



**BOR ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
Friday, April 5th, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.**

- Regents Present: Committee Chair Ira Bloom, Regent Juanita James, Regent James McCarthy, Regent Richard Porth
- Members: Professor Colena Sesanker
- Staff Present: Aynsley Diamond, Pamela Heleen, Kaylah Davis
- Other Attendees: Kelly Bordner (SCSU), Michelle Brown (WCSU), David Burns (WCSU), Daniel Coffman (WCSU), David Ferreira (COSC), Stephen Ferruci (ECSU), Mark Groskretz (SCSU), Stephen Hegedus (WCSU), Maureen Hogan (COSC), Elliot Hortch (SCSU), Rachel Jeffrey (SCSU), Bruce Kalk (SCSU), James Mulrooney (CCSU), Brooke Palkie (COSC), Robert Prezant (SCSU), William Salka (ECSU), Kari Sassu (SCSU)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Ira Bloom.

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2024
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the March 8th, 2024 minutes. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Eastern Connecticut State University Report – Dr. William Salka, Provost
 - a. Academic Updates
Provost William Salka provided an academic update. ECSU is finalizing the academic program planning process and anticipates significant changes in several departments to streamline and ensure program relevancy. The new nursing program received licensure and has over 500 applicants; additionally, the simulation laboratory construction at Windham Hospital is underway.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired about the number of students to be admitted into the Nursing program. Provost Salka advised that their goal is 60 students but anticipate that goal will be exceeded.
 - b. Modification
 - i. English – BA – Modification
Eastern Connecticut State University requested approval for the modification of the Bachelor of Arts program in English. Dr. Stephen Ferruci advised that this modification is to streamline the major and reduce need for part time faculty, which in turn, has financial benefits.. The addition of three writing courses will hone writing skills for varying audiences and genres, as students will be reading, analyzing, and synthesizing works from child literature to film. The new liberal arts core includes career development courses

which will provide skills and tools to prepare students for the job market.

Regent Juanita James inquired about how achievements of the program will be monitored and when is a reasonable time to determine if the program objectives were met from a student perspective. Dr. Ferruci advised that they currently have an assessment process that includes a student survey as they begin their entry level courses and an exit interview at the end of the program. Students also construct a portfolio that includes a reflective essay where they detail their process and development as a writer. A committee reviews these, establishes a report, and revises the program to meet the needs identified. The outcomes of the requested modification would be seen in about four years upon student completion of the program. Regent Juanita James suggested that alumni speak with current students and added the appreciation of the major and placing value on the humanities. Dr. Ferruci agreed on the need to be more systemic in alumni connections and making this a central component.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired if there is a required writing course within the general education component. Dr. Ferruci advised that they offer English 100, as well as English 100+, which includes a lab for less prepared students and tutors in the class, they also have a writing center on campus. Faculty can adjust to meet student needs. The new core also includes three courses dedicated to writing, developing, and improving student skills. Regent James McCarthy asked if there are a range of courses are offered in the liberal arts core for non-majors. Dr. Ferruci advised that the department has a large presence in the core, and students often take literature and writing courses, adding that a creative writing course has been developed for non-majors.

Regent James McCarthy inquired if the English department coordinates with other departments for students to take the subject as a minor. Dr. Ferruci confirmed that the department has connections with other majors, such as, History, Social Sciences, Film, and Psychology. English and Writing are offered as a minor option for interested students.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.

4. Southern Connecticut State University Report – Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Provost Robert Prezant provided an academic update. SCSU has two searches underway for a Dean of Education and Dean of the Graduate School. They are also moving forward with their finalized strategic plan. The recent SCSU Day of Caring raised over \$900,000, with about 1,900 separate gifts, much of which, will go towards supporting students.

b. Modifications

- i. Applied Behavior Analysis – MS – Modification of Instructional Delivery
 - ii. Applied Behavior Analysis – Sixth Year Certificate – Modification of Instructional Delivery
- Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for the modifications of two programs, a Master of Science and Sixth Year Certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis. Dr. Mark Groskreutz and Dr. Kari Sassu shared that the modification is to instructional delivery, moving from an on-ground modality to hybrid. This change stems from student need and request for flexibility as many students work and find it difficult to come to campus multiple times per week.

Regent Juanita James added that she is happy to see the progression with the strategic plan, and the recognition of meeting the needs of students today.

Regent James McCarthy also provided kudos, adding that flexible and online master's degree programs are attractive to students.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the two modifications. On

a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the modifications were approved unanimously.

c. New Program

i. Behavioral Neuroscience – BS

Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science program in Behavioral Neuroscience. Dr. Bruce Kalk, Dr. Kelley Bordner, and Dr. Rachel Jeffrey shared that this program is the first of its kind and includes the merging of discipline areas to come together and provide opportunities for students. Students have expressed interest in the intersection of biology and psychology, two majors that already have a large pool of students. Without the Behavioral Neuroscience program, there is a loss of students interested in this intersection, as they are moving to Quinnipiac University. In offering the program, SCSU will be able to retain the interested students. At SCSU Dr. Bordner and Dr. Jeffrey have collaborated on the creation of this major for the last five to six years. During the previous hiring cycles, they have brought on faculty with knowledge in this area.

Regent Juanita James added her excitement and kudos for this new program.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the enrollment in the majors of Psychology and Biology, and if the program is in alignment with the campus mitigation plan. It was confirmed that there are about 750 students in both programs, which is about 9% of the overall student body. With this new program, they will be able to retain students in the majors that have interest in the intersection.

Additionally, the new program is consistent with the campus mitigation plan.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

ci. Below Threshold

i. Astronomy – Undergraduate Minor – New Minor

ii. Healthcare Studies – BS – Program Modification

iii. Psychology – Pathway to Applied Behavioral Analysis – MS – New Option within an Approved Program

Dr. Elliot Hortch commented regarding the new undergraduate minor in Astronomy.

The minor is a joint effort of Earth Science and Physics departments. With the upcoming solar eclipse, there is generation of interest, and the department will be distributing glasses on campus, as well as streaming the solar event.

5. Western Connecticut State University Report – Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Interim Provost

a. Academic Updates

Interim Provost Stephen Hegedus provided an academic update. WCSU's strategic planning process is in place and is anticipated to be complete by June. The general education framework has been developed and is going through multiple levels of review. They are also developing an institutional effect framework, which includes a data informed assessment of instructional and non-instructional units. Their acceptance rate has increased from this time last year and have also increased in deposits. They are celebrating Accepted Students Day this coming weekend.

b. New Program

i. Artificial Intelligence – MS

Western Connecticut State University requested approval for the approval of a new Master of Science program in Artificial Intelligence. This program is a collaborative effort of the math and computer science departments, and highlights faculty expertise. AI is a large field, and this program proposes a core foundation with focused specialty areas. They are looking into future possibilities for 4+1 pathways to aid in student retention. Dr. Michelle Brown, Dr. Daniel Coffman, and Dr. David Burns elaborated that the MS in AI provides

students with broad and deep knowledge. Faculty are experts in this arena, including adjunct faculty who have experiential knowledge and applicability of AI. WCSU also is in the middle of a high interest growth center for AI, as it is close to New York, New Jersey, and New Hampshire. This program would be beneficial as it fills a need in these local and diverse growth areas in the tri state regional economy. In addition to meeting regional needs, the program aims to recruit international students, which is in alignment with the presidential initiative. This program is anticipated to be appealing to international students, as it can be completed within two semesters. There are already existing pipelines from ABET accredited computer science programs within WCSU, as well as across the system, the mathematics program, and other STEM majors.. The MS In AI pre-requisite courses were tailored to include many mathematics and computer science courses that students would complete as electives in their undergraduate coursework, so many students in the graduate program would already satisfy this requirement. Dr. Burns shared that computer science and mathematics began in tandem, but over time diverged, however, machine learning and AI have been an opportunity to bring these two fields back together. Regent James McCarthy added his excitement to see this unfold.

Chair Ira Bloom commented regarding the rapidly changing field of AI and asked if this program is designed to shift as changes occur. Dr. Coffman confirmed that the faculty are up to date, and that the students and local partners are also participants in the everchanging field.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

6. Charter Oak State College Report – Dr. David Ferreira, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Provost Ferreira provided an academic update. Charter Oak through their AI advisory board is establishing an AI governance process which will provide guidelines on academic integrity, faculty, and staff training, and assessing AI tools from vendors. Charter Oak is in Senate Bill 2 regarding AI regulations and the formation of online AI Citizens Academy which Charter Oak will convene. They are in conversation with Google, as well as JFF regarding AI implementation and AI skills and tools in the workforce. COSC has an AI general education requirement, specifically in AI literacy. Former Regent Holly Howery is the lead faculty member and will share with other faculty members information on the initial results regarding teaching AI literacy to students. Charter Oak has also been working on academic program planning, which was officially launched in August of 2023. They went through multiple iterations, and the final academic program plan was unanimously approved through the faculty governance process. This plan encompasses four buckets, the first being discontinued programs with low enrollment or lack of need, second is modifications to programs, third is programs to monitor as they may be new or have future partnership opportunities, and fourth are growth opportunities.

b. Discontinuation of BS – American Sign Language

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of the Bachelor of Science program in American Sign Language. The program began about two years ago with an anticipated pipeline from CT State Northwestern; however, it struggles with enrollment and would require 14 course developments to modify.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuation. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the discontinuation was approved unanimously.

c. Discontinuation of Associate of Arts in General Studies and Discontinuation of

Bachelor of Arts in General Studies

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of the Associate of Arts and Bachelor of Arts programs in General Studies. The offerings of the Associate of Arts and Science in General Studies have only one difference, the liberal arts requirement. The one student in the AA program and two in the BA program, can be taught out in the AS and BS programs.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuation. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- d. Discontinuation of BS and BA – General Studies Concentrations

Charter Oak requested approval for the discontinuation of the General Studies concentrations within the Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts programs. There are several concentrations in the General Studies area that have nearly no enrollment but require human resources to maintain. With this discontinuation, two concentrations within the BS in General Studies will remain, Individualized Studies and Judaic Studies, which is highly enrolled through partnership with Mo'ehr. Provost Ferreira confirmed the accuracy as set forth by the resolution for the discontinuations of selected General Studies concentrations within the BS and BA programs.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations as set forth in the resolution. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- e. Discontinuations of Three (3) Certificates

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of three certificate programs. The Connecticut Director Credential programs at the Initial, Master, and Standard levels over time have become outdated. Charter Oak State College and the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) have jointly agreed to discontinue this credential.

Regent Juanita James inquired about other early childhood education programs offerings. Provost Ferreira advised that through collaboration with the OEC, they recently put forward a child development certificate, which is funded by the OEC and at a level one stackable credential pathway. Charter Oak is also in collaboration with the OEC to develop teacher certification programs in the near future.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- f. Discontinuations of Five (5) Undergraduate Certificates

- g. Discontinuation of Cyber Security Fundamentals – Undergraduate Certificate

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuations of five undergraduate certificates, 6.f., and the discontinuation of the undergraduate Cyber Security Fundamentals certificate, 6.g. The certificates do not lead to any industry recognized credentials, and as a result are low enrolled. Other stackable and industry recognized credential programs have been brought forward in the below threshold items.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- h. Discontinuations of Two (2) Undergraduate Certificates

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of two undergraduate certificates. The two long term care undergraduate certificate programs have not had any enrollment in the last five years and lead to no industry recognized

credentials.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- i. Discontinuations of Two (2) Undergraduate Public Safety Certificates

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of two undergraduate Public Safety Certificates. The two undergraduate public safety certificates have no enrollment and do not lead to any industry recognized credentials.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- j. Discontinuations of Two (2) Graduate Certificates

- k. Discontinuation of Nonprofit Leadership – Graduate Certificate

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuations of two graduate certificates, 6.j., and the discontinuation of the graduate certificate in Nonprofit Leadership, 6.k. These were intended for students that were not planning to enter a master's degree program and have not led to much enrollment. At the time that this program was created, Charter Oak did not have a non-credit division. With the non-credit division now available, Charter Oak can offer options in this area that provide short term workforce training programs at a price that meets market demands.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- l. Modification of a Program and Discontinuation of Program Concentrations

- m. Modification of Two Programs

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the modification of a program and discontinuation of program concentrations, 6.l., and the modifications of two programs, 6.m. They are developing a business core and in each area will have courses specific to that major. The modification also is intended to make necessary changes to align with the accrediting agency. There were previously two concentrations in the program, but now have a separate major.

Regent Bloom inquired about any potential competition between the Business Administration program and two new majors. Provost Ferreira confirmed that enrollment has grown in the area, and concentrations are harder to find on webpages.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification of a program and discontinuation of program concentrations, and the modification of two programs. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the modifications and discontinuations were approved unanimously.

- n. Reinstatement of the Undergraduate Certificate – Speech and Language Pathology Assistant Studies

Charter Oak State College requested approval for the reinstatement of the undergraduate certificate in Speech and Language Pathology Assistant Studies (SPLS). Dr. Hogan and Provost Ferreira shared that this program was previously suspended, as it was in partnership with CREC that was developed years ago. According to the previously developed contract, Charter Oak did not own the intellectual property for the program and required them to maintain the cost. The contract with CREC was discontinued, and this

program has been revamped. The program now is specifically geared towards SPLS's in Connecticut schools. Charter Oak has had conversations with Southern and hopes to coordinate with other institutions as well, as SLPA's are often interested in continuing after the completing this certificate.

Regent Juanita James inquired about what was learned from the previous contract. Provost Ferreira advised that though it was before his time, this is an example on how they can partner with other institutions to provide students a pipeline within the system.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired about the contract process, and if these agreements are reviewed by the legal department at the system office. Provost Ferreira advised that he cannot speak to this specific one, as it was before his time, but typically, there is coordination with system office legal review, as well as coordination with the state attorney general's office.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the reinstatement. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the reinstatement was approved unanimously.

o. Below Threshold

- i. Cyber Security – BS – Modification
- ii. Fundamentals of Cyber Security – Certificate 1 – New Certificate
- iii. Health Care Administration – BS – Modification
- iv. Health Care Administration – MS – Modification
- v. Health Information Management – BS – Modification
- vi. IT Support Professional – Certificate 1 – New Certificate
- vii. Organizational Leadership – MS – Modification

Provost Ferreira commented regarding the new fast track options for both part- and full-time students, which will accelerate their time to a master's program. Charter Oak previously only allowed 6 credits towards a graduate degree in an undergraduate program. This has been changed through their governance process, and now allows for this fast-track development. These students can fit courses within their major, and at a lower undergraduate cost. Dr. Brooke Palkie shared through the academic planning, they were able to connect with stakeholders to determine retention strategies and assist students in reaching their goals. This is also NECHE approved. There is the hope that this fast-track approach increases enrollment in graduate health programs.

Regent Richard Porth commented that the items discussed today show the time, care, and effort put into making academic changes.

Regent Juanita James echoed Regent Porth's comments. Adding that it is important for the Regents to understand what is happening, so that they can be better advocates and provide support.

7. Central Connecticut State University Report – Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. James Mulrooney served as proxy for Provost Kimberly Kostelis and provided an academic update. CCSU has revised their general education curriculum to be more student friendly and more flexible. The revision now includes a required upper level 'writing in the discipline' course. They are also in a search for the Dean of the new College of Health and Rehabilitation. Related to the new college, students and faculty recently provided health screening services at the on-campus community clinic. They are also working to restructure transfer operations from CT State to CCSU.

Regent Juanita James shared that she is happy to see collaboration regarding transfer students as long-term sustainable solutions and creating important pipelines for the economic health of

Connecticut.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom commended the writing courses and requirement, stating that it is an excellent approach. He added that the ability to write in the workforce is a skill, and this an important addition to the curriculum.

b. Below Threshold

- i. Theatre with Specialization in Performance – BFA – Modification
- ii. Systems Engineering – Graduate Certificate – New Certificate
- iii. Systems Engineering – Minor – New Degree Minor

Chair Ira Bloom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 11:30 a.m.