

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
May 12, 2023**

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, alternate, QVCC
Blaszczynski, Andre, Fac, alternate, TXCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Vice-Chair, CCSU
Dunne, Matthew, Fac, HCC
Emanuel, Michael, Fac, alternate, NWCCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Goh, Bryan, Fac, alternate, MXCC
Long, Jennifer, Fac, alternate, TRCC
Muldoon, Linsey, Fac, alternate, MCC

Picard, Ronald, Fac, alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, Chair, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU
Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, alternate, CSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Yiamouyiannis, Carmen, Fac, alternate, CCC

Absent:

Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU
Fisher, Mikey, Fac, alternate, SCSU
Jackson, Mark, Fac, alternate, CCSU

Perfetto, Linda, Admin Fac, alternate, COSC
Lumbantobing, Rotua, Fac, alternate, WCSU
Whittemore, Rob, Fac, WCSU

Guests:

Barrett, Gayle, AVP, Enrollment & Retention Svcs.
Coley, Thomas, Exec. VP Strategic Partnerships &
Exec. Performance
Davis, Tamika, Interim VP Enrollment Mgmt.
Feest, Amy, AVP Programs & Curriculum
Gomez, Manuel, AVP Academic Operations

Heleen, Pamela, Assoc. Director, Board Affairs
LaPierre Dreger, Miah, Interim Provost & VP Acad.
Affairs
Maduko, John, President, CSCC
Stefanowicz, Michael, Interim AVP Academic/Higher
Ed Transitions

- Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm by Chair Sesanker. Meeting is being recorded as required.
 - Approval of 4/14/23 FAC minutes – Motion to approve – David Blitz; seconded – approved unanimously
 - Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve – Lois Aime; seconded – approved unanimously
- Chair Sesanker noted that FAC members gathered issues and questions to be addressed to Pres. Maduko and other guests during this meeting. Guests introduced themselves. **FAC = Faculty Advisory Cttee. and NB = New Britain administration**
 - Pres. Maduko advised he would have to leave between 1:20-1:30 pm to attend a meeting at NCC. However, the other guests would stay a bit longer. This had not been relayed to any member of the FAC ahead of time, even though some of us had questioned how he could do these three things when we put all this together the night beforebe at ACC at 12:30 pm, be at NCC at 3:00 pm and attend the FAC meeting for any length of time starting at 1:00 pm.
 - **FAC Question:** When will CSCC OPEID number be approved and what is status of students' financial until then? **NB Response:** "We are in communication with DOE and NECHE" Beyond that there was no real answer to that question.
 - **FAC Question:** Our current budget crisis and political climate don't indicate the college will have much external support. Gov. Lamont noted he believed the mission of community college was all about night classes and certificate programs that students could quickly earn while working. Is that your vision as well? What is missing, if anything, in this understanding? How do you launch a college while you are being starved into reductions by the primary funding source? If budget remains as is how do you represent to NECHE that you are in compliance with their Standard 7? **NB Response:** Majority of students looking for two-year degrees; yes, there is space

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for short-term credentials; regarding concerns about budget, we have already done a lot, we need to prioritize what is important; in terms of compliance with NECHE standards, we need to continue to make the case that we all have concerns in the CSCU system and we should not be penalized for outside decisions. **FAC Comments:** 1) Our enrollment may be down due to some of the issues that the consolidation has created with students, including program revisions, registration issues, schedules that are difficult to interpret, inability to get questions answered, etc. 2) There is a lack of communication on what is occurring that is making faculty and staff play catch-up with what is happening and how it is affecting what they do and how they react. **NB Response:** Yes, better communication would be a good thing.

- **FAC Question:** Was DegreeWorks tested before it became available to students? What about the schedule and Banner? **NB Response:** We've been working on this for several years and did testing prior to launch. So, it's not our fault that there are so many issues with all of these. We repeatedly asked campuses to review the information but we didn't get the responses we needed. It's a real challenge to get information to faculty. It's all very complicated and messy, and we are a very small team doing all this work for a very large constituency.
- **FAC Question:** What percent of program information in your office would you estimate is accurate? **NB Response:** 100% of information we got has been programmed. Each campus has different requirements for programs so can't rely on an individual PC from one campus to give us info that would cover all campus scenarios, and we haven't gotten all info from all areas. So, it's hard to know how much is accurate. Information is correct based on info we received. It's not our fault if it's not really correct. It's up to the PCs to make sure the information we have is accurate.
- **FAC Question:** Who is ultimately responsible for the accuracy of these programs and how would we contact them? **NB Response:** No response
- **NB Comment regarding Course Substitutions:** We are doing what we can to show course substitutions correctly in DegreeWorks but we need information from faculty, so it's not our fault. You can go to ctstate.edu/curriculum/resources for information on how to do this.
- **FAC Comment:** Students are seeing a big drop in their completion percentage when they use the new DegreeWorks. This obviously adds to their anxiety about the consolidation.
- **FAC Question:** A number of students are registered at multiple campuses. Calls were being made to verify this is what those students wanted. Can we have a report on this? **NB Response:** We are attempting to contact those students, particularly if they are registered for on-ground courses at multiple campuses. Tuition would go to CT State, no matter where student is registered.
- **FAC Question:** How many GPAs were hired and how many remain? And how will they be paid going forward? **NB Response:** Finance would need to respond to this. No one at this meeting can answer these questions. **FAC Comment:** Others should be able to respond to this because the funding was related to enrollment projections, etc. that noted, among other things, they would pay for themselves based on increased enrollment. We are also not disparaging these advisors, however, we do question how much training these people have had to advise students accurately.
- **FAC Question:** Quite a volume of curriculum and policy changes to be completed by July 1. How many will or will not be completed by that time. **NB Response:** Thrilled by how well shared governance is working. Curriculum issues to be handled in real time as needed. Policies have

