the fact that algebra will only be required for students majoring in STEM programs. CSUs stated they could not support the idea of eliminating algebra for non-STEM students when this was discussed earlier.
 - Self-reported GPA will be encouraged within ACME and this is a problem for the majority of the colleges.
 - SCSU has developed a 3-page paper on the research they have based this ACME document on. The research has been misrepresented by cherry-picking the content to support the interpretation that would support their thesis. The articles they submit as support for the premise of co-requisite vs. pre-requisite state that there is no strong evidence that a “one size fits all” interpretation of this would support stronger learning outcomes for all of our students. The issue is much more nuanced than that and these articles reflect that nuance. However, the writers of this document have chosen to downplay that in their push to completely move to a co-requisite model, with, what appears to be, no clear understanding on their part of the ramifications on student learning and the harm this could do to many of our students. It is a real concern that this will not be handled in a thoughtful way that will benefit our students. And an additional concern about the flawed interpretation of the research used to support the ACME document.
- CCIC update – Gen Ed group being re-deployed with new charge; APRC taking pains to not identify itself as a group representing any colleges since all members are volunteering independently or are being appointed by administration. A diversity workgroup will be formed and will come up with outcomes and will come up with other courses. Shared Governance document will be circulated soon.
- Motion to recommend that we go to a single application for all CT community colleges – with proviso that we contact NECHE to make sure this would not be a problem for independently accredited colleges. Moved by Fran Coan; seconded, Colena Sesanker. Approved 9- Yes, 0- No, 1- Abstain
- Annual report from FAC to BOR – we should hold off until January BOR since December BOR will probably be a “farewell” to Mr. Ojakian. – see below.
- Suggestion - Alternative to “Everything is on the Table” from BOR should be “Back to Basics” from FAC as part of annual report. The idea that 1) we should build colleges from the bottom up based on shared governance, respect and shared participation; 2) build higher ed institutions based on knowledge and skills of faculty and staff; 3) respect distinct missions of universities and colleges; 4) respect autonomy and integrity of constituent institutions with local control and region and local cooperation; 5) respect shared governance with appropriate consultation; 6) support research and creative activity by faculty and staff; 7) increase rate of graduation, decrease time to graduation and close achievement gap by providing students with knowledge and skills to attain these goals; 8) share best practices between and among institutions; 9) review and revise strategic plans: 10) promote fiscal responsibility

- Should add following: CSCU system is under resourced and underfunded institution trying to educate under prepared students to help make them productive, engaged citizens. We need to remind people about what we do, especially in the midst of the “slow-moving” coup. Make #7 number 1 and should be re-written, and #10 – we need more funding for higher education. Need to start with this concept. Audience? Should not be BOR.
- Motion to approve – Fran Coan; Seconded – Mike Shea; Approved: 10- Yes, 0- No, 0- Abstain
- Could there be wider meetings to talk about general issues in a larger venue? Senate presidents; union representation; FAC representation, etc.
- Aim for December for BOR annual report.
- Need to collect questions in advance for David Levinson and Mike Rooke for December FAC meeting.
- Meeting adjourned – 3:01 pm

Submitted by, Lois Aime
Next meetings:
December 11, 2020
January 29, 2021