

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
December 10, 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
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Jackson, Mark, Fac, Alternate, CCSU

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Stoloff, David, Fac, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Yiamouyiannis, Carmen, Fac, non-voting CCC

Absent:

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

Kaufman, O. Brian, Alternate, QVCC
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF,
CSU

Guests:

Dunne, Matthew
Fisher, Michael
Goh, Bryan
Heleen, Pamela

Marcelynas, Steve
Weiss, Deborah
Anthony & Gerry

[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 Sesanker, at 1:05 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.
 - Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve – Sean Grace, seconded; approved unanimously as amended with addition of discussion of 2022 FAC Conference and COVID re spring semester
 - Approval of Draft Minutes of 11/12//21 – Minutes not completed – Deferred to January meeting
- Safe Course Taskforce – Steve Marcelynas
 - Idea is to address students who are not planning to graduate from a CCC before transferring to a CSU
 - Compare proposed Gen Ed and look at how courses will transfer to CSUs
 - Formalize process that will look at outcomes to outcomes at CCCs and CSUs rather than course to course equivalents
 - Reasoning is to simplify transfer process for students and advisors
 - Will help to alleviate work that goes on behind the scenes to determine course evaluations between CCCs and CSUs
 - Some confusion – It was noted that this has already been done at some levels and it would seem we would be encouraging students to not complete an Associate’s degree
 - Suggestion that if this would be of limited need because much was already done, that would be fine

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- Might want to change name because “safe course” implies there are courses that are “not safe” and many faculty would be wary of how this might unfold
- Can this be tracked and kept up to date because historically that has not been done
- Trying to determine how best to populate this committee
- Report of Vice-Chair
 - Special BOR November meeting – 2 outside consultants presented on how different ways different states organize public higher education. It is clear there are ways of coordinating public higher ed. other than mergers and consolidations. There is a system of systems approach – can maintain autonomy of colleges while cooperating and coordinating with each other.
 - BOR Finance Committee meeting – brought up new funding system for CSUs – CCSU loses \$1.35M, SCSU loses \$3.08M, WCSU gains \$3.91M, ECSU remains the same and SO loses a little money. David Blitz will report back when he learns more. This was approved based on a 2-page report, with no questions asked except for David Blitz’s comments.
- Report of Chair
 - BOR ASA Committee –
 - Brief KPI report – unsure how KPIs being used relate to our goals for our students
 - 24 programs/certificates approved with no comments/questions
 - CCIC Meeting –
 - Approval of same programs/certificates on Consent Agenda with no comments/questions before going to BOR ASA Committee
 - Meeting lasted about 10 minutes
 - GWCC, NVCC, NCC, and other colleges are concerned and not approving any of these proposals as there is little to no time to review any of these programs/certificates – heard - more from 3 of the 4 largest colleges in the system; TXCC spoke of similar concerns about this.
 - There are 40 or so people who worked on the 24 programs/certificates (less than 2 per program/certificate)
 - Access in name only to all of these programs/certificates since a number will only be offered at 1 or 2 colleges/campuses
 - Nexus Degree – will now be available in the CSCU system – more experience focused
 - New community college caucus in the CT legislature. It met on Monday, 12/06 for the first time. There are about 45 members as of now. Colena, Fran, Lois, Ron, Jen, and others testified at the meeting
 - Scholars for a New Deal – labor summit last summer formed Higher Education Labor United. Needs to be more federal level involvement in public higher education. Many of us appear to be in a race to the bottom in the public higher education sector.
- PACT –
 - Encouraging students to register as full-time students to get PACT students. Many students cannot complete full-time work. They end up either withdrawing after census and having to pay back the money. Not enough real information being distributed about PACT and how it works and some misinformation as well. It appears to be a well-kept secret that the BOR/SO are unwilling to share.
- FAC Elections –
 - Will do elections electronically
 - Will attempt to get this completed as soon as possible
- CSCU Online Learning Council –

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- Aims to bring online learning in alignment in system
- Membership looked slanted toward administration
- Call did go out for people to apply to serve on committee
- Committee Chairs are two faculty – CCC and CSU
 - Not true – Adrienne Dunham is co-chair for CCCs and is not faculty. She works for CSCC as something or other
- We should keep an eye on how this committee proceeds. What are short and long-term goals of this committee?
- FAC Conference –
 - Not made much headway yet
 - Will reach out to people regarding conference
 - Preferred topics – alternatives to consolidation might be one
- COVID
 - FAC participation in COVID policy is not invited by SO/BOR
 - CCSU passed a resolution on how to proceed ahead with COVID policies for the spring 2022 semester which includes
 - An educational campaign
 - Information and data on vaccination and testing and positivity rate at each institution
 - Medical exemptions should be allowed
 - Non-medical exemptions should include statement of reason for exemption
 - A committee should be established to review exemption requests
 - Religious exemptions allowed for religions that actually have issues with medical procedures for any reason
 - Sanctions, short of expulsion, should be put in place for students who do not comply
 - Continue mask mandate, continue contact tracing, continue social distancing, continued improvement in ventilation in buildings, etc.
 - Motion to create a sub-committee of the FAC to write a COVID recommendation for the CCCs – David Blitz; seconded; approved unanimously
- Discussion of our 2-year term –
 - Have a real struggle ahead on how to facilitate our role as an advisory committee to the BOR since we have had some real problems with this over the past years
 - Thank you to Barbara Richards for all she has done; she is retiring, but will remain on FAC as emeritus member
- Old/New Business –
 - CCS101 has been vetted for CILL and meets Diversity course objectives (whatever that is)
 - Guided Pathways advisors being hired with HEERF funds which can only be used for the next two years. We are told by Alison Buckley & other SO/BOR members that our enrollment will increase so much that these advisors will pay for themselves
 - As an FYI – Colena, along with others, is under investigation for misconduct for participating in a rally at MXCC when Cardona, Lamont, and some legislators were there.
- Anthony moved to adjourn at 3:57 pm.

Next Meeting: January (something), 2022

submitted by,
Lois Aimé