

Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
November 15, 2024

Present:

Aimé, Lois, Admin Fac, NCC
Andersen, Jonathan, Fac, QVCC
Blaszczynski, André, Fac, TXCC
Carter, Catherine, Admin Fac, MCC
Chadic, James, Fac, ACC
Cunningham, Brendan, Fac, ECSU
Goh, Bryan, Fac, MXCC
Jackson, Mark, Fac, CCSU
Jagtiani, John, Fac, NWCCC

Keaney, Matthew, Fac, HCC
Long, Jennifer, Fac, TRCC
Palkie, Brooke, Admin Fac, alternate, COSC
Robinson, Dyan, SUOAF, CSU
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, alternate, ECSU
Trieu, Vu, SUOAF, alternate, CSU
Zorn, Sarah, Fac, CCC

Absent:

Bonjo, Laurie, Admin Fac, alternate, SCSU
Collins, Mary, Fac, alternate, CCSU
James, Cynthia, Admin Fac, COSC
Keiser, Brian, Admin Fac, TRCC
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC

Nolan, Michael, Fac, WCSU
Rosado, Sandy, Admin Fac, alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC

Meeting called to order at 1:06 pm by B. Cunningham. Meeting is being recorded as required.

- Approval of Agenda and February 09, May 10, July 19, and September 13 Minutes – Motion by Matt Keaney; seconded – No discussion; approved unanimously.
- Chair Report –
 - This meeting was scheduled to be a joint meeting with the BOR but that part was cancelled, apparently, because an agenda was not distributed with enough advance notice. This does not appear to be consistent with the timing of distribution of BOR agendas in general.
 - It was noted that there was discussion about an agenda item that was never fully followed up on within the FAC so that might be a contributing factor to the joint meeting not coming to fruition. Hopefully this is just an aberration and moving forward things will be more normalized and reflect what is stated in the CT statutes in this regard.
 - PPT Presentation (c-attached) on “Competing Visions,” Faculty vs. Non-educators – OPM hired NCHEMS, an outside higher ed consulting firm, to write a report that would support predetermined outcomes for the future of CSCU. If implemented, it would reduce educational options for CT residents. All CT residents deserve an excellent education, not just the wealthy and elite. We should be investing and building, not disinvesting and cutting back, in the public higher educational system in CT.
- Vice-Chair Report –
 - BOR resolution on restoration of student services for CT State – we are now told reductions amounted to \$24M. Student services to be reinstated were prioritized based on what was lost through this reduction. Resulting plan was provisionally approved by the CT State Senate, although not all campus senates approved the plan put forward by President Maduko. As put forward, the plan amounted to a \$1.7M restoration. Where is the rest of this money and how is \$1.7M considered a full restoration of services that had been cut?
 - CT State has magically come up with a \$72M surplus that had been a \$33.5M deficit. So, we at CT State are waiting for that money to be distributed to us to rebuild our deteriorating, sometimes dangerous, facilities along with the restoration of other services that have been cut and then cut again. FY26/FY27 biennium

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request not sufficient to support, much less grow system. Restoration of services is not permanent. (c-attached).

