

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
April 3, 2020
61 Woodland St., Hartford, CT

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large Rep, MCC
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac SUOAF CSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, MCC
Lugo, William, Fac, 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:

Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, TRCC
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, non-voting, WCSU

Guest:

Freeman, Seth, CCC

Meeting called to order by Chair, David Blitz at 1:06 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Adoption of minutes from February 21, 2020 meeting, including resolutions – Approved unanimously
- Adoption of the agenda – Approved unanimously
- Report from Chair/Vice-Chair on postponement of FAC meeting from March and relations with BOR
 - FAC Chair/Vice-Chair were told that FAC March would be cancelled. They said they would postpone until today, they would not cancel meeting
 - They will report resolutions passed in February and whatever happens today at next BOR meeting, 4/16/20
- Update on BOR report to NECHE
 - Update included statement from Pres. Ojakian that the NECHE report has been postponed until June, during NECHE's annual meeting. There would be no slow-down to work to be done
 - A partial org chart was distributed at BOR ASA meeting today that outlined higher level structure for Academics and Enrollment Management. Appears these positions would cover current functions performed by Academic Deans at the colleges. BOR stated that they are still revising and considering other positions and their functions.
 - Aspirational goal of 250 students – 1 advisor, as an advising ratio was also noted at ASA meeting. This does not include faculty. Part of Guided Pathways initiative.
 - Discussion on submitting FAC statement to NECHE in June in conjunction with BOR update. Paul Creech, Colena Sesanker, and Ron Picard will formulate the statement.
- CC: BOR policy on CR/CRT/W classes and issues of faculty role in decision making

- GCC is crafting statement to students that is more detailed than System Office statement and is also crafting resolution on how this was handled at the System level.
- MXCC chair of executive council sent out a survey monkey to ask about feedback on this policy to be returned to Provost Gates by 4/06.
- POLICY AS SENT TO STUDENTS: “Due to our transition to online education, all Connecticut community college students will have the option to convert any and all of the letter grades earned during the spring 2020 semester to credit/no credit grading – also known as pass/fail. Students will have until June 1, 2020 to make this decision. Opting for pass/fail will not impact a student’s GPA, and credits earned will be eligible for transfer to the state universities through the Transfer and Articulation Policy.”
- ACC still not clear about how policy is being received at ACC. There is a meeting today.
- MCC determined policy was crafted without input from registrars, financial aid personnel and other student services personnel
- NVCC has been told that if the student finds the pass/fail is problematic they can ask that their grade go back to a letter grade which would be difficult from a record-keeping standpoint. Letter ready to go out to students cautioning students about transferring CR/CRT to other colleges/universities.
- CCC senate voted to forward resolution to Pres. Ojakian and Provost Gates about this. It notes that CCC senate would like opportunity to review this. However, this may be revised to reflect the fact that this is now under further review.
- FAC resolution on Covid-19 Pass/Fail option (see attached): Motion to approve: Mike Shea, seconded. Vote: 9 in favor, 1 abstention
- CC: BOR/SO Enrollment Management Crisis Team and Remote Teaching and Learning Crisis Team (see attached)
 - Provost Gates presented these committees at the last BOR Executive Committee meeting along with the fact that self-reported high school GPAs will be used to place new, incoming students into math and english classes for this summer/fall.
 - Conversation on how self-reporting of GPAs might work and if it will work at all and will it be detrimental to student placement options. What about students who are not coming directly from high school or who do not know their GPA is or who might be misrepresenting their GPA? Concern voiced that this might become a permanent placement procedure.
 - Conversation on Crisis Teams: egregious overreach; will these become permanent. The lack of communication and transparency on these processes is startling. Consensus was not to suggest that faculty and members of the FAC be members of these committees. It will be part of the statement that the FAC submits to NECHE.
- Pass/Fail policies and role of institution autonomy at the universities
 - ECSU – they will consider a senate bill: 1. Students may change as many courses as they want to C/NC this semester. 2. A grade of Credit (CR*) for Spring 2020 will count for any major, minor, entrance requirement (Language), LAC requirement, and all other University graduation requirements. 3. A grade of CR* in spring 2020 will not count against the overall number of CR* grades allowed in a student’s academic career. 4. The deadline to choose is May 6, 2020 and the decision would not be revocable after that. 5. Any letter grade of D or higher will receive Credit.
 - Students should consult with advisors regarding individual program expectations, effects on graduate school and employment opportunities, and the continuing requirement that they receive 12 credits of letter grades to be considered for the Dean’s list.
 - CCSU – petition from students for Pass/Fail; Do not allow pass/fail for students major or minors or for general education. CCSU senate will vote on Monday, 4/06. There are a number of additional problems with programs that require certifications among others. SO has no oversight over CCSU grading policies. Document can be distributed to FAC members after meeting.

