

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT**  
**Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education**  
**Minutes**  
**December 08, 2023**

**Present**

Aimé, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC  
Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, alternate, QVCC  
Blaszczynski, Andre, Fac, alternate, TXCC  
Blitz, David, Fac, Vice-Chair, CCSU  
Bonjo, Laurie, Admin Fac, alternate, SCSU  
Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU  
Emanuel, Michael, Fac, alternate, NWCCC  
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC  
Goh, Bryan, Fac, alternate, MXCC  
Jackson, Mark, Fac, alternate, CCSU  
James, Cynthia, Admin Fac, COSC

Keaney, Matthew, Fac, HCC, new as of 2024  
Long, Jennifer, Fac, alternate, TRCC  
Lumbantobing, Rotua, Fac, alternate, WCSU  
Muldoon, Linsey, Fac, alternate, MCC  
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC  
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, Chair, GWCC  
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU  
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU  
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC  
Yiamouyiannis, Carmen, Fac, alternate CCC

**Absent:**

Dunne, Matthew, Fac, HCC  
Palkie, Brooke, Admin Fac, COSC  
Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU

Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, alternate, CSU  
Whittemore, Rob, Fac, WCSU

Meeting called to order at 1:03 pm by Chair Sesanker. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Approval of FAC minutes for 11-17-23 deferred to 01-26-24 meeting
- Approval of Agenda – Motion by David Blitz; seconded – approved unanimously
- Chair Report –
  - BOR ASA meeting – new college of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at CCSU approved
  - CPoS continues to be a point of concern for the community colleges – now seeing that students who transfer in credits, even if they did not use financial aid for those courses, are being informed that those courses will count toward future financial aid they receive; not sure why this is happening at this point or if, or how, it will be resolved
- Vice-Chair Report –
  - BOR Finance Committee meeting – Resolution to increase tuition at both community college and state universities by 5% for FY25 approved
    - The 5% amount was stated in the Staff Report for the Resolution, but not in the Resolution itself. However, the resolution references the 5% increase in the Staff Report. In addition, the resolution states that this amount can be adjusted by the Chancellor with review (whatever that means) by the BOR
    - This was presented as part of the mitigation plan for the CSCU system
      - CT State makes up the vast majority of the deficit and WCSU makes up most of the rest of the deficit for the CSCU system – explanation not needed
      - In addition, the numbers have not been revised to show that, in particular, ECSU and CCSU are in better financial shape than the numbers that continue to be presented in BOR/SO documentation reflect
- FAC Resolution on Tuition/Fee Increases – (see amended FAC Resolution below)
  - After amendments were made, Andre Blaszczynski made a motion to accept resolution as amended; seconded – approved unanimously with one abstention
  - Will send to BOR members, SAC members and ask everyone to send to their colleges and students
- Refugee Policy Update – won't be able to get an update on this until next meeting

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- Cultural Programing Update – Jonathan Andersen, QVCC
  - Had \$11,500 budget that was cut to \$1,000 over the summer without anyone being informed about this
  - Believe there will be a meeting soon with John Paul Chaisson-Cardenas, VP Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion on this. We need to continue to be able to do this locally.
  - Effects quality of life of our students and losing these budgets results in little savings
  - This issue is reflection of everything else that is going on with consolidation – planning process, respect for local autonomy, etc.
  - Jon sent email to members of FAC regarding this issue looking for information prior to the above meeting, and got a response from the VP Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, who was not copied on that email. This is problematic.
- Items to Include in Annual Report to Legislature/BOR
  - For community colleges, net effect of the consolidation and the debt load – including CPos and lack of teach-out, along with many other issues
  - FY25 tuition increase
  - Has CSCU merger been successful
  - Faculty control over curriculum, including mode of teaching
  - ECSU and Bisk concerns along with presidential search concerns
  - CSCU 2030 commentary
- In early December CEOs/Presidents of CCs were told to send letter to NECHE relinquishing independent accreditations
- Elections – need to have elections by the beginning of the semester
- Meeting Dates for 2024 –
  - 1/26, 2/09, 3/08, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14, 7/19, 8/16, 9/12, 10/11, 11/15. 12/13
  - Motion to approve: Andre Blaszczyński, seconded – approved unanimously
- Audit report on ECSU FY21/22 – Brendan Cunningham
  - Don't have adequate resources to follow rules on adequate resources
  - Will the next president fix this?
  - Search for next president of ECSU is problematic, secretive – there will be no visits to the college by applicants

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 pm

**Next Regular Meeting: January 26, 2024**

Submitted by FAC Secretary, Lois D. Aimé

## FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON CSCU TUITION/FEE INCREASES FOR FY25

Whereas in 2017 the Board of Regents implemented a plan known as “Students First” to both decrease costs and improve services to students;

Whereas in 2023 after consolidating the 12 community colleges into one institution and failing, for years, to supervise that all institutional budgets were balanced, the Board now reports a deficit of over \$125 million for the community college and nearly \$30 million for one of the universities, WCSU;

Whereas the community college has cut a total 777 course sections, thereby reducing educational opportunities rather than increasing them, and necessitating decreased enrollment;

Whereas further problems for community college students have resulted from the lack of teach-out from previous college programs to the new “aligned” ones and from policies inadequate to the task of the transition have only exacerbated difficulties;

Whereas essential services to the community college students have been reduced by the elimination of hundreds of Educational Assistants and other contingent workers who constitute the majority of the well-trained student-facing supplemental workforce at the community colleges, including tutors, library staff, educational tech support and others, with the inevitable result of reduced student retention and loss of institutional memory;

Whereas the System Office and the Board failed to secure sufficient state assistance for FY 25 by proposing an inflated CSCU 2030 plan, which was countered by an inadequate offer by the Office of Policy and Management, as incorporated in the Governor’s Budget and approved, with improvement only for FY24, by the legislature;

Whereas the Board approved a 3% fee and tuition increase for community college students and a 5% tuition/fee increase for university students for FY24, and now is proposing a further 5% increase for FY25, despite the likelihood that this will further reduce enrollment and retention rates, which the office of policy and management uses as an (inappropriate) gauge of our funding requirements;

Whereas this increase applies to both community college and university students, in an attempt to remediate, in part, the system-wide debt incurred by a failed policy of Students First and the concomitant failure to supervise all member institutions in CSCU for balanced budgets;

Whereas this effort to remediate through increased tuition is simultaneous with remediation through significant cuts to institutions, requiring students to pay more for far less, and to do so amid the disruption caused by the launch of the new community college;

Whereas no member of the administration, Board of Regents, or government agency has been held to account for the failure while, through tuition increases and hollowed out institutions, students are being asked to bear its consequences;

Whereas the disproportionate impact of this mismanagement and state underfunding on community colleges represents a significant failure of the Board of Regents in its responsibilities to public higher education and the state and

Whereas that impact has the exact opposite effect of the advertised benefits of the Board initiative that is Students First to benefit economically disadvantaged and students of color —a negative impact which satisfies the definitions of both institutionalized racism and structural injustice;

Be it resolved

That the FAC considers that Students First has failed to achieve its twin advertised goals of reducing costs to the state while improving educational opportunities and services to the students and has contributed to a financially perilous situation for the CSCU System as a whole;

That the FAC rejects the average tuition increase of 5% approved by the BOR Finance and Infrastructure Committee on Dec 6, 2023 as detrimental to the goals of recruiting and retaining students at reasonable cost to them;

That the FAC communicates this resolution to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee of the Board of Regents, CSCU leadership, to the next meeting of the Board, to faculty, and to students in the CSCU system