- Shared Governance –
 - CSCU – Appears that BOR reports to System Office and FAC is below BOR and directed by everyone.
 - ACT (Accessibility, Completion, & Talent) just appeared. There was no “shared” governance input in its creation. Created by Chancellor Cheng’s staff but presented by the BOR Chair. How/where did this originate? Which entity was the driver of this initiative?
 - FAC and BOR are separate, comparable organizations in CT statutes (c-attached)
 - As this should work – System Office reports to the BOR; FAC should be advisory committee to the BOR
 - CT State Governance & Governance Summit –
 - CT State governance summit was unproductive
 - The governance structure is flawed; Committee meeting times/dates are not published; attendance is not open to all; documentation is accessible only to those on the committees; we are unaware of what committees exist and why; minutes are not distributed or made available; agendas for the senate may be distributed, but at the last minute, with no option to discuss items; campus representatives mostly represent themselves, not their schools; By-laws seem to be optional so ad hoc decisions are made that support the outcome the group wants; if by-laws exist they are not consistent in how committees work, even for those committees that are parallel in nature and perform the same tasks; In the curriculum area schools seem pitted against each other to the detriment of decisions that might support student and community needs
 - Recommendation from CT State senate to have a CT State senate representative on the FAC
- Recent resolution handed to BOR members at last meeting as motion was being put forward, regarding financial sustainability. There were two votes against the motion with one member citing irony of passing res re financial sustainability while making budget request putting us in deficit.
- ACT Framework and Online Courses –
 - ACT came out of nowhere over the summer and was delivered to the council of presidents. Goals were added at the last Board meeting, including: speeding up time to completion, which is problematic without proper context. Appears CSU governance will not participate in development of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). It is being done in haste with a process that makes no sense. Goals are poorly written and, therefore, immeasurable.
 - While it appears local CT State governance bodies have not been involved, it has not stopped New Britain administration from moving forward in push to increase online offerings, including Public Speaking, the possibility of Culinary Arts courses going online, pressing for science labs online, including many hands-on and foreign language courses that are already part of CT State online offerings.
 - CSUs are being pressed to accept online labs as transfer credit.
 - There needs to be context regarding which disciplines are suited for teaching and learning online, along with a proper understanding about the delivery of online courses.
- Meeting Schedule 2025 –
 - Motion to approve meeting dates listed below – Mike Shea; seconded – approved unanimously
 - 1/24, 2/21, 3/07, 4/11, 5/16, 6/13 (joint BOR), 7/18, 8/22, 9/19, 10/10, 11/14 (joint BOR), 12/12

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm

Next Regular Meeting: December 13, 2024

Submitted by FAC Secretary, Lois D. Aimé



Competing Visions

Faculty v Non-Educators

The future of public higher ed

OPM/NCHEMS

SHRINKING, CUTTING, FOR THE FEW

In 2023 CT's Office of Policy and Management recommended that the state colleges and universities be "right-sized" to match declining enrollments. It then paid an outside consultant, NCHEMS, to write a report justifying its position.

CSU-AAUP

AFFORDABILITY, EXCELLENCE, FOR ALL

CSU-AAUP believes the NCHEMS report is biased and one-sided. If implemented, it will deny opportunities to many residents of our state. We have a **far brighter vision** for Connecticut, where everyone can benefit from an advanced degree.

Just yesterday, Governor Lamont's office acknowledged:
CSCU is thriving.
NCHEMS and OPM on the wrong page?

"The administration is still working on a budget proposal for the upcoming year and anticipates that this proposal will include support to ensure that this system can continue to thrive."



Gov. Ned Lamont's Press Secretary, (D) Connecticut

Source:
NBC
Connecticut

The future of public higher ed

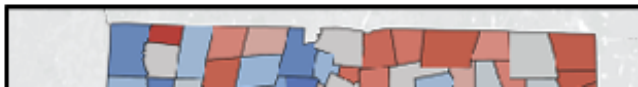
What it takes to continue to thrive:

- More resources
- Better working conditions for part-time faculty
- More full-time faculty positions
- Resources reaching the students and the classroom

Greater accessibility + contributions

CLOSING DOORS

NCHEMS accepts projections that enrollments will continue to decline until 2040. They ignore studies that question these predictions and forget the many residents of CT who have been unable to take advantage of higher education because of socio-economic challenges.



OPENING DOORS

CSU-AAUP is encouraged that enrollments have begun to increase since 2022 and is confident they will continue to do so if affordability is extended through the PACT tuition assistance program. NCHEMS admits PACT helped reverse declines at the Community College. If extended to the four State Universities **opportunities and enrollments will continue to expand.**

Greater accessibility + contributions

Connecticut's motto: "Qui Transtulit Sustinet,"

Gender neutral translation: Those who transplanted still sustains

The motto is not: we're running out of trees because we didn't put enough acorns in the ground after the Great Recession so all is for nought.

If we build it, they will come. CSCU is drawing more attendance. Virtuous circle.

Quality and Excellence for All

LESS FOR THE MANY

NCHEMS recommends cutting teaching faculty, increasing student-faculty ratios and class sizes, using cheaper modes of instruction, and offering only programs directly related to immediate workforce needs. The quality of education that results is not considered at all.

EXCELLENT EDUCATION

CSU-AAUP believes that **all CT residents deserve an excellent education**. This requires faculty with time to provide individual attention, a wide variety of programs in diverse areas, and innovative teaching and cutting-edge research. Only investment, not cutting, makes this possible.

