

Regular Meeting of the State of Connecticut
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
March 22, 2019
61 Woodland St., Hartford, CT
Minutes

Present:

Del Cummings, FAC Chair, NVCC
William Lugo, FAC Vice-Chair, ECSU
Judy Wallace, FAC Secretary, MxCC
Stephen Adair, Member, CCSU
Lois Aime, Admin, At-Large Rep, NCC
Myrna Garcia-Bowen, Member, SUOAF, CCSU
Linda Wilder, Member, COSC
Lisa Washko, SUOAF, AFSCME, CCSU
Kristi Newgarten, COSC
Kevin Bechard, MCC
Barbara Richards, Member, HCC (Phone)
Patrice Freguson

Guests:

Dr. Jane Gates, Provost CSCU
Mike Stefanowitz Interim Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, SF ASA CC
Colena Sesanker
William Healey, Reporter Journal Inquirer

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

1. Discussion/Revision/Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve (1st Wallace, 2nd Garcia-Bowen) Unanimous.
2. Discussion/Revision/Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve (1st Lugo, 2nd Adair) Unanimous.
3. Legislative Update
 - Del Cummings provided an update. SB749 is still pending. The decision for what will be put on the calendar for a vote will be made within the next couple of weeks. Only about 10% of bills eventually are voted on.
 - Governor Lamont presented a budget that was flat for the CSCU System compared to last year. Thus, there is a budget gap for our system of about \$57 M. There was general discussion as to how the \$57 M was calculated and the projected impact for the CSUs versus the Community Colleges.
 - Mark Ojakian and Barbara Brittingham from NECHE will speak at the March 26th Higher Education Committee of the General Assembly regarding the Students First Initiative. Testimony will be by invitation only.
4. Proposed changes to the FAC By Laws

Barbara Richards and Stephen Adair provided updated documents and responded to questions and concerns regarding the proposed changes to the FAC By Laws. Of note is that the bylaws are an internal document requiring at least a two-meeting cycle for changes.

The proposed revision of the FAC By Laws draft dated January 16, 2019 were discussed in comparison to the reported By Laws approved as reported in the minutes of the FAC meeting April 15, 2016.

Articles discussed were as follows (using the January 16, 2019 draft).

Motion to accept the By Laws (1st Lugo, 2nd Ferguson) Unanimous

- Article IV – Section B Attendance Number 1.
Recommendation to delete the last 2 sentences. The new section to read as follows:
FAC members or alternates (primary and secondary) shall notify the chair, the vice-chair, and their designated alternate if they are unable to attend a meeting. The designated alternate shall assume the member's voting powers.
- Article III – Officers Item g.
Clarification regarding the timeline required for the posting of minutes in accordance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act. Provost Gates affirmed that a draft copy is to be posted within 7 days.
- Article VII – Item E
Clarification provided regarding attendance and the determination for the eligibility to vote.
- Article VI - Elections and Membership Section A Number 8
Linda Wilder found the proposed changes to the COSC membership offensive and was strongly opposed to the new language. She felt that the new language was contrary to the original intent of inclusivity.

Motion to accept the By Laws with discussed revision (1st Richards, 2nd Garcia-Bowen) Passed, Opposed Wilder

5. Students First Petition and BOR Special Meeting on the Costs and Benefits of Students First
On March 8, 2019 the Students First Petition and related memo on the cost and benefit of Students First was submitted to Chairman Matt Fleury, Vice Chair Merle Harris and Members of the Board of Regents nu Stephen Adair (CCSU), Lois Aime (NCC), Colena Sesankar (GWCC), Patrick Sullivan (MCC), and Matt Warshauer (CCSU). The petition had over 1300 signatures including 10 former CSU Presidents, three former Chancellors, four former Trustees, one former Regent, the former CSU Provost, and eight past or present Foundation members. In response to the petition, on March 15, 2019, Matt Fleury and Merle Harris sent a letter acknowledging receipt of the petition as well as affirming The Board's endorsement and support of the implementation of the Students First plan as revised in June 2018. They also invited representatives to share their plan with the Board, as long as it sticks to the principles guiding the Students First planning, yields the benefits outlined for students, and is in the range of the targeted \$23M in annual savings. Discussion.
6. Students First Committees - Transparency
Stephen and Lois raised concerns regarding the lack of shared governance in the various processes that deal with Students First issues as well as the lack of transparency with respect to the various committees associated with Students First. Since they last month when they attended

the College Consolidation Implementation Committee (CCIC) meeting a lot of information concerning the various committee charges, membership with titles, agendas and minutes have been posted on the website. Information regarding the CCIC remains lacking.

7. 5th Annual Conference on Student Success and Shared Governance

Theme: *The Future of Higher Education in Connecticut*

CCSU: Friday April 5, 2019

The work of the committee is continuing. Jane Gates has provided significant funding for the event. Christopher Newfield will be the keynote speaker. The Shared Governance Award will be presented. Five students from around our system have been selected to participate in the Student Panel. Congresswoman Johana Hayes will speak during lunch. Commissioner of the Office of Early Childhood will also be a presenter at the conference. There are currently ~380 registrants; the venue can accommodate close to 400. WCSU has been chosen as the venue for next year's conference.

8. Students First Committees – Transparency

Judy Wallace, a faculty and FAC member, has been elected as co-chair of the Guided Pathways Task Force (GPTF) and as such, will also serve on the CCIC. The names of the other newly elected chairs have not yet been released.

9. New Business

Robert Brown from TxCC has sent a letter resigning from the FAC effective immediately. Fac members acknowledged his strong contribution to the FAC as well as our System, TxCC and his students. Discussion ensued regarding the process for electing his replacement to serve on the FAC as well as on the General Education Committee.

Motion to permit TxCC faculty and governance body to elect a replacement for Bob Brown to complete the remaining 9 months of his term. (1st Cummings, 2nd Richards) Unanimous

Motion to adjourn (1st Lugo, 2nd Wallace). Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Wallace, FAC Secretary