- SCSU – passed a policy to extend dates for withdrawal and pass/fail. In addition, each department can determine if a course in their department can be graded as pass/fail. Document can be distributed to FAC members.
- Discussion of remote teaching/learning and workload issues
 - Not sure how long will this last. Could possibly go through summer, fall and perhaps next spring. How can this be handled over a long period of time since translating an on-ground class to a remote learning class is an involved and complicated process.
 - Need to limit size of classes during this emergency to maintain learning standards

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm

Submitted by,
Lois Aime

DRAFT

2020 Enrollment Management Crisis Team

Charge:

The Enrollment Management Crisis team will identify and prioritize the issues that limit student enrollment and persistence in a remote/distributed environment and provide leadership for developing solutions at the system or college level, as appropriate. The Enrollment Management team will task action teams with appropriate expertise to recommend and, in some cases, implement solutions. The Enrollment Management Crisis team will identify the essential functions required to support student enrollment and persistence with a preliminary focus on areas related to: admissions and initial enrollment, registration and student records, student finance and financial aid, academic advising, Title IV compliance, and student communication. The team will also prioritize current business processes that are dependent on paper forms for redesign for a distributed work force. Solutions and recommendations developed by the crisis team are expected to align as often as possible with the Students First initiative.

Membership:

Alison Buckley, Chair	(CSCU SO- Enrollment Management)
Leigh Appleby	(CSCU SO-Marketing & Communications)
Gayle Barrett	(MXCC/SO-Registration)
Mike Buccilli	(GCC/SO-Advising)
Tom Coley	(Shoreline-West-Regional President)
Rob Steinmetz	(Capitol-East-Regional President)
Joe Danajovits	(CSCU-Information Technology)
Tamika Davis	(TXCC/SO-Admissions/Onboarding)
Greg DeSantis	(CSCU SO- Student Success Center) Ex Officio
Alese Mulvihill	(GCC-Dean of Student Affairs)
Dave Ferriera	(NCCC-Dean of Academic and Student Affairs)
Duncan Harris	(CCC-CEO)
Kevin Kelly	(TRCC-Registrar)
Ken Klucznik	(CSCU- Academic Affairs) Ex Officio
Steve McDowell	(CSCU SO-Financial Aid)
Noel Rosamilio	(NVCC-Enrollment Management)

2020 Remote Teaching and Learning Crisis Team

Charge:

The Remote Teaching and Learning Crisis Team will begin by identifying and prioritizing the issues that relate to successful completion of courses for the spring 2020 semester. The team shall establish a timeline for timely delivery of solutions to those issues. The group will likely need to form action teams who will help to solve issues and do the work of guiding or providing solutions. The group will identify areas of concern related to online teaching and learning, online library and other critical academic support services, completion of faculty workload commitments, academic accommodations, and other daily issues that arise that affect student academic success. A number of end of the semester processes exist that are dependent upon paper trails; the team shall make recommendations on how best to convert these to electronic or virtual administering. The team shall also identify and discuss adjustments and recommendation for the summer and fall 2020 semesters should the virus situation continue. Solutions and recommendations developed by the crisis team are expected to align as often as possible with the Students First initiative.

Membership:

Mike Stefanowicz, Chair	(CSCU SO- Academic Affairs)
Ellie Bloom	(HCC-Faculty)
Patrick Carr	(CSCU SO- Library)
Michelle Coach	(ACC-CEO)
Kevin Corcoran	(CSCU SO- Digital Learning)
Greg DeSantis	(CSCU SO- Student Success Center) Ex Officio
Cheryl De Vonish	(NCC-CEO)
Rob Farinelli	(TRCC – Academic Dean)
Chris Henderson	(CSCU- Labor Relation)
Ken Klucznik	(CSCU- Academic Affairs) Ex Officio
Tobi Krutt	(CSCU – Instructional Technology)
Jim Lombella	(North-West-Regional President)
Sharale Mathis	(MxCC- Dean of Academic and Student Affairs)
Joe Navarra	(MCC – Disability Services)
Fran Rosselli-Navarra	(MCC/SO – Faculty)
Angelo Simoni	(MCC/SO – Student Affairs)
Rob Sheftel (NVCC)	(NVCC – Academic Center of Excellence /Tutoring)