

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
April 17, 2020
61 Woodland St., Hartford, CT

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC	Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU	Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large Rep, MCC	Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC	Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, TRCC	Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC	Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac SUOAF CSU	Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, non-voting, WCSU	Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC	Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU
Lugo, William, Fac, ECSU	

Absent:

Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC

Guests:

Raimondo, Terri, PR, System Office
Moldonado, Monica, Student Advisory Committee

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 – Motion to Approve; Approved unanimously
- Adoption of the agenda – Approved unanimously
- Enrollment Management Crisis Team request to review document on communicating to students about continuing their education and enroll in the fall semester (see attached document) – T. Raimondo
 - Question on what this is supposed to be doing. Document coming from college leaders (CEOs/Presidents) to faculty to have consistent messaging to students about continuing their education?
 - Language is formal and not what might be used to communicate with students
 - Students are concerned about whether courses will be online or traditional. Many do not like online classes
 - College leaders should be part of discussion on the content and should have faculty input
 - There might be an accommodation for students to pay for their fall classes that should be included in these statements
 - Need something that in this that states if classes end up online they can get refund
 - Clarity on whether this should be cut and pasted to use exact wording or is this just suggestions for wording.
 - Cut and paste should not be the goal of this document

- Initial plan was to send same exact email to every student
- We need to work individually with students based on each student's concerns, questions and needs
- Suggestion that what we should be getting is a list of items that we can guarantee to students, such as accommodations for payment, possibility of refunds if classes go online for the fall, adjustment dates for Incompletes, etc.
- Student Advisory Committee – M. Moldonado
 - Summary of SAC report to BOR report:
 - SAC thanks faculty and staff of the CSCU system for all the work they have done
 - Student's First is an initiative that will unify our community colleges
 - We bring concerns about SF to the BOR and we have accomplished that
 - The SAC has direct access to Pres. Ojakian and keeps SAC informed. His transparency is appreciated
 - SAC has members on various SF committees and has been able to engage on various topics
 - Questions:
 - Anything on SAC radar that we should be thinking about
 - We have been given everything we have asked for
 - To what extent is it an issue to transfer from one to another CC
 - Have heard that the consolidation will no longer allow students who have not done well at one college to transfer to another to start over
 - Contrast between SAC and FAC report to BOR. Any questions for FAC
 - Students were considering a petition to go to Pass/Fail for this semester
 - Can you explain how students get elected to SAC
 - Moldanado was student gov't president at GCC and met Pres. Ojakian; she was also a member of SAC as student gov't leader; elections will be held very soon
- HSSR Resolution on Holistic Case Management Advising Policy
 - Was brought up at BOR meeting on 4-16-20
 - A total of \$3M put aside to hire 60 new advisors to reduce the advising load to 250-1
 - Has already been approved by BOR
 - Comment that policy hurts many students because faculty to student ratio for advising is at 30-1 at NVCC
 - Concern expressed that at some campuses it appears that anyone can be advisor – what are qualifications for these advisors
 - This depends on financial future – wonderful aspiration but with limited resources
 - Noted that best advising comes from faculty advisors – many program requirements are esoteric enough that it is easy to misadvise students if advisor does not intimately understand program requirements. Nuances to programs and courses and pre-reqs within programs that need to be understood
 - Fear that this will be a one-size fits all approach for all colleges
 - Exact discussion took place at CCSU when increase of advisors was brought up
- Update on FAC report to BOR on 4-16-20
 - Two resolutions on faculty withdrawals from SF committees and the fact that the Pass/Fail policy was introduced prematurely without discussion with faculty
 - Emails received by Colena re makeup of Shared Governance Workgroup after withdrawals and re whether campus leaders had shared Pass/Fail policy with faculty
 - BOR had no questions regarding the report
 - BOR Agenda items to note

- New recommendations on grading notation
 - New policy on Incompletes for fall and winter 2019
 - Tuition payment policy revision
 - New structure of IR and HR noted
 - Org charts no longer marked as “confidential”
- Question – will they hire a president of the new consolidated community college or will SO and CSCU president be over the new CC? Noted that no one knows what will occur
- Will verify, but it appears that SO budget now higher than three of the community colleges
- Need to have document that will go to NECHE in response to SO update needs to be prepared by the FAC May meeting
- Pass/Fail
 - CCCs – Received what might be final policy but we should not speak with students on this. Very intricate and therefore difficult to explain to students. Impossible to explain to students how this might affect them on many levels – pre-req issues, financial aid concerns, transfer problems, etc.
 - GCC governance body went ahead and sent recommendations based on the fact that the revised Pass/Fail input was due 4/06. NVCC also gave feedback; NCC did not know about feedback process until it was too late
 - CCSU - students can have Pass/Fail in their courses but have until the last day of class, 5/10 to make that decision. There is differentiation between C- and higher and a D+ or lower. Other issues exist in different programs that they ironed out at their senate meeting.
 - SCSU – just Pass or Fail; students have to speak with advisor and chair of department teaching the class would also sign off
 - Statement of the fact that SO can come up with statement that colleges/universities should create a policy. They should not create the policy itself
- FAC filing with NECHE in response to SO update to NECHE in June
 - Will be ready by May meeting
 - Will include college/university resolutions on various topics
- Online/Remote Courses
 - Need to talk about class size for remote learning courses. Courses should be capped at lower numbers than on-ground courses. In particular 100 and 200 level courses should be capped
 - Concerns with science courses and online labs vs. on-ground labs
 - Concerns about online classes for developmental students
 - Ask Remote Learning Crisis Team chair to come to next FAC meeting and ask for an update
 - Many students not capable of working in the online environment without sufficient support and others who just do not want to take online classes
- Student’s First Gen Ed Update
 - Mike Stefanowicz presented to Academic Deans that there were nine colleges that voted not to vote, interpreted as abstentions, two colleges voted in favor, QVCC and MXCC, and one college who voted against, NCC.
 - This will be presented to the SFASACC group at their next meeting, 4-24, for review
 - FAC should wait to see what happens when this presented to SFASACC

Meeting Adjourned, 2:56 pm

Next meeting May 15, 2020

Minutes Submitted by,
Lois Aime