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been aligned. Real critical items have moved forward. Working without By-Laws but they are being developed somewhere.

- **NB Comment re enrollment:** Our enrollment is pretty much equal to what it was last year at this time. 79% registered online, but then someone else stated 71% registered online.
- **Q&A ended.** Consensus was that no questions were answered in any way that shed new light on anything. They refused to take responsibility for anything, instead blaming those who had left, and/or faculty and staff for not giving them information, and whoever else they could think of, to lay blame anywhere but with themselves. And, they continued to defend and applaud what has been created even when confronted with evidence to the contrary. There is not one thing that can be pointed to that is equal to what the individual colleges had fashioned to work for themselves and their students, much less anything that might be considered an improvement.
- Chair Report –
 - Click on this link to view new, updated, program forms that were revised based on the FAC resolution and comments on review of academic programs and shared governance processes.
<https://www.ct.edu/academics/approval>
- Vice-Chair Report –
 - BOR Finance Committee –
 - Projected deficit FY24 is \$109.3M and for FY25 it is \$225.9M
 - Will lead to 650+ full-time faculty and staff layoffs; nearly 3,000 part-time positions eliminated; 5% tuition increase per year at CC for next two years and 5% tuition increase at CSUs for AY 24-25; elimination of high-subsidy programs
 - In other words, if CSCU doesn't get money the short fall will be resolved on the backs of students, faculty, and staff
 - What proportion of the deficit is due to CCCs, CSUs, COSC? Out of \$108M, 88% is due to CT State.
 - Current reserves are \$321M. Whether this money can be used to offset the deficit is an open question.
 - We do not know how the forecasted deficit numbers were developed.
 - We are where most of us expected to be at this moment. The community colleges have been destroyed and the universities have been neglected. And we are dragging our students, the large percentage of whom are black and brown students, into a condemned building. An old and familiar story.
- Resolution on Emeritus Status for Francis Coan, Tunxis CC
 - Resolution to recommend emeritus status for Francis Coan. Motion to approve – Andre Blaszczyński, seconded – approved unanimously
- Joint Meeting with BOR on June 16
 - Scheduled for 10 am but could be changed to 1 pm. Pam Heleen will check on that.
 - Topics – legislative session and budget post-mortem

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm

Next Meeting: June 16, 2023, either at 10am or 1pm - TBD

Submitted by FAC Secretary, Lois Aimé

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FAC Resolution in Support of Emeritus Status for Fran Coan

Whereas Fran Coan is a long time faculty member recently retired from Tunxis Community College with over 3 decades of service, and since 2004 as a full-time professor;

Whereas Fran Coan has served in multiple leadership roles at Tunxis Community College, including Department Chair, Chair of Academic Affairs, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, Chair of the Ability Assessment Team, Chair of the Governance Review Group, Chair of the Tunxis Task Force, Co-chair of the NEASC/NECHE Organization and Governance Standard Subcommittee, and PSO President, in addition to membership in numerous other committees;

Whereas 42 colleagues at Tunxis Community College have recommended Fran Coan for emeritus status in a multi-page letter arguing for his significant contributions to the College, its students, faculty and staff;

Whereas Fran Coan has ably and energetically represented Tunxis Community College to the state-wide Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, where his work has been recognized as outstanding;

Whereas Fran Coan has legitimately exercised his academic freedom to criticize projects he judged failed to meet academic standards and cannot be discriminated against for his exercise of academic freedom;

Be it Resolved that the Faculty Advisory Committee, representing faculty and staff in public higher education at both the college and university levels, joins in recommending Fran Coan for emeritus status from the community college for which he worked and contributed so ably and significantly.