



BOR ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Friday, December 1, 2023 @ 9:30 a.m.

Conducted via Remote Participation

Regents Present: Committee Chair Ira Bloom, Regent Juanita James, Regent James McCarthy, Regent Richard Porth

Members: Professor Colena Sesanker, BOR Chair JoAnn Ryan

Staff Present: Kaylah Davis, Pam Heleen, Rai Kathuria, Aynsley Diamond, Nancy Becerra-Cordoba

Other Attendees: Jimmy Adams, Missy Alexander, Levy Brown, Michelle Brown, Lisa Bucher, David Ferreira, Christopher Gentile, Maureen Hogan, Julia Kara-Soteriou, Kimberly Kostelis, Trudy Milburn, James Mulrooney, Theodora Pinou, Ken Scaglia, Michael Stefanowicz, Paula Talty, CCSU President Zulma Toro, Brian Vernon, Bogdan Zamfir

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Ira Bloom.

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum

2. Approval of Minutes

a. October 6, 2023

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the October 6th, 2023 minutes with an amendment to item 5.a., updating the name of presenter, from Laura Shaw to Louise Shaw. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Adoption of Agenda

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to amend the approved agenda, to add a new action item, 5.e., a resolution concerning enrollment and completion reporting. A request was also made to move item 4.a.iii. New Program in Software Development at Charter Oak State College to the first action item, 4.a.i., in the interest of time. On a motion by Regent Porth, second by Regent McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Consent Items

a. Discontinuations

- i. Early Childhood Education – Infant and Toddler Concentration – BS – Charter Oak State College
 - ii. Early Childhood Education – Preschool Concentration – BS – Charter Oak State College
- Dr. David Ferreira and Dr. Maureen Hogan presented. Charter Oak State College requested approval for discontinuations of two concentrations, Infant and Toddler, and Preschool, in the Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Science programs. The discontinuations are connected to item, 3.b.iii. Early Childhood Teaching Credential. In accordance with NEAYC accreditation, students will now complete one concentration and obtain expertise in two areas.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the two discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- iii. Social Science – BA – Western CT State University

iv. Meteorology – BS – Western CT State University

Dr. Missy Alexander presented. Western Connecticut State University requested approval for the two discontinuations of the Bachelor of Arts in Social Science and Bachelor of Science in Meteorology programs. These two degrees were reviewed by governance last year, and the discontinuation of the Social Science degree is a result in change of focus to programs that are not in the general social sciences. There are no courses that go away and there are no concerns regarding teach out. Discontinuing these will clarify and clean the catalog. The Meteorology program faculty is currently developing a proposal to shift to a 4+1 approach and it was decided that this is the last year to admit to the existing program.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the two discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

v. Hotel Management – AS – CT State Community College

vi. Restaurant Management – AS – CT State Community College

Dr. Levy Brown and Dr. Jimmy Adams presented. CT State Community College requested approval for the discontinuation of two associate degree programs in Hotel Management and Restaurant Management. The discontinuations are a part of an effort to pare down, eliminate duplicity, ensure alignment of courses, apply for accreditations, and enroll students in the correct programs. These programs were only offered at the Gateway campus and have nine students, whom they are working with on course substitutions.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the two discontinuations. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

b. Modifications

i. Management Information Systems – BS – Central CT State University

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis presented. Central Connecticut State University requested approval for the modification of the Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems. The modification is related to a CIP code change, a more appropriate STEM code, and align with the information systems competencies model, IS 2020.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.

ii. B.A. Biology – BA to BS – Western CT State University

Dr. Missy Alexander and Dr. Theodora Pinou presented. Western Connecticut State University requested approval for the modification of a Bachelor of Arts in Biology to a Bachelor of Science. This modification is a result of program review and analysis, where it was determined the program was misnamed. The change will align with the BS designation at the other CSUs.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.

iii. Early Childhood Education – Early Childhood Teacher Credential – BS – Charter Oak State College

Dr. David Ferreira and Dr. Maureen Hogan presented. Charter Oak State College requested approval for the modification to the Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Teacher Credential. This item is connected to the two discontinuations. This modification is to eliminate the two concentrations, and rename the teaching concentration, as accreditation requires students to complete coursework in both areas. This ensures that students who plan to teach in centers approved by the OEC are enrolled in the correct program.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the modification

was approved unanimously.

