



CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting – February 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
Conducted via Remote Participation

MINUTES

- Regents Present: David Blitz (ex officio), Ira Bloom, Aviva Budd, Holly Howery, Julia Noriega (ex officio), Richard Porth, Colena Sesanker (ex officio),
- Regents Absent: Brandon Iovene (ex officio)
- Staff Present: Vicki Bozzuto, Pam Heleen, Ken Klucznik, Alice Pritchard, Fran Rosselli-Navarra, Pat Ryiz, Mike Stefanowicz, Noreen Wilson
- Other Attendees: Missy Alexander (WCSU), Sandy Bulmer (SCSU), Amy Feest (CSCC), David Ferreira (COSC), Josh Groffman (SCSU), Craig Hlavac (SCSU), Bruce Kalk (SCSU), Kim Kostelis (CCSU), Trudy Milburn (SCSU), Bob Prezant (SCSU), Fatma Salman (MCC), Tim St. James (ACC), Sheldon Watson (SCSU)

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Chair Ira Bloom.

An official roll call of the BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee members was taken and the responses were as follows:

- Chair Ira Bloom – Present
- Regent Aviva Budd – Present
- Regent Holly Howery – Present
- Regent Richard Porth - Present
- Regent Colena Sesanker (ex officio) – Present
- Regent Julia Noriega (ex officio) – Present
- Regent Brandon Iovene (ex officio) – Not Present

A quorum was declared.

Regent Ira Bloom introduced himself in his new capacity as Chair of the BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee. This is his first meeting as Chair of the Committee.

1. Approval of Minutes
- a. December 3, 2021

On a motion by H. Howery and seconded by A. Budd, a vote was taken and the minutes from the December 3, 2021, BOR ASA Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Action Items

- a. Modifications

- i. Nurse Educator – MS in Nursing (MSN) - Southern CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]
- ii. Nurse Educator – Post MS in Nursing (MSN) Certificate - Southern CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]
- iii. Clinical Nurse Leader – MS in Nursing (MSN) - Southern CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]
- iv. Clinical Nurse Leader – Post MS in Nursing (MSN) Certificate - Southern CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]

Dr. Sandra Bulmer, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, presented the four modifications. She noted that these four items consist of two MSN degrees, Nurse Educator and Clinical Nurse Leader, and a Post MSN Certificate associated with each. In each program, the hybrid modality is being replaced with a fully online instructional modality. Although each program has an on-ground practicum, the entire program can be classified as online.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the modifications in instructional modality, specifically, the replacement of the hybrid instructional modalities with a fully online instructional modality, for the following four Southern CT State University programs:

- 1) Nurse Educator – MSN
- 2) Nurse Educator – Post MSN Graduate Certificate
- 3) Clinical Nurse Leader – MSN
- 4) Clinical Nurse Leader – Post MSN Graduate Certificate

The motion was moved by H. Howery and seconded by R. Porth.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the modifications in instructional modality specifically, the replacement of the hybrid instructional modalities with a fully online instructional modality, for the four Southern CT State University programs listed above. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

- v. Master’s Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) – Southern CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]

Dr. Bulmer stated that the MFT degree is a very successful program. During the pandemic, SCSU shifted the program and its clinical component to a virtual format. SCSU is seeking approval to offer the program in three modalities – on ground, online, and hybrid. SCSU has the flexibility to offer the program in multiple modalities at no additional cost to the institution.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the modification in instructional modality, specifically, the addition of hybrid and online modalities to the current on ground modality for the Southern CT State University Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the modification in instructional modality, specifically, the addition of hybrid and online modalities to the current on ground modality, for the Southern CT State University Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Program. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

vi. Spanish – Secondary Education and Spanish – BA/BS – Western CT State University [Modification of Instructional Delivery]

