

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD AND THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024 – 8:30 a.m.
CONDUCTED IN REMOTELY
LIVESTREAMED ON <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xlsBCTFIJEk>

REGENTS – PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
JoAnn Ryan, Chair	N
Richard J. Balducci	Y
Ira Bloom	Y
Carla Galaise, Student Regent	Y
Marty Guay	Y
Juanita James	Y
Sophia Jappinen	Y
James McCarthy	Y
Richard Porth	Y
Luis Sanchez, Student Regent	Y
Ari Santiago	Y
Erin Stewart	Y (arrived 8:47)
Elease E. Wright	Y
Ted Yang	N
*Brendan Cunningham, FAC Chair	Y
*Colena Sesanker, FAC Vice Chair	Y
*Dante Bartolomeo, Labor Commissioner	N
*Dr. Manisha Juthani, Public Health Commissioner	N
*Daniel O’Keefe, DECD Commissioner	N
*Charlene Russell-Tucker, Education Commissioner	Y
*Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer	Y
<i>*ex-officio, non-voting member</i>	

CSCU STAFF:

Terrence Cheng, CSCU Chancellor
 Jessica Paquette, Vice Chancellor for System Affairs & Chief of Staff
 Danny Aniello, Special Asst to the Chancellor, Executive Director for System Project Management
 Adam Joseph, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs
 Dr. Lloyd Blanchard, CSCU Interim Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer
 Vita Litvin, Interim General Counsel
 Janel Wright, CSCU, VP of Purchasing
 Pam Heleen, Secretary of the Board of Regents (recorder)

Charter Oak State College:

Ed Klonoski, President
 Dr. David Ferreira, Provost
 Michael Moriarty, VP of Administration and CFO

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. Following roll call, a quorum was declared.

2. CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE EQUITABLE ACCESS PROGRAM FEE

- Vice Chair McCarthy introduced the item and reminded the Regents that this resolution is for the approval of the Equitable Access Program Fee and its appearance on Charter Oak’s Tuition and Fee Schedule.

Vice Chair McCarthy made a motion to consider the resolution for approval by the Board. The motion was seconded by Regent Balducci.

- Vice Chair McCarthy introduced Ed Klonoski, President and Dr. David Ferreira, Provost at Charter Oak State College for their presentation on the proposal. (See Attachment A)
- Vice Chair McCarthy noted that the leadership of the four state universities decided to forgo the implementation of the equitable access program for the upcoming fall semester, citing concerns about the timeline for a smooth transition process. The resolution before the Board is for an Equitable Access Program Fee only for Charter Oak State College.
- Regent James noted the socialization of the proposal with faculty and students and asked for more detail. Provost Ferreira added that the faculty has been kept up to date on the process, principles, rationale, and benefits; faculty also noted the percentage of students who struggled during the first week because they do not have their materials. He continued by noting that only 5% of COSC courses use Open Educational Resources (OER). Students mentioned that they hoped that this was a pilot program and that if it showed success, that it could be shared with other CSCU institutions (as 55% of COSC students are graduates of CT State).
- Regent Guay asked if there was a plan at the end of the semester to survey students, gathering insights about program efficacy, timing and success of the communication plan, and suggested areas of improvement. President Klonoski stated that Charter Oak will assist in gathering any feedback that the Board deems necessary, and the results would be very interesting. Secretary of the Board Pam Heleen pointed out that the next to last “Resolved” statement in the resolution states that “Charter Oak shall submit a report to the BOR by the end of both the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters. This report must include detailed statistics on the opt-out rates as well as an analysis of the overall performance and reception of the Equitable Access Program.” Regent Guay reinforced the importance of gathering the “voice of the customer” data. Student Regent Sanchez agreed.
- Student Regent Galaise reinforced the need to get feedback as one of her biggest concerns is that students don’t opt out and don’t realize that they are being charged for course materials. She emphasized the importance of “nailing down” those people and making sure COSC prevents this from happening. Provost Ferreira agreed stating that we want to make sure that students don’t purchase course materials and don’t opt out of the Equitable Access Program, thus incurring expenses 1.5 times. He continued by saying that students will receive communications prior to matriculation and at the point of registration. President Klonoski stated that this program is a selling feature – that course materials are included in the course price and will be available on day 1; this is in line with other online colleges. 78% of COSC students work full-time and like the convenience of having this taken care of for them.
- Regent Jappinen thanked Provost Ferreira for the data-driven approach to the presentation. She looks forward to seeing what it will become and seeing the feedback from the program. Provost Ferreira indicated that Charter Oak is fully committed to ensuring that there is a robust assessment of the program. Kudos to the CFO and the Bursar’s Office at Charter Oak for providing the line-by-line cost data comparisons; it provided management with the program-level scenarios where it might make sense for the student to opt out of the program.

- Regent Bloom asked if the students will be counseled individually each semester about what choice to make. Provost Ferreira noted that the Equitable Access Program explanation will be put into the academic advisor's meeting template and script with the student. Using Power BI, leadership knows what percentage of COSC students have met with an advisor; the small percentage that did not meet with their advisor, but still registered will have a separate unique communication. The communication plan will be solidified by middle of May.
- Vice Chair McCarthy emphasized the value of the Charter Oak State College experience as a pilot study to help direct future efforts. The four universities continue to be interested in the program.

