

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT  
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Minutes  
April 19, 2024**

**Present**

Aimé, Lois, Admin Fac, NCC  
Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, QVCC  
Blaszczynski, André, Fac, TXCC  
Blitz, David, Fac, Emeritus, CCSU  
Carter, Catherine, Admin Fac, MCC  
Chadic, James, Fac, ACC  
Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU  
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC  
Jackson, Mark, Fac, CCSU

Jagtiani, John, Fac, NWCCC  
Keiser, Brian, Admin Fac, TRCC  
Long, Jennifer, Fac, TRCC  
Nolan, Michael, Fac, WCSU  
Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU  
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC  
Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, alternate, CSU  
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC  
Zorn, Sarah, Fac, CCC

**Absent:**

Bonjo, Laurie, Admin Fac, alternate, SCSU  
Collins, Mary, Fac, alternate, CCSU  
Goh, Bryan, Fac, MXCC  
Jackson, Mark, Fac, CCSU  
James, Cynthia, Admin Fac, COSC

Keaney, Matthew, Fac, HCC  
Palkie, Brooke, Admin Fac, alternate, COSC  
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU  
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU

Meeting called to order at 1:05 pm by B. Cunningham. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Approval of Agenda & 3/08/24 Minutes – Motion by M. Jackson; seconded – approved unanimously with attendance adjustments on Minutes
- Chair Report –
  - Higher Ed Policy in CT –
    - Example of incoherence – OPM suggesting tuition could be increased to students which raises the barrier to a degree, while the Governor is lowering the licensing barrier by reducing/eliminating license costs
    - NCHEMS hired by OPM to review system. Report should be out in October.
    - Social Venture Partners – SVP – (CT based organization. Ted Yang, BOR member, is a founder and his wife is a staff member) hired by CT State to review feedback on Campus Climate Survey.
    - Opt-out automatic billing for textbooks will not happen this semester at CSUs. However, it appears it will happen at COSC.
- Vice-Chair Report –
  - We might want to invite individuals from organizations that have recently prepared reports about various areas of the system, such as the Ferrilli Report, the HR Shared Services report prepared by AASCU (American Association of State Colleges and Universities), and ABCI (A Better Connecticut Institute), to more fully discuss those reports.
  - The reports from Ferrilli, AASCU, and ABCI document how this system, and the consolidation of the twelve community colleges, were mishandled by individuals who did not have even a basic understanding of what they were doing. And those administrators, along with new administrators, continue to compound those mistakes. Between the excessive cost of the consolidation that should have been anticipated, but unsurprisingly, was billed as a future cost-savings, and the harm that is being done to our students, this can only be billed as a serious miscalculation for CT public higher education.

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- Conversation regarding the dismantling of developmental courses, the disbanding of the PA-1240 Committee and the movement to eliminate these courses and the consequent harm that is being done to students who are not fully ready to take college level courses and the simultaneous apparent take-over by administration of curricular decision-making is increasingly problematic. This has been an FAC topic in previous years and we should consider returning to it as things have only gotten more difficult. PA-1240 is still legislative mandate as far as we know, so there should still be some requirements that we should need to address.
- FAC Resolution on Board of Regents action on funding initiatives: Motion by A. Blaszczyński, seconded – approved unanimously

**Draft of FAC Resolution**

Whereas: The Connecticut State College and Universities (CSCU) are public institutions

Whereas: CSCUs should be accountable to the public for how funds are expended

Whereas: Transparency can build confidence in and credibility for those leading CSCU

Whereas: The General Assembly established the Board of Regents as an oversight body for management of CSCU

Resolved: The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents recommends that all contracts worth \$1M or greater require approval by the Board of Regents.

Resolved: That a comprehensive list of all external contracts, regardless of worth, be presented to the Board of Regents twice yearly.

Resolved: That all new administrative positions and management pay increases be approved by the Board of Regents.

- Breakdown of FAC voting members was outlined
- Old/New Business
  - We need to work on how to set up a reading group for the Robin Isserles book, *The Costs of Completion* (2021)
  - Commentary on approval, or lack thereof, by various unions regarding the retirement incentive offered by the System

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm

**Next Regular Meeting: May 10, 2024**

Submitted by FAC Secretary, Lois D. Aimé