

SPECIAL Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
January 10, 2021 WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Dunne, Matthew, Fac, HCC
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting,
WCSU
Jackson, Mark, Fac, Alternate, CCSU
Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC

Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
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
Emanuel, Michael, Fac non-voting, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU

Goh, Bryan, Fac, MXCC
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Kaufman, O. Brian, Alternate, QVCC
Stoloff, David, Fac, ECSU
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF,
CSU

Guests:

Latour, Fred

Weiss, Deborah

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; Stoloff, David, ECSU; Rajczewski, MaryBeth, ACC; 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 – R. Gustafson; seconded; approved unanimously
 - Motion to approve COVID resolution (see attached) – R. Gustafson; seconded
 - This resolution a continuation of resolution passed by FAC, May 2021
 - Based on resolutions passed by CCSU and SCSU
 - Since previous resolution Pfizer vaccine has gotten final approval and Moderna in process of same
 - Emphasis on education of students and the use of faculty and staff who are knowledgeable in areas pertinent to the ramifications of COVID in all areas, including medical, biological, public health issues, etc.
 - CSCU system got over \$350M from American Recovery Act and HEERF – there is money to implement everything that needs to be done to ensure well-being of all students, faculty, and staff during this pandemic
 - Discussion –
 - R Picard – NVCC biology faculty and maintenance people sent letter to NVCC senate in opposition to vaccine mandate; probably shouldn't mandate vaccine if it does not reduce odds of transmission
 - C Yiamouyiannis – Vaccine doesn't reduce likelihood of transmission so should not be mandated; if you had COVID you have natural immunity
 - L Wilder – Too soon to understand if vaccinations help reduce transmission or magnitude of illness

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- R Gustafson – We have Omicron because not enough people vaccinated; we are in an educational setting. People being out for a couple of days vs. much longer because not vaccinated is important issue; comfortable mandating vaccines
- D Blitz – Vaccine mandate already in place for students; have moral obligation to protect our students’ health; going to hospital and more serious illness is fact for unvaccinated individuals; don’t know what end of Omicron will be and what will occur next
- F Coan – Not a mandate, we have a “protocol.” Most vulnerable are those not vaccinated; Torn about what we should be doing
- M Jackson – Percentages of people with Omicron with serious infections are less if vaccinated; Everyone who gets infected becomes a “mutation” factory
- J Long – Omicron might be more transmissible and less serious but we don’t know what will come next; How SO treating faculty/staff and not allowing choices along with poor communication are both concerns
- D Weiss – Resolution from SCSU would have been stronger if written today because of the great increase in positivity; supports FAC resolution but questions why waiting until spring break to require booster shots
- Comment made about the fact that animals, such as deer, have COVID. Noted that 80% of deer in Michigan have COVID and can serve as reservoir for transmission. However, the research is very limited on this, and what is there is not peer reviewed. There will be comprehensive research done to understand transmission from other animals to humans. Right now, much is unknown.
 - Vote to approve resolution: Yes – unanimous
- Meeting adjourned – 1:44 pm

Next Regular Meeting: January 21, 2022

submitted by,
Lois Aimé