At the conclusion of discussion, the resolution was put to a vote. The resolution was approved with 10 yes votes, 1 no vote (Stewart), and 1 abstention (Balducci).

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:01 a.m. on a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent James, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining issues and the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Submitted,

Pamela Heleen
Secretary of the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

CharterOak

STATE COLLEGE

A Higher Degree of **Online** Learning

Equitable
Access Proposal

ED KLONOSKI
PRESIDENT

DR. DAVID FERREIRA
PROVOST

Current Bookstore Environment



Average cost over \$100 per class



Over 20% of a person's time dedicated to book vouchers at peak registration



Over 50% of Financial Aid Students Need Vouchers



A number of vouchers come after the start of classes



SGA Emergency Fund Requests for Books



High textbook shipping costs

About Equitable Access

\$18.75 per credit fee

- **Required textbooks and course materials.**

Shipping Included

- **Achieves further savings for our students**

Opt-out ability

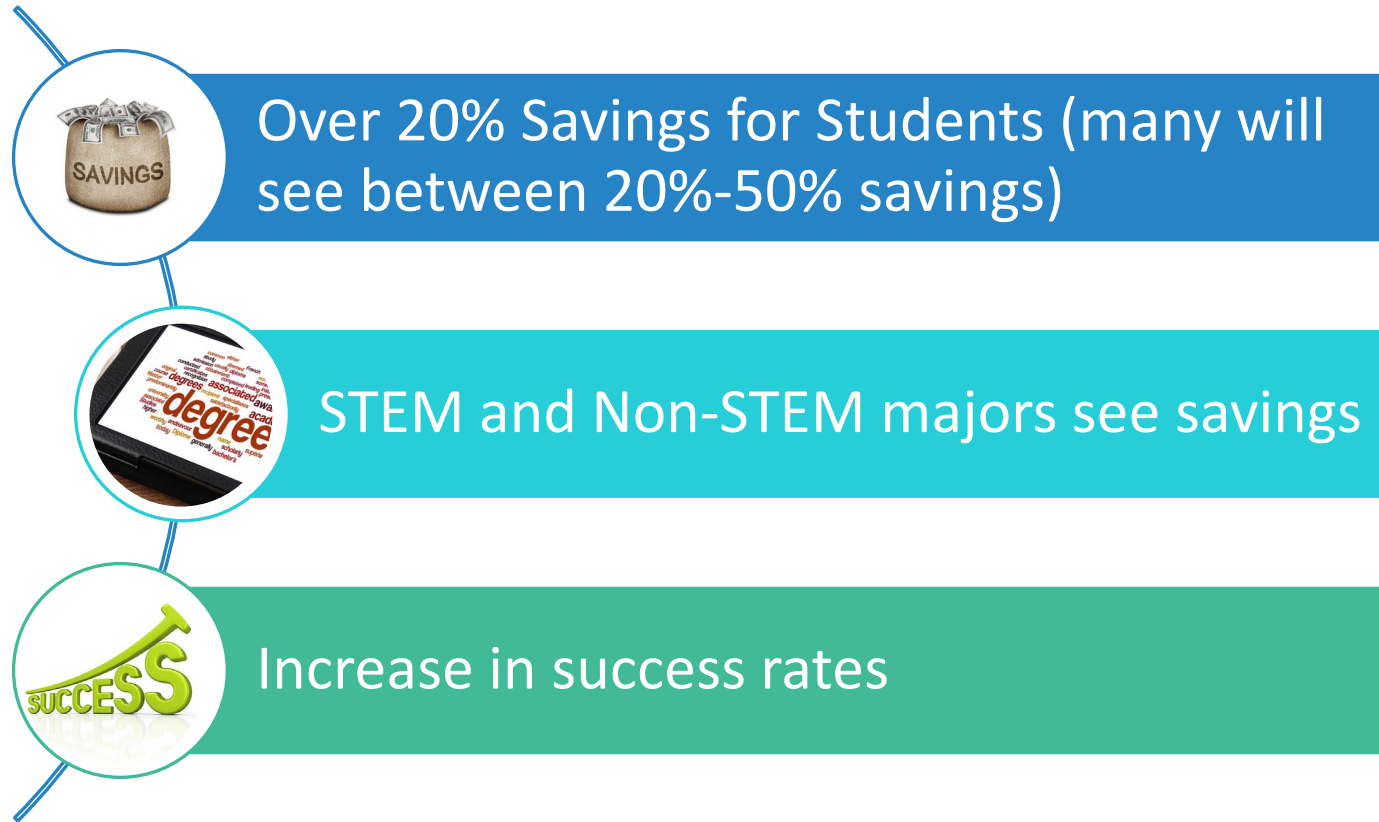
- **Robust communication plan**

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 Barnes & Noble
COLLEGE

Advantages of Equitable Access



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*Thank
You*

Questions?
