

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
July 09, 2021 WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Jackson, Mark, Alternate, Admin Fac SUOAF, CSU

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC

Absent:

Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large, MCC
Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Creech, Paul, Fac, non-voting, CCC
Emanuel, Michael, Fac non-voting, NWCCC
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU

Kaufman, O. Brian, Alternate, QVCC
Kunene, Nikki, Fac, ECSU
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Guests:

Faraclas, William SCSU
Latour, Fred, CCSU

Heleen, Pamela, SO
O'Neill, Patricia, AAUP

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; Stoloff, David, ECSU; Raczewski, MaryBeth, ACC; Richards, Barbara, HCC; Sesanker, Colena, GCC; Shea, Mike, SCSU; Wilder, Linda, COSC]

- Meeting called to order by Chair, Colena Sesanker, at 1:05 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.
- Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve David Blitz; seconded; approved unanimously
- Approval of 06/11/21 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve with addition of Ron Picard being re-elected to represent NVCC on FAC for next year. Fran Coan, seconded; approved unanimously
- Chair/Vice-Chair Reports – single BOR meeting in June since last FAC meeting
 - SAC gave report at the last meeting
 - Were scheduled to have reply to FAC questions to System Office last month in anticipation of a joint BOR/FAC meeting
 - Now being told there is no need to reply in writing to FAC questions
 - Suggested instead that we choose two questions and invite President Cheng to the next FAC meeting to speak about the two questions – and only the two questions.
 - Twice yearly meetings required by joint statute but have not happened; may schedule something in the fall
 - Now intend to hire 174 advisors for Guided Pathways using HEERF money which disappears after 2023, instead of testing process with three colleges as originally planned
 - There are concerns that this is not thought out very well considering the possible fiscal and academic issues that will be encountered
 - BOR using CCRC (Community College Research Center) at Columbia Univ. research to justify this. However, CCRC has noted issues with how it would be rolled out in the CSCU system.

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes**

July 09, 2021 WebEx

- Vaccination mandate for students – Approved at BOR 6/24 meeting: those participating in on-campus activities of any kind are required to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 (medical exemptions only to be reviewed). Further, CSCU President is authorized to create and promulgate mitigation requirements for faculty, staff, vendors, visitors to CSCU institutions. This resolution formulated with input from FAC sub-committee.
 - Now being told by legal affairs that there are problems because the vaccines do not have full approval. So, compromise was to allow non-medical exemptions, but there would be conditions for this approval.
 - Resolution before FAC was to clarify how all exemptions should be reviewed, acknowledged, and approved or not.
 - David Blitz was told earlier today by a senior administrator at CCSU that any and all requests for exemptions would be agreed to based on directive from the System Office. CCSU is in process of revising request for exemption form to remove box that notes reason for exemption request.
 - Based on this how should the current FAC resolution be handled right now? This change negates the vaccine policy as approved by the BOR.
 - Lois Aime was told the same thing by an administrator at NCC on Thursday morning (July 08). All exemptions will be accepted no matter what they are.
 - This makes a mockery of the original resolution regarding student vaccination requirements originally approved by the BOR and therefore makes a mockery of the BOR and the System Office
 - Again, we are seeing a class issue; UCONN will retain its mandate; Yale will retain its mandate; CSCU will not retain its mandate, exposing students, faculty, and staff to infection
 - Motion made by Fran Coan, and seconded, to “receive” resolution as a document of the FAC. It could not be voted on right now because of apparent reversal of System Office on vaccination requirements, but it will be added to the FAC Minutes. Motion withdrawn.
 - Resolution put forward by David Blitz – FAC opposes any policy imposed by the System Office to allow any and all non-medical exemptions and considers this in contradiction to the BOR resolution approved on June 24. Seconded by Lois Aime – approved unanimously
 - Original resolution put forward by David Blitz was “received” but not voted upon. Motion to “receive” made by David Blitz, seconded – approved unanimously
- “Students First” Update
 - Advisors for Guided Pathways to be hired – 174
 - Faculty numbers will be reduced
 - Nothing really new to report
- Shared Services & New Enrollment Policies
 - Issues with IT, HR
 - Admissions (goes to generic number, not to the college)
 - Concerns about NP grades
 - NCC has large ESL population with issues trying to get an initial password since many do not have Social Security Numbers. Can no longer have initial password set at the college. Asked to have ESL staff given ability to set passwords. Took five months to resolve
 - NP policy not clearly defined to students and to faculty so causing problems, especially during summer sessions
 - New Shared Services line for the CSUs

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes**

July 09, 2021 WebEx

- Community college students voicing their frustration with lack of ability to communicate with community college student services people as they try to process transfers from the community colleges to the state universities
- College for All – Higher Ed Labor Summit – July 07 & July 09 – on July 07 about 250 people attended, representing about 30 states, 75 unions represented. Talk about transforming higher education to better support students as there is an attempt to revamp higher education in a corporatization model. This is a national coalition aware of these changes who are willing to work on reversing this trend. These two meetings are vision-setting. There will be future meetings.
- Campus Reopening – Any statement from any college/university about returning in the fall?
 - ECSU is being told everything must be on ground
 - TRCC instruction will be on-campus. Many LRON courses shifted to on-ground
 - GWCC – instructors required to be on-ground for at least one course
 - Good possibility that if option to approve all exemption requests for the vaccine is implemented many faculty and staff, and students, will be hesitant to return to campus
- Motion to adjourn – Fran Coan; seconded and approved; meeting adjourned at 2:52 pm

Next Meetings:

August 20, 2021

September 10, 2021

Submitted by,
Lois Aimé