

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF REGENTS
MEETING OF THE
ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES
9:30 a.m. – Friday, March 2, 2012

CSU System Office
Boardroom 123
Hartford, CT

Regents Present: Merle Harris, Chair (via conference), Naomi Cohen, Larry DeNardis, Alex Tettey, Jr., Yvette Melendez

Regents Absent: Nicholas Donofrio, Michael Fraser, René Lerer, Catherine Smith

Provosts, VPs, Deans Present Shirley Adams, (COSC), DonnaJean Fredeen for Marianne Kennedy (SCSU), Rhona Free (ECSU), Carl Lovitt (CCSU), Michael Rooke (TXCC)

Others from Colleges Maureen McDonnell (ECSU)

CSUS/CCC Staff Present: Louise Feroe, Germán Bermúdez, Gail Coppage, Maureen McClay

Naomi Cohen w/Chair Merle Harris by conference call, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and noted a quorum was present.

Louise Feroe introduced new support staff for Academic Affairs – Maureen McClay.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of Nominations for Honorary Doctoral Degrees

- Dr. Feroe noted approval of honorary degrees this year would be approved under former policies still in place. Five nominations were submitted: Manchester CC, Middlesex CC, Three Rivers CC, Eastern CSU and Charter Oak SC.
- Charter Oak's nominee was submitted as an exception. The exception was discussed and approved by the Committee.
- The slate of nominees, with duly noted exception, was approved unanimously with a motion by Merle Harris and a second by Larry DeNardis.
 - o Honorary Degree Awards for 2012
 - Manchester Community College – Timothy Devanney
 - Middlesex Community College – Hugh Cox
 - Three Rivers Community College – Norman Birk
 - Eastern CT State University – Dr. Michael S. Roth
 - Charter Oak State College – Doris G. Cassidy

2. Approval of BOR Policy for the Nomination of Honorary Degree Recipients

- Discussion ensued on the proposed policy document including the issuing of doctoral degrees by Community Colleges, the addition of "Doctor of Technology" and "Doctor of Engineering" degrees, the awarding of presidential medals, the identification of candidates at the institutions and the oversight and consultation with the Presidents.
- A motion to send final draft as amended to BOR made by Larry DeNardis, seconded by Alex Tettey. Unanimously approved.

3. Academic Program Approvals

- Discussion to add item to the agenda under (b), “Expansion of Community College Manufacturing Program”. Motion was approved.
- (a) New Degree Programs
 - o Discussion of first item –Accreditation of BS in Civil Engineering at CCSU. Dr. Lovitt offered explanation and description. Motion to approve accreditation by Larry DeNardis, seconded by Alex Tetthey. Unanimously approved.
 - o Discussion of three items for Licensure and Accreditation – AS Computer Game Design at MCC; BS Robotics & Mechantronics Eng. Tech. at CCSU; BA in Women’s and Gender Studies at ECSU. General discussion of meaning of “no additional cost”, noting some additional administrative costs, reconfiguring of programs; accommodating courses without hiring new faculty. It was noted it should be encouraged for future submissions to provide full cost information and explanations of “no cost” conditions. All three Licensure and Accreditation items were approved.
- (b) Modifications to Existing Programs
 - o Special added item – “Expansion of Community College Manufacturing Program”. Gail Coppage gave full explanation re state grants for additional manufacturing programs at three community colleges – Housatonic CC, Naugatuck Valley CC and Quinebaug Valley CC, plus an expansion of Asnuntuck CC’s program. The three programs will be modeled on Asnuntuck’s. Time is critical for approval of program in order for students to be able to apply for financial aid (deadline is March 15) in order for the timely start-up of the programs in the Fall 2012 semester.
 - o UConn’s new Ph.D. on Learning Leadership & Educational Policy. The previous education administrative program will integrate into new program. The field is orienting toward leadership. All program modification items were unanimously approved with a motion by Alex Tetthey and a second by Larry DeNardis.
- Additional discussion ensued on the volume of information for program approvals and if a summary or template could be developed. It was decided that presently, while in the early stages, the committee would continue to receive full information in order to more fully learn about the programs and the process. At a late date, it would be determined if a template, or more concise structure should be developed.

INFORMATION ITEMS

4. Program Modifications Not Requiring BOR Actions

- It was noted the list of items were included for information purposes as required by the BOR academic approval process but did not necessitate board action.
- Dr. Bermudez explained to the committee that any academic program proposal that results in substantial questions or issues upon staff or Academic Council review are always fully resolved before the item is presented to the BOR committee.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. Overview of Current Program Review Policies at BOR Institutions and Discussion of Oversight and Review by the BOR

- Dr. Feroe noted that Dr. Bermudez had labored intensely on the project of Academic Program Review processes to mesh the various institutional processes in a coherent and meaningful way. Dr. Bermudez gave a full explanation of the summary sheet. Discussion followed. Issues include union contracts, use of faculty, reassigning employees. In addition compliance with regional standards (NEASC) an important issue. Issues to be addressed include requirements, policies and special concerns. Areas of further discussion are whether to have program review be more discriminating than new program

approval, the use of more judicious criteria in the elimination or enhancement of programs when needed, and the linkages of program review with accountability.

- Timeline was discussed with a goal of May for submission to full BOR. Items for committee include Dr. Bermudez's recommendation points included in the handouts, the further development of the review parameters with input from committee, and the invitation of comments from the institutions.

6. Briefing on Current Pending Legislation Concerning Academic Issues

- a) Transfer Bill – proposed legislation asks for 30 credits in order to be transferred between/among institutions. It is not inconsistent with proposed policies being developed by BOR. In response to question, it was noted that present legislation of transfer credits was based on an articulation agreement between the Community Colleges and UConn's School of Business. The bill also specifies Liberal Arts & Sciences. It was pointed out that the BOR policy referred to competencies while the bill calls for a list of courses that will transfer. Dr. Feroe will email to committee members further information on bill. Naomi Cohen mentioned that some Regents could talk to the legislative chairs to determine intent of bill and how it coincides with BOR's plans.
- b) Remediation Bill
Noted that testing is not predictive of success; bill is seriously problematic. Dr. Feroe noted the legislative chairs goals included:
 - Ensure that the "almost there" students not be kept out of general education courses but instead be given the option to take these courses with more time on task in order to succeed;
 - Consider ways in which remedial students do not have to pay for multiple classes (noted were the computer-aided or online courses or approaches that can be accomplished at own pace);
 - The need to work with K-12 system for college readiness;
 - That High Schools, through the P-20 Council, develop an early information system in order to provide real pathways to college readiness by graduation.

Bill needs work but legislative chairs have asked for language suggestions. Dr. Feroe and staff will prepare language and email to the Committee for input.

7. Adjournment

Naomi Cohen adjourned meeting at 12:00 p.m.