5. Action Items

a. New Programs

i. Software Development – B.S. – Charter Oak State College

Kaylah Davis made note of a mistype on page 51, correcting the name to Software Development instead of Visual Arts.

Dr. David Ferreira presented. Charter Oak State College requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science in Software Development program. The addition of the software development program is part of the deficit mitigation plan as a growth strategy and new source of revenue. EAB market analysis has shown labor market trends and student demand in this area. The labor market demand, particularly in the northeast region, has many job opportunities. The student demand for the program is favorable, rising 8 percent and includes a pipeline of students from CT State. The program follows a stackable credential model, with its foundational courses connected to the Google IT certificate, and later courses lead to a CompTIA A+ certification, and Agile certification. In this program, students acquire foundational skills and can stack credentials for software development skills.

Regent Juanita James commended the stackable credential approach, as it will positively impact retention and completion rates, adding that this is an opportunity to meet the demands of the workforce and job market in Connecticut.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked where Charter Oak plans to recruit students from. Dr. David Ferreira advised that Charter Oak draws from the state of CT, like greater Hartford, Bridgeport, and Stamford. They are looking to target outreach in areas with strong tech regional partnerships, such as Capital Workforce partners and Southwest Tech Alliance.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked about the inclusion of courses as it relates to the future of software development and AI. Dr. David Ferreira confirmed that they are working with an expert in the field to review the curriculum and infuse the generative AI impact into the program, adding that software developers will need these skills. Dr. Ferreira used an example of python coding, adding that software developers can use generative AI to assist with coding issues, making them more productive. Incorporating AI into the curriculum will provide students those skills.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

ii. 3+2 Special Education Program – BS and MS – Central CT State University

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis and Dr. Paula Talty presented. Central Connecticut State University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science and Master of Science, 3+2 Special Education program. There is a state and national need for special educators as supported by a market analysis done by Hanover Research. CCSU currently has a Master's degree program in Special Education that leads to a teacher certification, but with an addition of the Bachelor's program, a student is better prepared. A 3+2 model enables students to obtain certification and licensure in year 4, and grow as professionals earlier in the master's program, allowing them to be better prepared to teach and serve as leaders in schools and promote equity.

Regent Juanita James commented her interest and excitement.

Regent Richard Porth commented his excitement and support.

Regent James McCarthy commented, adding support of another adaptation in a joint bachelor and master's program model as it will assist students in jumpstarting their professional development, particularly in areas where masters are required.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

iii. Visual Arts – B.F.A. – Western CT State University

Dr. Missy Alexander, Ken Scaglia, and Brian Vernon presented. Western Connecticut State

University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Fine Arts, Visual Arts program. This is to complete the portfolio of moving arts programs to the professional degree level. Last year, the musical theatre and theatre programs moved to the professional level and have shown success. with the BFA in musical theatre up 12 students, and the combined theatre BA and BFA up 6. The accrediting body also advised with an additional 1 course; the Visual Arts BA can become a BFA. This is an opportunity to grow and has shown regional and national interest.

Regent Juanita James asked how we can influence the K-12 system and stress the importance of arts in curriculum. Dr. Missy Alexander and Dean Brian Vernon confirmed that each year a professional development day is held geared towards arts education in the tri-state area with this past year's event hosting up to 250 participants. Next year, they are looking to broaden this to educators in general and added that these conversations are happening.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

