

Minutes – September 14, 2012

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents (BOR) Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)

Meeting convened First Floor Boardroom, Board of Regents, 39 Woodland St., Hartford, Conn.

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

Guests: Lauren Donninger, Co-chair, TAP Steering Committee; Pat Hirschy, TAP Coordinator; Merle Harris, Chair, Academic and Student Affairs, BOR; Braden Hosch, Director of Policy & Research and Interim Director of Academic Affairs; Alex Tettey, Co-Chair, Student Advisory Committee, BOR; Debbie Weiss, Co-chair, TAP Steering Committee

1. Meeting was called to order at 2:09 PM
2. Minutes from 06/05/12 approved, unanimously.
3. E-mail list for FAC. Tom Failla reported Brian Kelly of the System Office had created an e-mail distribution list with the names of all faculty (full and part-time) of the CONNSCU institutions. Stephen Adair and Tom Failla will have access to this list, which will be used sparingly to communicate important information from the FAC to our colleagues.
4. FAC will make a presentation to the Board of Regents at the November Board meeting, and there was a brief discussion of what the presentation should contain.
5. FAC will also make a presentation to the Higher Education Committee of the Legislature at a to-be-determined date, and there was a brief discussion of that presentation.
6. PA 12-7 (formerly SB 42), an act concerning selection of members for the FAC. There are still multiple issues unaddressed by the final legislation, including, but not limited to: number of alternates to FAC, term-limits, election of non-teaching faculty. Barbara Richards agreed to draft some preliminary guidelines which will then be discussed at the October FAC meeting. The FAC would like to present guidelines to the governance bodies of the institutions so that elections may proceed smoothly, and uniformly, across the institutions.

7. Review of TAP implementation (starting at 3:00 pm). Debbie Weiss and Lauren Donninger (Co-Chairs of the TAP Core Competency Steering Committee) provided an update on the development of core competencies and assessment rubrics for the 30 credit General Education core. The framework of this core consists of 24 – 26 “Designated” competency credits from the Written Communication, Scientific Understanding, Quantitative Reasoning, Historical Understanding, Social Phenomena and Aesthetic Appreciation competencies, another 6 “Designated” competency credits from the Quantitative Reasoning, Historical Understanding, Social Phenomena, Aesthetic Appreciation, Oral Communication, Information Literacy and Critical Thinking competencies. These 30 credits will transfer to any CSU institution as a whole, for any student who completes an associate’s degree. Issues that still need to be addressed include, but are not limited to: when will these competencies be achieved? After 30 credits? After 120 credits? What about students who do not complete an associate’s degree?

Weiss urged the FAC to consider the resources that will be necessary next summer in the form of workshops for faculty to assist faculty in designing and reworking courses in Summer 2013.

The 17 members from the TAP Core Competency Steering Committee are in the process of collecting public comments about the proposed plan. The public comment period will end on October 15.

Weiss and Donninger (and the TAP Core Competency Steering Committee) have recommended that the timeline for implementation be modified. The revised timeline calls for the 17 institutions to vote on ratification of this plan in Fall 2012, for the CSUs and COSC to begin the articulation process for each of the 12 CC TAP packages in Spring 2013, for a state-wide interactive transfer website to be functional by Summer 2014, and for the articulation plan to be fully in place by Fall 2014.

Motion to endorse the proposed framework and associated modified timeline (Crawford/Lefakis) passed unanimously.

Motion to commend and thank the Steering Committee for their outstanding work on this issue (Crawford/Hoyser) passed unanimously.

Discussion then turned to the fact that the Steering Committee will have to be ongoing committee and that responsibilities do not end with implementation of TAP. A system-wide curriculum committee will be necessary. Questions were

raised about who this committee would report to and how many members such a curriculum committee would have.

8. Review of remedial education bill (PA 12-40). 4 task forces, based in four regions, have been formed to begin considering the implementation of PA 12-40. The committee discussed with Braden Hosch the importance of having sufficient baseline data. Dr. Hosch expects to be able to identify which students are in which remedial support programs and to begin to identify what programs are successful. PA 12-40 states: *The Board of Regents for Higher Education, in consultation with Connecticut's P-20 Council and the faculty advisory committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, shall develop options for an intensive college readiness program.* The Faculty Advisory Committee was not informed of the regional task forces, nor of the proposed regional remedial support centers.
9. Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM