



CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting – December 6, 2013
9:30 a.m. – 61 Woodland Street, Hartford

MINUTES

- Regents Present: Merle Harris (Chair), Naomi Cohen, Lawrence DeNardis, Nick Donofrio, Tom Failla, Sarah Green
- Regents Absent: Eugene Bell, Catherine Smith
- Staff Present: Elsa Nunez, Ted Yungclas, Aynsley Diamond, Maureen McClay, Nancy Melnicsak, Arthur Poole
- Other Attendees: Stephen Adair (CCSU/FAC), Mary Ann Affleck (CCC), Elizabeth Caswell (BOR), Jess House (WCSU), Marianne Kennedy (SCSU), Carl Lovitt (CSCU), Wilfredo Nieves (CCC), Ryan Pierson (CCC), Lisa Rebesch (SCSU), Cleo Rolle (CCC), Paul Whitehead (CCC)

Chair Merle Harris called the meeting to order at 9:39 a.m. and offered holiday wishes to all.

1. Minutes of November 8, 2013 – **A motion to approve was made by N. Donofrio, seconded by N. Cohen and unanimously approved.**

CONSENT AGENDA. The Consent Agenda was **moved for recommended approval by N. Cohen, seconded by N. Donofrio and unanimously approved.**

Consent items included:

2. Termination of Existing Academic Programs
 - a. Recreation and Leisure Studies – A.S. and Cert. (Norwalk CC)
3. Modifications of Programs
 - a. Computer Networking – name change (Naugatuck Valley CC)
 - b. Reinstatement of program – Natural Science – MS (Central CSU)
 - c. Termination – Natural Science-Science Education Specialization – MS (Central CSU)

ACTION ITEMS

4. Licensure of New Programs
 - a. Biotechnology – A.S. – Capital CC. **A motion to recommend approval was made by N. Cohen, seconded by N. Donofrio.** Discussion: Dr. Yungclas presented the program and introduced President Nieves. President Nieves introduced Dean Affleck, Professor Paul Whitehead, Dr. Cleo Rolle, and Ryan Pierson from his faculty and staff. Pres. Nieves commented on the importance of the program noting it coincided with the Governor's technology plan and was part of the Health and Life Sciences grants. He also mentioned the collaboration with area hospitals, and remarked the program encompassed a work focus and a transfer focus. Dr. Rolle spoke about biotechnology, noting the courses in this program address today's needs. Prof. Whitehead expressed the importance of the internships that were part of the program, noting collaboration with Yale and the UConn Health Center. He

added that research experience was also an important part of the program. Dean Affleck pointed out that the program helped in achieving the Board's goals and was geared to recruiting women and diverse populations into STEM fields. Regent Donofrio commented that it was a terrific program, noting life sciences were the science of the 21st century. He asked about other programs in the system and about labs and funding. It was stated Capital had an extensive lab set-up, it has the largest nursing program in the state. President Nieves noted they had learned from others the importance of internships, making sure partners in place up front. Regent Donofrio also noted the field is moving rapidly to data. Dr. Rolle stated that besides hands-on technology, the data component is a big part of the program.

Regent DeNardis asked about the general issue of existing programs with low program enrollments. Dean Affleck noted that in the last decade in response to ending low enrollment programs already have been many changes. President Nieves added that will continue to be a consideration and realignments will be done as jobs change.

There was additional general discussion with Chair Harris noting the need for students with math-science backgrounds. Dean Affleck mentioned that although there is open enrollment there are pre-requisites. They have also developed math-science boosters across the board – courses imbedded with boosters similar to developmental education. Prof. Whitehead noted they will also be working at the high schools with one of the professors highly interested in working with those students. They have collaborations with Capital Prep Magnet School, as well as Bloomfield High School. **The vote was taken and unanimously approved.**

