



**BOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Friday, September 6, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.

Conducted via Remote Participation

Regents Present: Committee Chair Ira Bloom, Regent James McCarthy, Regent Juanita James, Regent Richard Porth

Members: Professor Colena Sesanker, Commissioner Manisha Juthani

Staff Present: Lloyd Blanchard, Aynsley Diamond, Tamara O’Day Stevens, Pamela Heleen, Kaylah Davis

Other Attendees: Vince Breslin (SCSU), Michelle Brown (WCSU), Denise Coregiano (CT State), Lourdes Cruz (CT State), David DiMattio (CT State), James Doran (CT State), Paula Dowd (CT State), Kimberly Griffiths (CT State), Mac Griswold (CT State), Stephen Hegedus (WCSU), Christine Hegel-Cantarella (WCSU), Julia Irwin (SCSU), Miriah Kelly (SCSU), Kimberly Kostelis (CCSU), John Lewis (CT State), James Mulrooney (CCSU), Benjamin Pauley (ECSU), Christopher Trombley (SCSU)

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. June 7, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the June 7th, 2024 minutes. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
 - b. July 18, 2024 – Special Meeting
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the July 10^h, 2024 minutes. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Charter Oak State College – Dr. David Ferreira, Provost
 - a. Academic Updates
Dr. David Ferreira provided an academic update, discussing Charter Oak State College’s initiatives to enhance academic quality, strategic partnerships, and the student experience. The update was covered from [minute 2:25 to 14:45](#).
 - b. No Action Items for September 2024
4. Southern Connecticut State University – Dr. Julia Irwin, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates
Dr. Julia Irwin provided an academic update on Southern Connecticut State University’s academic progress, emphasizing commitment to excellence, accessibility, and social justice. Topics included enrollment and retention, early college programs, AI integration, and new programs for the year. The update was discussed from [minute 15:30 to 27:00](#).

b. Discontinuations

i. Clinical Mental Health Counseling - Post-Master's Certificate – Discontinuation

Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that the teach out schedule for this program is on schedule.

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

ii. Environmental Studies - Master of Science – Discontinuation

Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that the discontinuation aligns with the new Coastal Resilience program. Dr. Miriah Kelly noted that this change is part of a plan to phase out Environmental Studies in favor of the Coastal Resilience program approved last spring.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students remaining in the program. Dr. Kelly advised that the program currently has six students remaining, and five have expressed interest in the new program.

Regent Juanita James commended the thoughtful approach to program modifications and discontinuations.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom shared that the lessons learned piece of the form was valuable. Regent McCarthy shared that there is importance in recognizing and being continuous in program adaptation and response.

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. Modifications

i. Clinical Mental Health Counseling – Master of Science – Modify Instructional Modality

Dr. Irwin shared that the modification of instructional modality is intended to align with other similar clinical programs with a hybrid model.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students enrolled in the program. Dr. Irwin and Dr. Trombley confirmed that there are about 75 students currently enrolled.

Regent Juanita James inquired on the additional effort needed by the faculty to develop the hybrid model. Dr. Trombley shared that the department has been working and preparing over time to move this program to a hybrid model.

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

ii. Exercise and Sport Science – Bachelor of Science and Master of Science – Modification of CIP Code

Dr. Irwin shared that the request for modification is to align to a CIP code that better reflects the programs focus, specifically, the scientific study of physiological processes, sensory motor interactions, mechanics, and the effects of disabilities and disease.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students enrolled in this program, Dr. Irwin confirmed that she will provide the number to the committee.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired if this program is connected to the Recreational Therapy program that was passed in June 2024. Dr. Irwin advised that the programs have overlap regarding interest, but are more specific in focus, this one particularly is in line with physiology research, and therapeutic and psychiatric settings.

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.

d. Below Threshold

i. Nursing – Master of Nursing (Family Nurse Practitioner) - Modification of an Accredited Program

No comments were offered.