Provost Missy Alexander stated that Western CT State University seeks approval to change the program’s instructional modality from on ground to hybrid. The purpose of this change in instructional modality is to capture working adult students and those students who seek programs with translation capabilities.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the modification in instructional modality, specifically, the replacement of the on ground instructional modality with a hybrid instructional modality for the Western CT State University BA/BS in Spanish – Secondary Education and Spanish Program. The motion was moved by Regent Porth and seconded by Regent Budd.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the modification in instructional modality, specifically, the replacement of the on ground instructional modality with a hybrid instructional modality for the Western CT State University BA/BS in Spanish – Secondary Education and Spanish Program. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

b. New Programs

i. Homeland Security – MS - Western CT State University

Provost Alexander reminded the Committee that WCSU closed its Justice and Law Administration MS degree because most students needed the flexibility of online classes which were not developed at the time. WCSU is seeking approval for its proposed MS in Homeland Security. The institution hired two faculty experts who developed this new degree. The degree is fully online and meets the needs of policing, fire, and health professionals. The curriculum is designed to meet the objectives of Homeland Security, in addition to, climate events and various other disasters. WCSU has decided to create this proposed new program in a carousel model, which means that students can start the program in any semester throughout the year. WCSU hopes to pull undergraduates from its Justice and Law Major, one of WCSU’s largest majors, and that the program will broadly appeal to other potential students. The program will be fully staffed with FT faculty and adjuncts who already work for WCSU.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure of a program in Homeland Security leading to a Master of Science at Western Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

Questions/Recommendations from the Committee included:

- a) *What are the job opportunities for graduates with a BS degree? How does the MS improve job opportunities? What are the job opportunities specifically in CT?*

Response: There are job opportunities for graduates with the BS degree. The MS degree allows graduates to advance in their careers and move into managerial positions. There are job opportunities in CT. The positions are classified as Emergency and Crisis Management rather than specifically Homeland Security.

b) *Regent Porth stated that he served for many years on the Governor's Unified Command, CT's organized effort to respond to all kinds of emergencies. He noted that the State government has a very good structure of emergency management and response which includes a Homeland Security component. He supports the proposed new WCSU MS in Homeland Security and encourages WCSU to collaborate with the Governor's Unified Command, housed in the CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS), which involves many jobs at the municipal level. He noted there is good job potential for graduates with this degree well beyond Homeland Security.* Response: Provost Alexander stated that she will speak with Dr. Hasan Arslan, Associate Professor, Division of Justice and Law Administration, about Regent Porth's suggestion.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the licensure of a program in Homeland Security leading to a Master of Science at Western Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

ii. Social Work – BSW- Charter Oak State College

Provost David Ferreira stated that the proposed new Bachelor's in Social Work degree aligns with CSWE standards for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and with the Community College Social Work TAP program. Community College students who transfer to the COSC BSW qualify for the Community College Tuition Match Scholarship which provides an affordable option for students to pursue the BSW. Provost Ferreira added that the COVID Pandemic highlighted the need for more trained healthcare workers, including social workers. He also stated that nursing homes changed their ratio of beds to social workers from 120:1 to 60:1 which increased the need for social workers. COSC has a model success rate for online placements. The Wheeler Clinic has offered placements for COSC students in the Social Work program.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure of a program in Social Work, leading to a Bachelor of Science at Charter Oak State College; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. The motion was moved by Regent Porth and seconded by Regent Howery.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the licensure of a program in Social Work, leading to a Bachelor of Science at Charter Oak State College; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

iii. Music Therapy – BS – Southern CT State University

Dr. Bruce Kalk, Dean College of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Craig Hlavac, Associate Dean of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Josh Groffman, Chairperson/Associate Professor of Music, presented this proposed new program. If approved, this program will be the only one of its kind in CT. New Haven is ideally located for this type of program because of its many healthcare related entities, such as, the Yale New Haven Health System and the VA Hospital in West Haven. SCSU has a robust College of Health and Human Services. They have hired a new tenure-track faculty member in Music Therapy who is responsible for program coordination, recruiting students, and conducting outreach to the community colleges. There is an increasing demand and job opportunities for music therapists.

Questions/Recommendations from the Committee included:

- a) *How is music therapy delivered in the organizations that were previously mentioned? Do they have music as a therapy now?* Response: Yes. There are practicing music therapists at many institutions in New Haven and CT and in other health-related services. Music Therapy is a widespread field. Music Therapists practice in youth centers and schools, in addition to healthcare facilities.
- b) *Is Music Therapy different from a music program? What is the difference between Music Therapy and music teachers and performers?* Response: Music Therapy is music for a specific therapeutic end. There is a targeted therapeutic objective in a Music Therapy session. Music therapists take psychology coursework, have 1,200 hours of clinical training and must be Board certified to practice music therapy.
- c) *Can you practice Music Therapy with a BS degree?* Response: Yes. Graduates will need the MTBC credential and a BS degree to be eligible to work as a Music Therapist.
- d) *Who is providing this service now? How prevalent and accessible is music therapy now?* Response: It's fairly widespread in the major healthcare systems, nursing homes, schools, etc. The field is growing. Music Therapy is seen as a valuable addition to other health services. National funding for Music Therapy is increasing. The American Music Therapy Association is seeking licensure in CT which will put the profession under the protection of the law, make it more widely available, and increase insurance coverage for Music Therapy services. Many Music Therapists are practicing in the state, but more are needed. CT Music Therapy Services, a contractor for Music Therapists, provided a recommendation for the proposed SCSU program, stating that they would like to hire graduates from the program. The only Music Therapy degree is out of state. The SCSU program will provide training for Music Therapists in CT who will, hopefully, stay and practice in CT.
- e) *Will Music majors be a source of potential students for the BS in Music Therapy?* Response: Students in the BA in Music program will not be a significant transfer pool into the BS in Music Therapy. The BA in Music program is not the same as the BS in Music Therapy which has psychology coursework and a clinical and health component.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure of a program in Music Therapy leading to a Bachelor of Science at Southern Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. The motion was moved by Regent

Budd and seconded by Regent Howery.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the licensure of a program in Music Therapy leading to a Bachelor of Science at Southern Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

c. CT State Community College Aligned Degrees and Certificates

Michael Stefanowicz, Interim Associate Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Francine Rosselli-Navarra, Interim Associate Vice President, Academic Programs & Curriculum, and, Amy Feest, Interim Associate Vice President of Academic Programs & Curriculum for CT State Community College (CSCC), presented. Dr. Klucznik introduced Dr. Rosselli-Navarra and commended her and her team of alignment managers for their countless hours of hard work in aligning the CSCC Degrees and Certificates. Dr. Rosselli-Navarra introduced AVP Feest and AVP Stefanowicz, who will be taking over as Chairs of the Aligned Program Review Committee (APRC). The document presents 15 degrees and certificates, all aligned versions of previously approved programs. These aligned degrees and certificates are offered by one or more of the twelve community colleges. The process for aligning and transitioning the programs to CSCC is presented on Page 106 of the meeting agenda packet. The goal is to ensure that all CSCC programs are consistent with BOR Policy, include the CCS101 class and the CSCC General Education Core, and to align existing disparate program requirements into a consistent set of coherent requirements. This document represents the work of 30 full time faculty and program coordinators.

Questions/Comments/Recommendations from the Committee included:

- a) *Concerns were expressed about the curricular review process for the colleges:*
 - 1) *The long workflow makes it impossible to provide feedback and get through all the stages of review at the level of detail necessary.*
 - 2) *There is no final shared governance structure in place for the CSCC.*
 - 3) *Transitional committees are not true shared governance committees and they are not truly representative.*

Response: Dr. Rosselli-Navarra, AVP Stefanowicz, and AVP Feest

APRC is a fully representative body, with members from each of the 12 community colleges, and is a good reflection of shared governance. Members report back to their institutions' curriculum committees and academic senates to collect feedback and ask for votes. Because some institutions have decided not to participate, we don't have full representation of all the community colleges in the endorsement phase.

We have the APRC and the Students First Academic and Student Affairs Consolidation Committee (SF ASA CC), developed in 2018, which is a transitional governance body. The APRC reports to the SF ASA CC. We welcome participation from all the colleges and the various councils in place.

APRC carefully vets all courses and programs for alignment. Members of the APRC state that the curriculum review is a valuable process and have changed programs at their home campuses based on the feedback. All faculty can participate in the curriculum review process if they choose.