Quality and Excellence for All

We should not become diploma mills, which is the essence of NCHEMS' philosophy

Too many communities in CT are short-changed for opportunity over generations

In order for CT to progress, we must invest in meaningful, high-quality education providing life-long skills for all.

If CSCU existed in 1900, “workforce needs” would imply a Whaling major

By 1910, whaling majors would have obsolete skills because whaling ended.

Remedying Persistent Inequality

ONLY FOR THE FEW

OPM and NCHEMS focus on the short-term demand of businesses for employees. They assume that only the wealthy elite, who can afford private institutions, should have the type of comprehensive education that prepares students for a variety of careers now and in the future. The common good that higher education serves is never mentioned.

THE GOOD OF ALL

CSU-AAUP knows that individuals with advanced degrees have higher incomes, better health, and happier family lives. But they also help all others in the state by increasing tax revenue and community engagement, and reducing inequality, poverty, and spending on social services.

Remedying Persistent Inequality

If your parents graduated from Yale, you have a fast track to admissions

“legacy privilege”

This perpetuates inequality across generations.

Anti-diversity and inclusion forces are closing doors to non-legacy families across the country.

CSCU means our state pushes back against unfair privilege.



HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ALL, HELPS EVERYONE.



FY26/FY27 Biennium Request

- Our request is \$60M less than what we received in FY25.
- FY25 appropriations include block grant, legislative initiatives, and temporary support.
 - We expect reduction of \$156M in temporary support based on OPM guidance.
- SEBAC wage increases for FY26 & FY27 are not included.

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY25	FY26	FY27
CSUs	185.1	233.8	233.8
CT State	225.3	264.6	264.3
Charter Oak	3.3	5.4	5.4
BOR	.5	.5	.5
Developmental education	10.2	10.2	10.2
Outcome-based funding	1.4	1.4	1.4
O'Neill chair	.3	.3	.3
PACT	28.5	34.2	34.2
Other	-	.7	.7
Temporary support	156.3	-	-
Total Baseline Budget Request	610.9	551.1	550.8



Deficit mitigation

- Planned deficit mitigation is \$95M.
- FY26
 - Expenditure reduction = \$39.7M
 - Reserves = \$55.2M
- FY27
 - Expenditure reduction = \$37.0M
 - Reserves = \$58.1M

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY26	FY27
Central	7.0	5.8
Eastern	2.1	2.1
Southern	8.6	7.8
Western	11.4	11.2
CT State	60.0	62.9
Charter Oak	1.8	1.3
System Office	4.0	4.0
Deficit mitigation	(94.9)	(95.1)



Projections

- We are asking the State to cover remaining projected deficits after mitigation.
- FY26
 - Request \$23.0M
- FY27
 - Request \$21.6M

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY26	FY27
Central	-	-
Eastern	(6.4)	(7.3)
Southern	(9.8)	(6.4)
Western	(10.8)	(12.1)
CT State	-	-
Charter Oak	-	-
Project deficit after mitigation	(23.0)	(21.6)

CSCU GOVERNANCE

HOW THEY WANT IT

System Office

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graph TD; SO[System Office] --- BOR[BOR]; BOR --- FAC[FAC]
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BOR

FAC

HOW THEY WANT IT + DO IT

System Office

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graph TD; SO[System Office] --- BOR[BOR]; BOR --- FAC[FAC]
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BOR

FAC

- Example: “ACT” Dictate
- Fell from sky in summer
- Powerpoint was supposedly BOR idea
- Written by a Cheng office staff member
- BOR works for system office
- FAC is directed by everyone

HOW THE STATE OF CT WANTS IT

CHAPTER 185 ADMINISTRATION OF STATE SYSTEM

Table of Contents

Sec. 10a-1. (Formerly Sec. 10-322a). State system of higher education; definitions.

Sec. 10a-1a. Board of Regents for Higher Education.

Sec. 10a-1b. President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities. Staff. Vice-presidents.

Sec. 10a-1c. Plan for maintaining distinct missions of Connecticut State University System, regional community-technical college system and Charter Oak State College. Report.

Sec. 10a-1d. Office of Higher Education. Executive director.

