

Regular Meeting of the State of Connecticut
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
February 21, 2020
61 Woodland St.
Hartford, CT

Present:

William Lugo, ECSU
Marybeth Rajczewski, ACC
Francis Coan, TxCC
David Blitz, CCSU
Colena Sesanker, GWCC
Lois Aime, NCC

Paul Creech, CCC
Mike Emanuel, NWCC
Adam Brewer, WCSU
David Stoloff, ECSU
Ron Picard, NVCC
Benjamin Breault, MCC

Patrice Farquharson, FAC COSC
Linda Wilder COSC
Myrna Garcia-Bowen SUOAF, CCSU
Mike Shea, SCSU
Barbara Richards, HCC
Christine Ruggiero, MxCC
Jennifer Long, TRCC

Meeting Called to order at 1:06 pm

1. Discussion/Revision/Approval of Agenda – approved (1st F. Coan; 2nd D. Stoloff), with amendment calling for discussion of honoring S. Adair under agenda item 10 (Other Business)
2. Discussion/Revision/Approval of Minutes – approved (1st F. Coan; 2nd J. Long), with revisions: changing to MxCC after C. Ruggiero's name in attendance; adding both J. Long and M. Wilson to list of attendees
3. Election of chair and vice-chair, and introduction of new chair and vice-chair
 - a. D. Blitz, running unopposed (W. Lugo earlier withdrew), elected chair – vote unanimous in favor
 - b. C. Sesanker, running unopposed, elected vice-chair – vote unanimous in favor
 - c. L. Aime, running unopposed, elected secretary – vote unanimous in favor
 - d. B. Breault, running unopposed, elected alternate secretary – vote unanimous in favor

D. Blitz and C. Sesanker both delivered brief remarks related to their assuming the roles of chair and vice-chair, respectively, of the Faculty Advisory Committee

4. Response to BOR response to FAC questions

Discussion of next steps: members were referred to summary D. Blitz provided to his caucus at CCSU in reporting during their recent University Senate meeting – a summary of the concerns articulated by FAC in reviewing the BOR response to FAC's questions posed at the December BOR meeting includes issues of the kind of status change sought through NECHE by the BOR, issues of expanding beauracrat layers at the BOR, the dilution and possible corruption of ownership and control of curriculum (in potential contradiction of NECHE accrediting standards), and the endangerment of local accreditation in specific and specialized programs. D. Blitz to prepare this summary for a formal distribution and a further rejoinder to the BOR.

5. Resolution from community colleges on non-participation in committees

Discussion of role of FAC in potentially providing statement(s) of support for certain resolution presently circulating on the community college campuses: R. Coan motions to consider drafting FAC resolution(s); R. Picard to draft statement(s).

The following two statements were drafted:

"Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), the statutorily representative system-wide body of the Connecticut State College and University Faculty, fully supports college governance bodies' resolutions recalling all faculty and staff from Students' First committees and work groups and encourages all college governance bodies to hold votes on such resolutions."

Motion to approve: 1st P. Creech; 2nd D. Stoloff

Resolution passed 8-0, with 2 abstentions

“Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC), the statutorily representative system-wide body of the Connecticut State College and University Faculty, fully supports college governance bodies’ resolutions to reject the Students’ First curriculum endorsement process as an illegitimate substitute for shared governance and encourages all college governance bodies to hold votes on such resolutions.”

Motion to approve: 1st P. Creech; 2nd D. Stoloff

Resolution passed 9-0, with 1 abstention

Also part of the discussion re: the withdrawal of participation among faculty and staff: political forces impinging on (especially junior) faculty/staff compelling their participation potentially against their wishes and outside their incumbent job responsibilities; potential causes for grievance; the shifting charges within consolidation committees.

6. Discussion of strategy and possible new directions concerning relations with NECHE, legislators, media, campus leaders, others

Discussed topics of concern and messages at the center of consolidation arguments:

- a. False arguments promulgated by BOR related to fiscal crisis
 - b. Transparency (financial and otherwise)
 - c. Advocacy (value of CSU system, its students, and resources)
 - d. Waste, bureaucracy, and cost of consultants
 - e. Accreditation concerns
 - f. Withdrawal of faculty support for consolidation
 - g. Need for sharing and communication among various governance and advocacy organizations
7. FAC conference update and prospects

Preliminary report: progress being made; key-note speaker selection an issue; submissions coming in

8. Final version of changes to the bylaws (corrected by Linda Wilder), as approved last year (to be added to minutes of this meeting)

FAC website needs updating

9. Online Learning Initiatives of BOR

Discussion of concerns around massive undertaking that could pose threats to and unintended consequences for pre-existing programs and populations

10. Other Business

Motion to explore formal recognition of contributions to FAC of Stephen Adair (1st F. Coan; 2nd M. Garcia-Bowen) – B. Richards to take lead

A need expressed to solicit current BOR organization chart – D. Blitz to follow up

11. Meeting Adjourned at 3:10 (1st F. Coan; 2nd M. Garcia-Bowen)

Submitted by B. Breault, Secretary (Alternate)

Next Meeting: March 27, 2020