

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes, June 12, 2020, OnLine**

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
Emanuel, Michael, non-voting, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
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
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Absent:

Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC

Lugo, William, Fac, ECSU

Guest:

Bill Faraclas, SCSU

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; Lugo, William, 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 1:03 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Adoption of minutes from May 15, 2020 meeting, including resolutions – Fran Coan moved to approve; seconded; Approved unanimously
- Adoption of the agenda
 - with addition of response from FAC Chair, David Blitz, on questions regarding concerns with Students First(see attached) - Approved
 - Co-chair, Colena Sesanker report:
 - Been in contact with Scott Esdaile, President CT NAACP. He has weighed in to support Students First. She will stay in contact with him.
 - Been in touch with Ben Barnes re statement that cost of Guided Pathways at \$25M per year will pay for itself. Questions about that premise. Nothing supports this. Asked Ben Barnes to get back to her about this claim. What he sent in response was insufficient. She will follow up on this. No real understanding of student needs so translates into overly optimistic projections, as is statement that all current savings can be attributed to SF.
 - Very often projections on these spreadsheets of costs and cost-savings are not grounded in reality.
 - PA 12-40 report in BOR agenda packet for 5/14/20 – gives good history of project and need for bottom-up approach among other commentary.

- Data from Rob Johnstone makes no sense since it is in his interest, as it is his job, to promote and have us adopt, Guided Pathways.
 - Frustrations voiced with focus on spreadsheet rhetoric – not going to resonate. One response was to adequately fund us so that we can do our jobs and educate the next generation so that they can be informed, productive citizens of the state and the country. And this should and would apply to all. At this moment in time it is no longer a question of a sensible economic solution, it is a moral imperative that we get funded at a level that allows us to properly educate all students who walk through our doors.
 - Could we invite legislative candidates who are up for election/re-election to come to virtual town halls? Could/should unions state that they will only support candidates who understand what is happening and how this will hurt public higher ed.
- Issue Related to FAC Comments and Report at Board meetings:
 - FAC has not reported to BOR this semester. Told that they had an opportunity to do that in April, which was the first meeting that Dave Blitz and Colena Sesanker attended. Should we press for that? No clear decision on that at this meeting. Dave will forward his report to FAC –
 - FAC vote to support Dave’s report - Gustafson moved to approve; Stoloff seconded; Approved: 8 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Abstain
- BOR SF Progress Report to NECHE
 - 3 letters of support for progress report – Governor, SAC chair, Workforce development
 - Did not address 16 sub-standards that NECHE requested a response to in 2/05 letter to Mr. Ojakian regarding his response to the Public Comment submitted by Stephen Adair and Lois Aime on 9/03/19.
 - Report noted that Provost would appoint a chair to an assessment council. However, a State Assessment Council does already exist and been ignored for last 2 years.
 - Report noted enrollment will increase by 25% once consolidation in place, not prior
 - Statement re FESP at shoreline-west colleges untrue
 - Letters against SF: Stephen Adair/Lois Aime Public Comment, FAC Public Comment, CT Community College Round Table letter, Bill McGurk email, Gregg Haddad letter
- College and Career Success Course Issues
 - CCS101, 3 credit course mandated for all students and must be taken within first 9 credits
 - Initially removed from Gen Ed by Gen Ed Committee based on colleges negative feedback
 - Replaced by Gen Ed Committee at later date, when many had withdrawn from committee, with Diversity element added
 - Approved by SFASACC with Diversity element removed
 - Approved by CCIC with Diversity element added back in
 - Approved by ASA with supporting documentation stating that “It is important to note that collegiate expectations of “proper” behavior are rooted in White, middle class norms...” This is noted out of context from a chapter on minority student retention in higher education in a book about retention in higher education in general.
 - Course attempts to do many things at once; diversity and equity will be side-lined as outcomes note that students develop an academic plan and follow it through
 - Catch all course that has outcomes that cannot be measured in any meaningful way
 - Will make sure FAC comments on this at the next BOR meeting
- Additional Responsibilities (AR) Credit for Fall Online and Remote Learning Preparation
 - TxCC received documentation on preparing AR proposal that suggested working on system-wide workgroups first, local college work second. Also, preparing for online teaching in the fall, but only if course has never been taught online at TxCC before.

- HCC did not receive anything like this.
- Different instructions going to faculty on AR from different colleges
- Need to speak with the unions on how the AR policies should be addressed and whether grievances should be filed
- Campus Return Policies (Our Ideas: CCs and CSUs)
 - FAC received 2 reports on Coronavirus return – Principles & Recommendations (see attached)
 - Bill Faraclas comments:
 - Currently increase in Coronavirus cases in about 12 states – this is mostly due to states re-opening
 - Virus has not changed; behavior changes have increased cases;
 - Fallacy to believe that our classrooms can be safe with fewer students
 - Doorknobs and desktops, etc. will attract germs; must clean classrooms after each class
 - Instructor safety a question
 - Contact tracing is an after the fact sort of thing
 - Question: How concerned should we be about building ventilation systems?
 - Technically, we don't know; at present believed that Coronavirus is not airborne illness. It can be aerosolized so particles are floating around, but we believe that particles are so small that will not cause infection but we don't really know that. At first believed that Coronavirus could not be aerosolized but now realize that Coronavirus can be aerosolized which could get into ventilation system. But, we are really not sure if it can infect through the ventilation system. Another unknown.
 - We want to put statements like this forward and talk about principles of safety
 - WCSU – faculty can say what they prefer but not all classes can be online; CCSU – nothing definitive yet; ECSU – office hours do not need to be on-campus; if not comfortable teaching on-campus, contact HR office
 - Will testing be done and how will it be done? Will PPE be available?
 - SCSU President spoke about classes being varied in delivery methods - online, on-ground, Hyflex
 - CSUs need residency rates of at least 75% this fall based on BOR numbers
 - No coordinated statement about what will happen at CCCs
 - Appears that there is a “bait and switch” mentality going on throughout the system on how best to handle fall semester
 - Make sure policies are consistent across all campuses
 - Motion to approve above statements submitted by Bill Faraclas with commitment to update as we move forward – motion to approve, Robin Gustafson, seconded, with addition - There must be a consistent policy for the application of these principles to be followed by all HR departments. Unanimously approved
- New CT Community College website – beyouct.com although college does not exist.
- Meeting adjourned, 3:36 pm.
- Next meeting – July 17, 2020

Submitted by Lois Aimé