The timeframes are tight. The BOR has established Fall 2023 as the opening of the CT State Community College.

AVP Feest spoke to the quality of the curriculum review process as both a member of APRC, since its inception, and as a faculty member and Academic Dean.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure and accreditation of the degrees and certificates in the BOR Resolution for Connecticut State Community College, developed from degrees and certificates previously approved by the Board for one or more of the 12 individually accredited colleges. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the licensure and accreditation of the degrees and certificates in the BOR Resolution for Connecticut State Community College, developed from degrees and certificates previously approved by the Board for one or more of the 12 individually accredited colleges. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

d. Appointment of CSU Professor

i. Dr. Neeta Connally – Western CT State University

Provost Missy Alexander presented the nomination of Dr. Neeta Connally for CT State University Professor. She discussed Dr. Connally's qualifications, accomplishments, and her dedication to her profession.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the award of the title Connecticut State University (CSU) Professor to Dr. Neeta Connally of Western Connecticut State University. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

Chair Bloom called for a vote to approve the award of the title Connecticut State University (CSU) Professor to Dr. Neeta Connally of Western Connecticut State University. A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

3. Informational Items

a. Faculty Advisory Committee Resolution on Vaccine Mandate

Participants in the discussion were: Dr. David Blitz, Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents, Dr. Colena Sesanker, Vice Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents, and Dr. Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff, Chief Operating Officer, Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Dr. Blitz and Dr. Sesanker are responding to the BOR Resolution (BR 21-112), adopted in June 2021, regarding the COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students. The concern of the BOR Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) is with the implementation of and improvements to the COVID-19 Immunization Requirement addressed in BR 21-112.

Dr. Blitz presented the following issues:

- 1) The educational component of the COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements. Dr. Blitz stated that the information provided at the CSCU institutions is excellent; but there is a need for more education. The FAC recommends that more information be provided on how the virus and the vaccine work. Dr. Blitz addressed the faculty across the system who can provide educational material. He noted that students can also create videos and educational materials to persuade reluctant students to get the vaccine and the importance of boosters.
- 2) The FAC recommended that each campus President or CEO or their representatives meet with the President of the University Senate or the President of the Faculty Governing Body, the two Presidents of the Faculty and Staff Unions, and the President of the Student Government, to review

statistics to determine if vaccine rates are improving and if the number of non-medical exemptions is decreasing at each campus. The goal is to increase participation and improve the perception of the success of the vaccine mandate.

- 3) Non-medical exemptions have been a contentious issue. The FAC modeled their recommendations after state law which removed the religious and personal vaccine exemptions in schools and higher education. The FAC needed to compromise on non-medical exemptions because, early on, vaccines were authorized only for emergency use and there were legal challenges. Now, vaccines are fully authorized, legal challenges have been overturned, and courts have affirmed the vaccine mandates. The number of non-medical exemptions need to be reduced.
- 4) Proof of Vaccination. At the CSUs, there is a system to upload students' proof of vaccinations. There is no comparable system at the community colleges for collecting this data. The FAC states that there needs to be a system at the community colleges to input vaccination data. The BOR should be fully informed regarding the number of vaccinations.

The FAC is concerned about the health and safety of all members of CSCU and has provided these recommendations for the improvement of the implementation of the vaccine mandate at CSCU.

Dr. Pritchard noted that she met earlier this week with Dr. Blitz, Dr. Sesanker, Dr. Klucznik, and Pam Heleen and provided a written response regarding the FAC Resolution on Vaccine Mandates. Dr. Pritchard responded:

- 1) CSU students' vaccine information can be uploaded. Faculty and staff at the CSUs attest to their vaccine status or test weekly. All employees and faculty, staff and students at the community colleges provide attestation of vaccine status or are tested weekly for COVID. CSCU has an MOA with the unions. The concern was that people would not be truthful by providing attestation; but CSCU Management felt that the risk was low. Violations for falsification are a serious offense and a violation of the CSCU Code of Conduct. CSCU is building an update to Banner to upload proof of vaccination. Now, it is a manual process.
- 2) Non-Medical Exemptions. Pres. Cheng asked the campuses to review and report on their non-medical vaccine exemptions. All the campuses responded and the number of non-medical vaccine exemptions on each campus has decreased. The campus review provided the opportunity to talk with students and employees about the virus and vaccine. Students, faculty, and staff with non-medical exemptions must test weekly to be consistent across CSCU.
- 3) Open-forum meetings on the campuses may not be the only way to share information on the implementation.
- 4) A lot of materials are available on mitigation strategies. Dr. Blitz brought up the idea of an education campaign on the vaccine and the COVID virus. CSCU had the "Trusted Messenger" campaign through the Dept. of Public Health; but the state has not renewed that program. We may turn to local leaders, as Dr. Blitz suggested, on the campuses for the education campaign instead.

Questions/recommendations from the Committee included:

- 1) *Regent Sesanker reiterated the FAC concerns and the need for actual proof of vaccination vs. attestation. She requested that the faculty senates be included in the conversations.*
- 2) *Attestation and testing are not the best alternative. Would the unions accept a spot check for proof of vaccination? What's available practically and from a regulatory perspective?* Response: We can raise the issue of a spot check with the unions. The MOA between CSCU and the unions only addresses attestation or testing. Employees are not mandated to reveal their vaccine status. If employees don't attest, they must test weekly. When community college students register for classes, they must attest to their vaccine status. If not, they ask for an exemption and must be tested weekly. There are consequences for not testing and not wearing masks as required. Masks are always required regardless of vaccine status. We are trying to get employees and students into compliance.
- 3) *The CSUs use Medicaap to upload the students' vaccine information. What is the obstacle at the community colleges? Why can't this system or another be used at the community colleges to upload student vaccine data?* Response: The CSUs already have the system to upload student medical data because they provide medical services to their students. All faculty and staff at the CSUs and students at the community colleges attest to their vaccination status or test weekly. There are medical privacy issues regarding the capture and storage of medical information. The CSUs treat students medically and already have their medical information. That same situation does not exist at the community colleges. For medical privacy issues, not any database will do.

Dr. Blitz stated that the points raised by the FAC and CSCU were clarified. The conversation will need to continue into the next semester regarding boosters and the mask mandate. Chair Bloom agreed and noted that the points are on the table and the conversation will continue. The BOR Resolution BR 21-112 COVID-19 Immunization Requirements for Students gives the BOR flexibility to address issues as they arise.

- b. CSCU Sabbatical Leaves
 - i. Central CT State University
 - ii. Western CT State University
- c. Below Threshold
 - i. Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies – Minor – Central CT State University [New Academic Offering]
 - ii. Computer Science – BS - Central CT State University [Program Modification]
 - iii. Computer Information Technology – MS - Central CT State University [Program Modification]
 - iv. Software Engineering – MS – Central CT State University [Program Modification]
 - v. BS Chemistry (7-12) MS Accelerated Pathway – Concentration – Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
 - vi. Health Science BHSc - Accelerated MS Exercise Science-Clinical Exercise Physiology Pathway – Concentration - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]

- vii. Health Science BHSc – Accelerated MS Physical Activity & Chronic Disease Pathway – Concentration - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- viii. Healthcare Studies - Health Science Foundations – BS – Concentration - Southern CT State University [Program Modification]
- ix. Healthcare Studies – STEM Foundations for Nursing – BS – Concentration - Southern CT State University [Program Modification]
- x. Sustainability Leadership – Undergraduate Certificate - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xi. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) - Undergraduate Certificate - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xii. Assistive Technology – Graduate Certificate - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xiii. Sustainability Coordination – Graduate Certificate - Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xiv. Human Resource Management – MBA – Concentration- Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xv. Business Analytics – MBA – Concentration- Southern CT State University [New Academic Offering]
- xvi. General Studies – AS – Manchester Community College [Program Modification]

Chair Bloom called for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by A. Budd and seconded by R. Porth, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting of the February 4, 2022, BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee at 11:03 p.m.