b. Reinstate Discontinued or Suspended Academic Program

i. Elementary Education – M.S. – Central CT State University

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Dr. Julia Kara-Soteriou, and Dr. Paula Talty presented. Central Connecticut State University requested approval for the reinstatement of the Master of Science in Elementary Education program. This program was suspended in 2021 due to low enrollment and not meeting student needs as it did not lead to certification. Since, they have redesigned the program, which now leads to certification, meets the needs of students and school districts, and addresses the teacher shortage. Through this program, candidates who hold a bachelor's degree have a pathway to obtain certification quicker than a post-baccalaureate option. Students will participate in a residency model, which expands field experience, better prepares them for the classroom, and provides additional support from co-teachers. The residency approach allows students to 'earn while they learn', an approach taken in response to feedback and meeting student needs, as many students do not have the ability to stop working to participate in a certificate program. The redesign also supports candidates who may have worked in school districts and are looking to transition into certified teaching.

Regent Juanita James asked how the program is communicated and marketed, adding that it is important to aid in understanding the changes that were made and details of the redesign, as this program will better prepare teachers for challenges they face in the classroom. Dr. Paula Talty confirmed the concept the redesign is to better prepare candidates for challenges and retain professional educators.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked about the marketing plan. Dr. Kimberly Kostelis confirmed that their marketing and communication department is working to highlight all education programs. Additionally, CCSU has been working closely with State Department of Education and K-12 partners, as they are critical in program development and roll out.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked about how teacher preparation is approached in response to early usage of technology for pre-K-12. Dr. Julia Kara-Soteriou stated that students' use of technology provides students time to play and activities are designed for young kids without using technology. For elementary education students, teachers are encouraged to use websites to find information, create lessons. and teach students how to use technology as a tool to aid in critical thinking development.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

c. New College

i. College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences - Central CT State University

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Dr. Zulma R. Toro, Dr. James Mulrooney, and Lisa Bucher presented. Central Connecticut State University requested approval for a new College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. The new college has been in development for more than two years and a

faculty-led task force was assembled and worked for more than 15 months to build out the College. When this proposal was brought to the Faculty Senate in May, there were no votes against it. Fiscally, the college reallocated budgets and resources. The ‘why’ of establishing this new college is to address CT workforce needs and beyond in areas of human service and health, also confirmed by market analysis. The college will aid in recruitment efforts, highlight programs within it, lift visibility, share resources and build/ strengthen partnerships. The College also offers experiential learning and community engagement with the development of the on-campus community health clinic. The clinic is student run, which teaches them how to interact with varying areas. This College will focus on interdisciplinary studies, which is aided by the clinic and support on campus from all areas and departments. President Toro stated that this is well-developed and fiscally responsible. An advisory board with more than 20 leaders from the community, many of them from the healthcare industry, discussed this as an area of need, adding it is an exciting opportunity on campus, and many other departments outside of health and human service are looking for ways to participate. Graduates and alumna from CCSU are supportive. Further, President Toro has been in discussion with a main donor, U.S. Secretary of Education, Miguel Cardona, and the Executive Director of the Dupont Foundation to discuss a model used in Delaware that developed a K to University pipeline of students for healthcare. Dr. Richard Fishman, a well-known optometrist is also planning to participate in the new college. Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked to confirm the College is included with the deficit mitigation plan. It was confirmed that it is part of the plan and will aid in initiatives. Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked how this is articulated with CT State graduates. It was confirmed that the existing programs have pathways in place; programs without pathways will have ones created, including experiential learning opportunities. Regent James McCarthy commented that the College is a phenomenal idea He applauded the comprehensive community health clinic and the strategy to involve students from the beginning. Regent Juanita James commended the work and added her support but did add that areas that may go away and what they are replaced with will need to be communicated. Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked how this is going to be institutionalized. Dr. Kimberly Kostelis confirmed that a key component of the integration and implementation of the interdisciplinary approach is the intentionality around curriculum alignment in the clinic and classroom, adding that clinical hours are an important factor of this clinic as it is on campus and easily accessible for students.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new college. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the continuation was approved unanimously.

d. State University Centers and Institutes

i. Continuation of a Center/Institute – Center for Educational and Assistive Technology – Southern CT State University

Dr. Trudy Milburn and Bogdan Zamfir presented. Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for the continuation of the Center for Educational and Assistive Technology. The Center was established in 1989 with an aim to address the impact of technology on education. With the pandemic, moving to an online education format was needed which illuminated areas done well and where improvement was needed. To meet student need, they approached technology and pedagogy collaboratively and have worked within varying offices on campus, within the system, and the community. Technology is becoming more complex with the rise of AI, immersive technology, and continuing online education.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom thanked Southern for the impressive proposal and asked for a motion to approve the continuation of the Center. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the continuation was approved unanimously.

e. Student Enrollment and Completion Report

Kaylah Davis read the Student Enrollment and Completion Report resolution (Attachment 1). Video of report reading (1:07:43-1:10:03). Regent Richard Porth supports the report request. Further, he

asked if the report would cover stackable credits and licenses that do not fit into a degree program. It was confirmed that the focus for now will be on credit bearing degrees and certificate programs, however, in the future, stackable credentials and non-degree programs may be included.

Regent James McCarthy added that this is a coalescence of interests throughout the colleges, system office, and Board, as there has been a raised importance on enrollment, retention, and student success. The November meetings of the Board committees, where each institution presented their approach for enrollment was an excellent beginning. A formal resolution for the annual report on enrollment will increase transparency and make reports publicly available. Committee Chair Ira Bloom added that data exists currently in varying places; with a report, it will be concise.

Regent Juanita James stated that the Board has fiduciary responsibilities and added that sustainability and enrollment are critical. With this annual report, it will better help the Board know where resources are needed.

Regent James McCarthy added that in creating the resolution, there was awareness of the line between fiduciary responsibilities of the board and responsibility of faculty, adding that it is not a request to manage daily activity, but to obtain data to maintain fiduciary oversight.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the resolution. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the resolution was approved unanimously.

6. Informational Items - Below Threshold

- a. Child Development Associate (CDA) Training – Certificate – Charter Oak State College – New Program
- b. Business Office Technology: Administrative Support Specialist – Certificate – CT State Community College – Modification
- c. Business Office Technology: Electronic Health Records Specialist – Certificate – CT State Community College – Modification
- d. Business Office Technology: Medical Option – AS – CT State Community College – Modification –
- e. Business Office Technology: Medical Insurance Specialist – AS – CT State Community College – Modification
- f. Business Office Technology: Office Option – AS – CT State Community College – Modification
- g. Music Industry – AS – CT State Community College – Modification – Below Threshold
- h. Paralegal – AS – CT State Community College – Modification

Chair Ira Bloom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:12am.

RESOLUTION

TO

DEVELOP AN ANNUAL REPORT ON STUDENT ENROLLMENT AND PROGRAM COMPLETION

December 14, 2023

- WHEREAS, Student enrollment and the completion of academic programs leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates are among the fundamental purposes of the Colleges and Universities that comprise the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU); and
- WHEREAS, Members of the Board of Regents, along with other CSCU stakeholders, including the Faculty Advisory Committee, have suggested improvements in the timeliness, accuracy, and regular use of a variety of enrollment data provided by the CSCU system; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Regents, in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, requires access to timely, concise, consistent, and readily available annual reports that establish enrollment targets at the start of each academic year and provide comparative data of actual enrollment and credit-bearing program completion rates achieved during each academic year.
- RESOLVED, The CSCU Chancellor, in collaboration with CSCU staff, shall develop an Annual Report on Student Enrollment and Program Completion (“Annual Report”) and shall submit the Annual Report in two parts to the Board of Regents, through its Academic and Student Affairs Committee, as follows: Part one shall include an analysis comparing each CSCU institution's student enrollment projections, made before the beginning of each academic year, with the actual enrollment numbers attained during that year. Part one of the Annual Report shall be submitted to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee annually on or before May 1st, beginning on May 1, 2024. Part two of the Annual Report shall include data on credit-bearing program student completion rates at each CSCU institution for the same academic year and shall be submitted annually to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee on or before September 1st, beginning on September 1, 2024.