

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
August 20, 2021 WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Emanuel, Michael, Fac non-voting, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU
Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC

Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Yamouyiannis, Carmen, Fac, non-voting CCC

Absent:

Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large, MCC
Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting, WCSU

Jackson, Mark, Alternate, Admin Fac SUOAF, CSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, Alternate, QVCC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF, CSU

Guests:

Cheng, Terrence, CSCU Pres.
Faraclas, William, SCSU
Freeman, Seth, CCC, 4Cs Pres.
Heleen, Pamela, SO
Johnson, Kate, COSC

Latour, Fred, CCSU
Majeski, Melanie, NVCC
Simoni, Angelo, SO
Tolbert-Bynum Rivers, Pamela, NVCC

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

- Meeting called to order by Chair, Colena Sesanker, at 1:07 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.
- Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve: David Blitz; seconded; approved unanimously
- Approval of 07/09/21 Meeting Minutes – Motion to approve: Fran Coan, seconded; approved unanimously
- Dialogue with CSCU President Terrence Cheng
 - Introduction of FAC members and guests
 - Pres. Cheng introduced himself and gave updates on 1) COVID policy 2) the fact that there is still PACT money 3) SO sending checks to students 4) enrollment is a problem
 - Comments on enrollment:
 - FAC members – mismanagement of funds and lack of adequate state funding is partial cause of low enrollment and retention issues; dollars not being spent to properly support students
 - FAC – Reduction in birth rates contributing to enrollment decline
 - FAC – students need to take 12 credits to be eligible for PACT and many start w/PACT but cannot sustain the ability to take 12 credits each semester so they drop out
 - Need support counselors to support students in crisis
 - FAC – need to go back to allowing colleges to make decisions locally to help improve enrollment

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- FAC – (3) faculty concerned about SO money re promotions, professional development, sabbatical; CEOs are not allowed to make decisions; elimination of dept. chairs
- FAC – (2) COVID question – lack of coherent policy, especially at the community colleges
- FAC – (4) ACME policy – problematic – elimination of developmental education; put students in as many credits as possible; faculty recommendations ignored
- FAC – CSCC catalog requires FYE class for all students. This is problematic
- FAC – governance structure – everything being built without any governance structure in place
- FAC – does not really act as advisory committee to BOR even though it was created to do so
- FAC – (1) honest thoughts about what could make things better – need to say there is terribly dysfunctional relationship between faculty and SO/BOR; need to heal this relationship
- Responses – 1) agree need to bridge the distrust 2) COVID – we’re doing the best we can – you can believe me or not 3) can’t respond as part of union negotiations 4) ACME multi-layered; multi-pronged; can talk about it; our data is showing our student outcomes are not good
- Some people are somewhat optimistic about how Pres. Cheng will work with faculty/staff and his answers or lack thereof to the questions asked today; others were deeply cynical and not impressed with his comments
- Report of Chair:
 - CCIC meeting was cancelled
 - No joint meeting with the BOR scheduled yet
- Report of Vice-Chair
 - Need to repair & rebuild faculty/staff and SO/BOR relationship
 - Define shared governance and how it should look and function
- Campus Return
 - Colleges – no requirement of proof of vaccination for students
 - Universities – collecting proof of vaccinations for students through Medicat for three universities and an email address for one university
 - No change of mode of delivery of classes will be permitted at all colleges/universities
 - System Office is telling us that we have a vaccination mandate so our distancing guidelines can be reduced to three feet, when in fact, we have no vaccination mandate
 - FAC Resolution on COVID and re-opening:
 - In the context of return to on-ground classes, campus repopulation, and public health concerns for the community
 - We call for faculty and non-teaching faculty/staff to be invited to advise on the most effective mode of delivery for their courses and their services in the context of the evolving covid pandemic.
 - We call for the widest possible use of online capacities for supplementary activities such as class group work, office hours, professional development, and other campus meetings.
 - We call for the widest possible use of telework opportunities for non-teaching faculty/staff
 - Motion to approve: David Blitz; seconded – approved unanimously
 - There will be a more detailed resolution with a number of WHEREAS statements, formatted by Mike Shea and Bill Faraclas, that will be distributed to governance leaders at colleges and universities as a petition to be distributed to all faculty and staff for signature.

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- Ready to go with FAC elections by the end of September
- Motion to adjourn – David Stoloff

**Next Meeting:
September 10, 2021**
submitted by,
Lois Aimé

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