

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

Present:

Aimé, Lois, Admin Fac, NCC
Blaszczynski, André, Fac, TXCC
Bonjo, Laurie, Admin Fac, alternate, SCSU
Chadic, James, Fac, ACC
Collins, Mary, Fac, alternate, CCSU
Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU
Jackson, Mark, Fac, CCSU

Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU
Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, alternate, CSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC
Zorn, Sarah, Fac, CCC

Absent:

Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, QVCC
Carter, Catherine, Admin Fac, MCC
James, Cynthia, Admin Fac, COSC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Goh, Bryan, Fac, MXCC
Jagtiani, John, Fac, NWCCC
Keaney, Matthew, Fac, HCC

Keiser, Brian, Admin Fac, TRCC
Long, Jennifer, Fac, TRCC
Nolan, Michael, Fac, WCSU
Palkie, Brooke, Admin Fac, alternate, COSC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU

Guest: Marty Guay, New BOR Chair

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

- Approval of Agenda – Motion by André Blaszczynski; seconded – approved unanimously.
- Vote on May 10 Minutes deferred as they have not yet been circulated.
- Chair Report –
 - Shared presentation on Racial Inequity in CT Public Higher Ed Policy. The Presentation was based on content from the book *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. (**McGhee, Heather. The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together.** First edition. New York, One World, 2021.) She writes about how discriminatory laws that target, and targeted, African Americans also negatively impact society at large. As an example, she writes about the closing of public recreational facilities, including pools, which ended up hurting everyone, not just African Americans.
 - Public higher education is part of this challenge. As she writes, “Public commitment to college for all was a crucial part of the white social contract for much of the twentieth century. In 1976, state governments provided six out of every ten dollars of the cost of students attending public colleges.” (p. 41) “That’s no longer the case....Over the period of growth among students of color, ensuring college affordability fell out of favor with lawmakers....we researched the causes of rising tuition and linked them squarely to the withering government commitment to public funding.” (p. 42)
 - As shown in this presentation, what Heather McGhee notes in her book is occurring in real time in CT public higher education and it is contributing to the ever deepening racial and ethnic disparities in CT. Defunding CSCU is inherently racist. Excuses for the defunding, such as ‘guardrails, sustainability,’ are just that, excuses.
- Vice-Chair Report –
 - The ASA Committee has met twice and the Finance Committee has met once. There is a new Title IX policy that some are concerned about. Don’t have very much information on it yet. Waiting to get more feedback.

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- ASA approved a new transfer policy. Not sure if this might become problematic.
- Student Handbook has been revised.
- CT has one of the highest rates of racial and economic inequality in the country and public education should be an equalizing force, so we need to keep an eye on what we do. State services should be used to help correct this.
- Budget approved at June 27 BOR meeting. Now a commitment to do multiple reviews of the budget during the year.
 - Budget does not consider \$14M that we will be getting from the general fund. We received about \$80M in AARPA funds this year with possibility of an additional \$20M at the end of the year.
 - We need to watch whether and when we actually receive these funds and how they will be used if received.
 - There are now 30 fewer employees at the System Office. Thirteen of these are to be moved to CT State. The rest are gone. Many of these appear to be from HR which further exacerbates issues with how HR functions or, does not function.
- BOR Chair Marty Guay visit and comments –
 - He would like to attend more of the FAC meetings. He believes the faculty voice needs to be stronger.
 - He works for Stanley Black & Decker, and he sits on a number of Boards.
 - If the system was running well he wouldn't want this job. Lots of mistrust, etc. He believes the BOR hasn't been assertive enough. Rep. Ritter told him he believes the BOR members are all excellent.
 - Everyone introduced themselves.
 - BOR Chair Guay left for another meeting after introductions.
- CT State Curriculum – André Blaszczyński
 - Looking at curriculum design as it is right now. Next to impossible to navigate and understand what has been, or is attempting to be, done.
 - Meetings are not advertised so no one knows when anything will happen or what will happen.
 - There is no direction on process. The process should vary depending on the content and context of the proposal but details on any of this do not exist.
 - There are too many committees and there are no guidelines. Each committee seems to function in whatever way they want. By-laws that would ensure all committees conform to the same structure and processes do not appear to exist.
 - What to do:
 - Should be one website where everything is housed
 - The whole process needs to be more clearly articulated
 - Everything needs to be redesigned to make things more visible and understandable to everyone.
 - More transparency is needed in the whole process
 - It is currently a total disaster at every level
 - This matters to CSU faculty as well as CT State faculty
 - Where should this be taken to try and improve matters?
- We have already touched on, and discussed, the next agenda items.
- Everyone might want to review the changes to the Student Handbook. A few are somewhat concerning.

Meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm

Next Regular Meeting: August 16, 2024

Submitted by FAC Secretary, Lois D. Aimé