

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
February 04, 2022 WebEx

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, alternate, QVCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Coan, Francis, Fac, alternate, TXCC
Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU
Dunne, Matthew, Fac, HCC
Emanuel, Michael, Fac, alternate, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Fisher, Mikey, alternate, SCSU
Goh, Bryan, Fac, alternate, MXCC
Jackson, Mark, Fac, Alternate, CCSU

Long, Jennifer, Fac, alternate, TRCC
Perfetto, Linda, Admin Fac, alternate, COSC
Picard, Ron, Fac, alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Yiamouyiannis, Carmen, Fac, alternate, CCC

Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting,
WCSU

Absent:

Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, CSU alternate

Ayalon, A.
Barrett, Dan
Colacicco, Stephanie

Guests:

Heleen, Pamela
Japely, Chris

- Meeting called to order by Chair Sesanker, at 1:04 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.
 - Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve – Fran Coan, seconded, with modification to add ACME questions to agenda – approved unanimously
 - Approval of January 10 minutes – delete Brian Kaufman as being absent – Motion to approve with correction – Fran Coan, seconded – approved unanimously
 - Approval of January 21 minutes – Motion to approve with deletion of Brian Kaufman as being absent – approved unanimously
- Report of Chair/Vice-Chair –
 - Annual report to legislature – part of legislative requirement that FAC report annually to legislature. Report put forward for review and comments – motion to approve report – Fran Coan, seconded – Comments – 1) use “federation” when discussing CSCU merger vs. community college merger. 2) need to add something regarding morale crisis in our system. Relationship between FAC and BOR is very strained with little communication, though FAC chairs have tried to improve situation.
 - It is a very low bar when the meeting with the FAC and BOR in November, 2021 is seen as an improvement in FAC – BOR relations.
 - Vote to accept report to be forwarded to appropriate legislative committees with copies to the BOR Chair, the CSCU president, the governor, and NECHE. Approved unanimously with 3 abstentions
 - ASA meeting this morning –
 - Discussion on COVID policy – implementation is okay, however education component has not been implemented with any depth. Non-medical exemptions are still contentious. System will not limit non-medical exemptions even though requested by FAC. Question as to why Medicaid is used at the CSUs and not used at the CCCs? Did not receive satisfactory response to that question. Conversation circled around things like unions agreeing to providing

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vaccination proof, which was never really a union issue. Seemed to be a somewhat uncertain conversation that kept circling around the main issues instead of addressing them.

- Lots of courses and programs went through ASA agenda today – obviously not getting the level of review that should be happening. The consolidated college does not have a shared governance structure at present. This was a bit controversial at the ASA meeting today because there was a belief that all these committees, with appointed and self-appointed members, were representing faculty, when these people had never been elected by them.
- Re-opening updates –
 - Capital CC – only about 35% of classes are on-ground; most labs still online
 - Northwestern CC – 60% online; SO wants NWCCC to reverse that number
 - Asnuntuck CC – many on-campus classes did not run due lack of registration; as of March everyone needs to be on campus for meetings, etc. low morale – everything micromanaged; admin wants to go back to “business as usual” which is an issue right now; admin unwilling to adapt regulations to address immediate issues
 - Gateway CC had same experience with online vs. on-ground registration; savings is through attrition as people not being replaced as they leave; staff in shared services concerned about their jobs
 - Naugatuck Valley CC no longer allowing those who have been vaccinated to be tested at the college; student services reduced to a shell of itself – a major reason for low enrollment
 - Three Rivers CC – morale really low; people retiring, citing reasons like consolidation, union issues. There is lack of support for technology use in online learning; online classes filling quickly
 - Southern CSU – some concern about common curriculum at CCCs that would have to be accepted by the CSUs
 - Quinebaug Valley CC – seeing same issues as other CCCs; online not best environment for CCC students and we are being pushed to do more online learning while reducing support for traditional learning
 - Housatonic CC – encouraged to teach at least two classes on-ground in spring and one class on-ground for the fall; challenge for faculty/staff with new job protocol to police COVID policies; lot of anxiety re consolidation – new structure eliminating chairs, etc.
- Nominations for CC Chair and CSU Chair
 - Colena and David nominated by MB Rajczewski; seconded – motion to close nominations – Fran Coan, seconded; Nominations approved unanimously
 - Nominate Secretary – Lois Aime – nominated by Colena Sesanker; seconded. Mike Shea moved to close nominations, seconded. Nomination approved unanimously
- Meeting date changes for March and April –
 - New dates March 4 and April 1 – motion made – Mike Shea; seconded. Approved unanimously
- Shared Governance award – request for committee members
 - This award originated from FAC
 - An opportunity for meaningful dialogue with BOR
 - Makeup – two members of FAC and two members of the BOR
 - Mike Shea and Fran Coan agreed to serve on this committee
- ACME Questions

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- Forwarded to FAC because people have been trying to get answers to these questions and thought FAC might be able to get answers
 - Very good questions that probably no one has thought about so therefore could not respond to
 - Should be sent to NECHE as Public Comment, legislative Higher Ed Committee, governance chairs, Pres. Cheng, and as informational to ASA Committee - motion to do so – David Blitz, seconded; approved unanimously with 2 abstentions
- Funding –
 - Expecting information from Ben Barnes about what the asks from the legislature might be. We’ve been asking for minimum “bail-out” number to keep us going, nothing beyond that.
 - We should consider working on recommendations about what we would need to not only continue to exist, but to work on projects to improve teaching and learning.
 - The dismal record of CT’s support of higher education in general was the subject of a 1/28/22 [CT Mirror Op-Ed](#) by Dr. John Petillo, President of Sacred Heart University.
 - We will return to this issue at next month’s meeting
- NVCC CEAC Resolution –
 - Motion to have FAC approve NVCC resolution on the lack of time given to review and approve programs. Motion – The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents supports the critical feedback that Naugatuck Valley Community College’s Curriculum and Educational Affairs Committee (CEAC) has provided to the following systemwide bodies leading consolidation of college curricula: the Academic Program Review Committee and the Students First Academic and Student Affairs Consolidation Committee. FAC attests to the accuracy of CEAC’s concerns throughout the community college system and calls on those leading consolidation efforts to reform the process to ensure faculty-led development of rigorous and appropriate curricula. We also ask NECHE to review these concerns as public commentary and to respond to the deficiencies in shared governance and curricular development represented in these documents. Moved by David Blitz; seconded – approved unanimously with 1 abstention
- FAC Conference –
 - How to move forward? Hard to do anything at this late date for the spring with no planning completed.
 - There are templates for a number of items and there will be an overlap of previous members and new members. There is no single document that outlines processes and procedures for planning the conference.
 - Anyone interested in being part of a committee to brainstorm planning the conference for the fall of 2022 – volunteers: MaryBeth Rajcewski, Dyan Robinson, Carmen Yiamouyiannis
- Bylaws revision of 2022 –
 - It appears that we do not have a complete set of Bylaws that accurately reflect the election process, specifically for COSC. Not sure we have a final, corrected, complete version.
 - In addition, there are some questions about the election process, in particular at the community colleges
 - Will return to this at the next meeting – Mike Shea, Linda Wilder, Lois Aime will meet.

Meeting adjourned – 4:13 pm,

Next Meeting: March 4, 2022, submitted by, FAC Secretary, Lois Aimé