5. Eastern Connecticut State University – Dr. Ben Pauley, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates

Dr. Benjamin Pauley provided an academic update and shared updates on minor curriculum adjustments, professional development, a new liberal arts core, interdisciplinary seminars, transfer student considerations, and enrollment and retention. The update was discussed from [minute 44:35 to 55:10](#).
 - b. No Action Items for September 2024

6. Central Connecticut State University – Dr. Kim Kostelis, Provost
 - a. Academic Updates

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis shared an academic update and highlighted growth and strategic developments, including CCSU's 175th Anniversary, the launch of the College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, renaming the School of Education, the success of the MSW program, AI integration, and expansion of international education. She shared a video of the new AI corridor. The update was discussed from [minute 55:30 to 1:04:30](#).
 - b. No action items for September 2024

7. Western Connecticut State University – Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates

Dr. Stephen Hegedus shared an academic update that detailed the “Western Rising 2020-2030” strategic plan, which aligns with NECHE requirements and includes a detailed blueprint to success. He also reported a 4% increase in enrollment, with the largest incoming first-year class since 2018. Details on new programs and a strategic focus on graduate programs were shared. Regent Porth requested a copy of the blueprint to success document. The update was discussed from [minute 1:05:20-1:27:25](#).
 - b. Below Thresholds
 - i. Anthropology Sociology – Bachelor of Arts – Modification of an Accredited Program
 - ii. Anthropology Sociology - General Studies Option – Bachelor of Arts - New Option
 - iii. Anthropology Sociology - Global Studies Option – Bachelor of Arts – New Option
 - iv. Anthropology Sociology - Social Justice and Policy Option – Bachelor of Arts – New Option

Dr. Stephen Hegedus shared that the below threshold items are a part of a reconfiguration and reinvigoration of the anthropology and sociology curriculum.

8. CT State Community College – Dr. Karen Hynick, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates

Dr. Karen Hynick shared an academic update and including updates on CT State's progress, including a slight increase in enrollment, an enrollment summit, and preparations for a NECHE visit in April. Focus areas include shared governance, ACME policy, student learning outcomes, dual enrollment, and budget mitigation. Regent Porth requested a detailed report on dual enrollment as it relates to urban districts. Professor Colena Sesanker emphasized the importance of reviewing and revising the ACME policy. Regent Juanita James highlighted the need to learn from past successes and challenges to strengthen and improve student outcomes. CT State's academic update was discussed from minute [1:27:40 to 1:40:35](#).
 - b. New Program
 - i. Licensed Practical Nursing – Certificate

Dr. Karen Hynick presented the Licensed Practical Nursing certificate program. This 54-credit certificate will take place at the Quinebaug Valley campus and will be the first program at CT

State in this area. The certificate addresses a significant demand for practical nurses in Connecticut, filling a gap as there are currently no public programs for LPN preparation. Dean Paula Dowd noted that the program is designed to create a pathway for students to advance from LPN to RN, BSN, and beyond, with credit-bearing prerequisites that can transfer to RN programs. Provost Hynick confirmed that there is an additional philanthropic fit through the town foundation that provides scholarship funds for first year students.

Regent Juanita James emphasized the need to support this program and shared the potential for this program to serve as a model for replication across CT State. Dean Dowd shared that there are other campuses interested in offering this program as well, and they have received letters of support from health partners that are included in the agenda packet.

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

c. Below Thresholds

- i. Mechanical-Electrical Manufacturing Basis (MEMB) - Certificate 2 – New Certificate
Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that the MEMB certificate is tailored to Electric Boat and collaborates with local industry.
- ii. Music Industry – Associate of Science - Modification of an Accredited Program
- iii. Nursing – Associate of Science - Modification of an Accredited Program

9. Information Items

a. Resolution on CT State Student Services

The resolution calls for a report at the October meeting, and this item will return to the ASA and Finance committees next month with details on how CT State plans to restore student services.

b. CSCU Student Enrollment and Retention Report – Part II

Dr. Lloyd Blanchard presented a redesigned enrollment report with detailed demographic and completion information. Regent James McCarthy expressed positive feedback to Dr. Blanchard and his team regarding their work on the report. He commended them for addressing concerns and incorporating feedback throughout the process, as well as for the overall progress the report has made. Feedback included suggestions to streamline the report and add year-over-year trend data. Regent James McCarthy recommended focusing on key indicators and using benchmarks for comparison. Dr. Karen Hynick mentioned the Voluntary Framework of Accountability as a potential better indicator of community college success. Discussion continued regarding improving data governance and including non-credit courses and workforce programs. The full discussion occurs from minute [1:50:50 to 2:26:30](#).

Committee Chair Ira Bloom recognized Regent James McCarthy and his contributions to the BOR-ASA committee, noting that this was his last meeting.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 12pm.