5. Accreditation of Existing Program

- a. Nursing Education – Ed.D. – Southern and Western CSUs. **A motion to recommend approval made by N. Cohen, seconded by N. Donofrio.** Discussion: Provost Marianne Kennedy presented the program and introduced Dean Jess House from Western CSU and Dr. Lisa Rebesch of Southern CSU. She mentioned it was an exciting, unique program within the system and it is collaborative at every level from the beginning to the just completed NEASC . The degree is not a joint degree but otherwise is seamlessly shared. There is a program committee and a cohort is accepted every other year. She noted it is an online program and addresses the shortage of nurse educators. Dr. House indicated there are faculty shortages across the country and they now have a good pool of candidates from other states, although it is an expensive, tedious process to apply for each state's approval. In response to Regent Cohen, they noted they had been at a recent national conference addressing national recruitment efforts, and they have more applications than the number of program spaces. There was discussion noting NEBHE is developing a consortial agreement that would minimize fees and applications. In response to Regent Donofrio, it was noted the online infrastructure has servers at both campuses with faculty and IT using BlackBoard. Video was also used. Regent Donofrio noted the IT Committee would address this to assure the infrastructure remains adequate. He also asked for follow-up on enrollment for the next cohort. **The vote was taken and unanimously approved.**

6. Proposal for Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award

- a. **A motion to recommend approval made by N. Donofrio, seconded by L. DeNardis.** Dr. Yungclas introduced the proposal, noting when approval of the Teaching Awards was made a few months ago it included a proposal to create Adjunct Awards. Regent Harris suggested adding Board Recognition in May to the timeline. There was a general question regarding budget and what would happen if reduction of adjuncts is needed. Dr. Nunez noted that normally no program would reduce just adjuncts as they are critical to programs and the vision would be to protect adjuncts in critical categories. It was also noted that at the

community colleges many adjuncts are people from industry who can be very important to program relevancy as well as providing cost savings. **The vote was taken and unanimously approved.**

The agenda order was changed to accommodate schedules.

9. Other Business

Regent Richard Balducci was invited to speak to an item to be on January's agenda regarding an endowed chair at Central CSU. Regent Balducci thanked the committee for allowing him to speak now as he will be out of the country at the next meeting. He noted Eileen Daily was the recommended nominee for the William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics. He has known and worked with Ms. Daily for a long time. He was also on the Board at CCSU when this chair was created. He thought Ms. Daily would be a wonderful person to fill the position, noting her background and her service in the legislature. .

7. Discussion – Remediation Plans final documents

Dr. Nunez introduced Dr. Adair from the Faculty Advisory Committee and presented the plan, noting the history of the PA 12-40 remedial law the legislature implemented in response to data. The plan encompasses two parts: 1) multiple measures – Dr. Nunez and Dr. Yungclas will be leading an important discussion with faculty and the need to agree on a finite set of multiple measures. This will come for a vote in May; 2) developmental education can only be offered for one semester – those who fail fall into three categories – Level 1 need embedded remediation only, Level 2 need more remediation hours, and Level 3, the lowest level, need more intense remediation. Level 1 is embedded help that is not really remediation but gives extra hours of instruction. The CSUs provide only level 1 – she noted that at Eastern CSU five years of data have indicated a 96% success with this embedded model. Level 2 is done at the Community Colleges and is more intensive with more hours, more technology and more instruction – a “boot camp” model. When students succeed in Level 2, they can move into the embedded level 1. In response to a question, it was noted Financial Aid can cover tuition for levels 1 and 2. There is a \$2 million budget for implementation, however, there is an additional \$200,000 set aside for level 3 only. Level 3 is for those that need more intensive help and the challenges will be cost, creative programs and faster moving programs. The goal will be to get students into levels 1 or 2. Obstacles include the need to do the program in summer, the need for particular faculty (not adjuncts), and the technology need (these students often need the most help with technology). There were more questions concerning budget and demographics, noting demographic data would be important in determining successes. Dr. Adair mentioned there is a PA 12-40 Advisory Group. He also noted there is tremendous variation across campuses. Future Committee discussions and action will include addressing multiple measures and determining which programs are meeting the requirements of the legislation. There are still many variations in all levels and we are still far away from determining what constitutes success. Dr. Nunez noted she, with other BOR staff, will begin meeting with legislators and presenting the written reports.

8. Information Item – Below-Threshold Program Notification

- a. 9-credit Graduate Certificates in History (American, European or non-Western) – Southern CSU. The information item was noted.

Adjournment

There was no other business. **A motion to adjourn was made by N. Cohen, seconded by N. Donofrio and unanimously approved.** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.