Sec. 10a-1e. Board of Regents for Higher Education and president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education substituted for former board, department and commissioner.

Sec. 10a-1f. Office of Higher Education substituted for Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education.

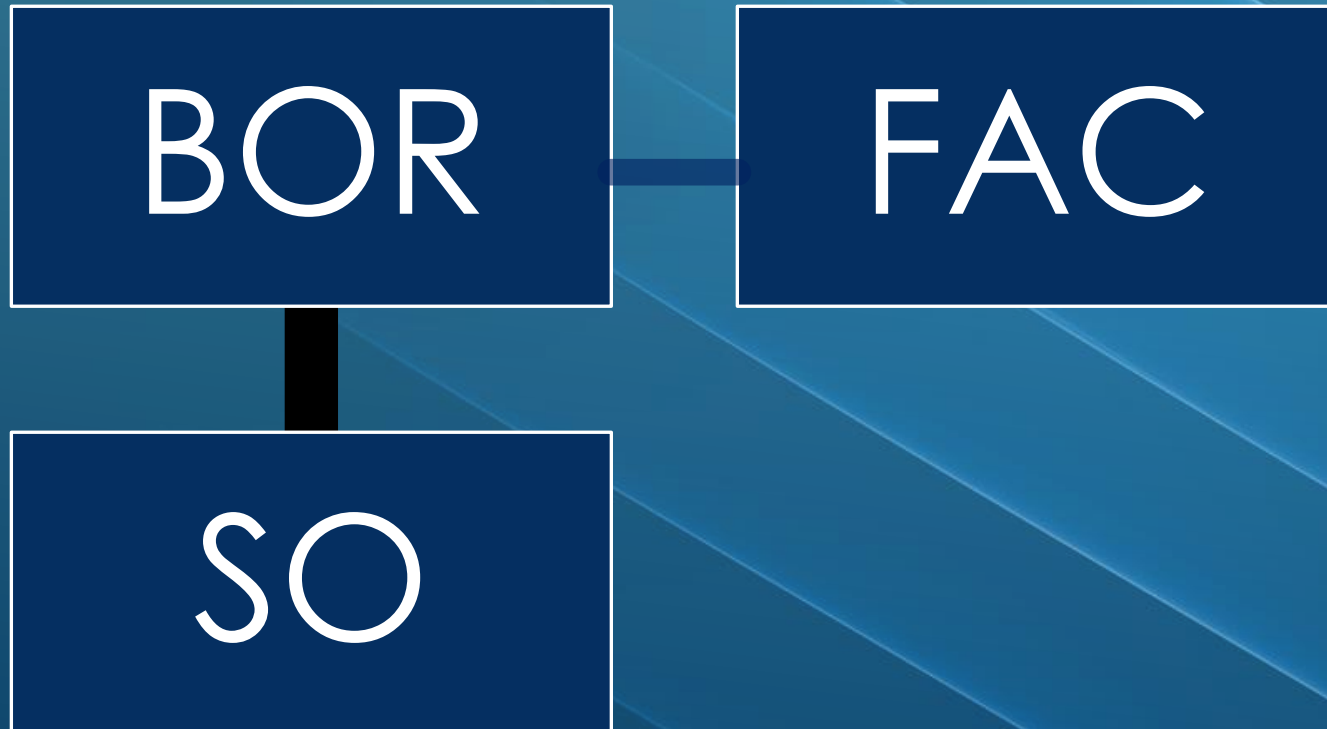
Sec. 10a-2. (Formerly Sec. 10-323a). Board of Governors of Higher Education; appointment; selection of chairperson.

Sec. 10a-3. Student advisory committee to Board of Regents for Higher Education. Membership. Duties.

Sec. 10a-3a. Faculty advisory committee to Board of Regents for Higher Education. Membership. Duties.

- FAC is not a subsection of BOR

HOW THE STATE OF CT WANTS IT



- We've notified the BOR that SO isn't following state law (distinct missions)
- This year BOR itself isn't following state law (cancelled both join meetings, required by law)

IMPLICATIONS

- Nobody is obligated to follow scofflaws
- We should be a role model for students. Don't follow scofflaws.
- ACT destroys unique missions. Don't follow ACT
- BOR is failing its obligations to our state, as embodied in law
- BOR is failing our students and proving a poor leadership and governance role model.