



**BOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Thursday, October 10th, 2024 @ 2:30 p.m.

Conducted via Remote Participation

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

Members: Professor Colena Sesanker

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

Other Attendees: Stephen Hegedus (WCSU), Karen Hynick (CT State), Julia Irwin (SCSU), Kerry Kelley (CT State), Kimberly Kostelis (CCSU), John Maduko (CT State), Benjamin Pauley (ECSU), Brian Vernon (WCSU)

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 6, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the September 6th, 2024 minutes. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Connecticut State Colleges and Universities – Information Items
 - a. CSCU Student Enrollment and Completions Report
Dr. Lloyd Blanchard and Dr. Tamara O'Day Stevens presented an enrollment report that includes data on undergraduate and graduate headcounts, certificate participants, and metrics related to access, completion, and employment. The report covers demographic information, retention and graduation rates, transfer rates, and graduate employment percentages, but faces challenges in linking program codes to industry standards. Regent Richard Porth shared his appreciation for the report and responsiveness to feedback and inquired if it would be possible to do a comparison amongst comparable educational institutions or similar benchmarks, in effort to better understand how we are doing comparatively. Dr. Blanchard confirmed that IPEDS data can be used, and his suggestion for comparison is to use the Carnegie classifications and compare each institution with its own set of peers. Regent Richard Porth inquired if there is a way to connect this information with the needs of CT's major industries and workforce. Dr. Blanchard advised that this information isn't readily available, however, there are older data sets that can provide information. Regent Juanita James emphasized the importance of identifying key performance indicators to understand barriers to success and the need for stakeholder engagement. Dr. Blanchard suggested tracking year-over-year enrollment metrics and creating briefs to analyze retention metrics. Provost Hegedus highlighted the complexities of retention post-COVID, while Dr. O'Day Stevens recommended starting data analysis from 2023 onward to better reflect the pandemic's impact.
The full discussion occurs from [minute 2:04 to 45:20](#).
 - b. Update on Reinstatement of CT State Student Services
Dr. John Maduko provided an update on efforts to restore student-facing services across the institution. Joined by Provost Karen Hynick and VP of Finance Kerry Kelley, they highlighted the need to enhance seven key areas of student services, including library hours, tutoring, and mental health support. The plan will be data-driven, utilizing student surveys to assess needs and ensure transparency throughout the process. They emphasized the goal of prioritizing services that support student success while

remaining open to mid-year adjustments based on enrollment trends. President Maduko advised that plans will be discussed further at the upcoming board meeting on October 25th. In addition, a dedicated website for this initiative has been created to keep stakeholders informed. Regent Juanita James expressed appreciation for the progress made in restoring student services at CT State. She asked whether the same thorough examination applied to reducing services during deficit mitigation as was used when reinstating them, seeking clarity on the decision-making process. President Maduko acknowledged the importance of prioritizing specific areas like student support and teaching during the deficit mitigation process, emphasizing that input from campus leaders was sought to minimize harm. Regent Juanita James added the suggestion to explore alternative funding sources beyond tuition and state support and highlighted the need for innovative partnerships with the philanthropic and business communities to sustain student services. Regent Richard Porth expressed gratitude for the ongoing discussions about tuition and student costs and emphasized the importance of making informed decisions when restoring support services. President Maduko responded by highlighting the importance of aligning services with student needs and schedules and emphasized the affordability of CT State, with 59% of students paying no tuition due to financial aid programs; he also shared that combining free tuition with guided pathways advising significantly boosts student persistence rates, particularly for underrepresented groups. He reaffirmed the commitment to a thoughtful restoration of services based on student feedback and needs, and looked forward to presenting the final report in November. The presentation is attached, and the full discussion occurs from [minute 45:45 to 1:08:53](#).

4. CT State Community College – Dr. Karen Hynick, Interim Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Karen Hynick shared academic updates relating to CT State during the discussion of item 3. b.

b. No action items for October 2024

5. Southern Connecticut State University – Dr. Julia Irwin, Interim Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Julia Irwin shared that SCSU's concurrent enrollment headcount is now 1703 students. SCSU has recently announced the Yale Teaching fellowship, a collaboration with SCSU, Yale, New Haven Public Schools, and New Haven Promise. SCSU has also been invited to participate in workshops that focus on systemic improvements as an emerging HIS. The university has also received a grant from the Community Foundation for Creative Connections, a program for homeless youth.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked a follow up question from the September BOR-ASA meeting, inquiring on the number of students in the Exercise and Sports Science program. It was confirmed that there are 15 students.

The full academic update occurs from [minute 1:21:40 to 1:23:30](#).

b. No action items for October 2024

6. Eastern Connecticut State University – Dr. Ben Pauley, Interim Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Benjamin Pauley shared an update regarding two projects underway at ECSU. The first project, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, involves collaboration among Eastern and four other universities to develop curricular modules that explore the intersection of humanities and AI. This initiative aims to create classroom interventions that help humanities students critically engage with AI, culminating in a repository of exercises and a conference for faculty to share insights. The second, supported by a grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, involves two cohorts of teaching scholars. Six faculty members from various disciplines will develop and study new teaching exercises and will transform their findings into manuscripts suitable for publication, promoting scholarship in teaching and learning.

The full academic update occurs from [minute 1:11:00 to 1:16:05](#).

b. No Action Items for October 2024

7. Central Connecticut State University – Dr. Kim Kostelis, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis shared that CCSU has passed an updated general education curriculum and is working on the implementation. CCSU also recently held an AI conference. In addition, the AI Corridor

is in the process of installing a synthetic human there and in the gymnasium and recreation center. Finally, CCSU is celebrating its 175th anniversary with ribbon cuttings and events, all culminating on homecoming weekend with a Gala on November 2nd.

The full academic update occurs from [minute 1:16:10 to 1:18:17](#).

- b. Endowed Chair Appointment
 - i. Recommendation to Appoint Gabe Rosenberg to the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics
Central Connecticut State University requested approval for the appointment of Gabe Rosenberg to the Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics. Mr. Rosenberg’s resume was provided in the agenda materials, noting that he currently serves as the chief of staff for the Connecticut Secretary of the State. As an Endowed Chair, he would teach one course annually in the political science department. The specific course he plans to teach has yet to be determined, but initial discussions are underway.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the Endowed Chair appointment. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the Endowed Chair appointment was approved unanimously.

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

- a. Academic Updates
Dr. Stephen Hegedus provided an update on the reconfiguration of the Graduate School at WCSU, which now integrates the International, Graduate Admission, and Career Success Offices to enhance and prioritize graduate programs. This restructuring will create more opportunities for 4+1 programs and micro credentials, with WCSU partnering with Charter Oak and Coursera to launch their first micro credential. The strategic focus on reconfigured programs and new concentrations within master's and doctoral programs aims to ensure future enrollment stability both regionally and internationally. Regent Richard Porth followed up on the WCSU “Blueprint to Success” document that was discussed at the September meeting. The document was shared with the Committee by the WestConn Academic and Student Affairs Office, and receipt of the document will be confirmed again at the next meeting. Provost Hegedus advised that he is happy to host and meet with the Regents to discuss this further at any time. The full academic update occurs from [minute 1:23:40 to 1:30:50](#).
- b. Below Threshold
 - i. Art – Bachelor of Arts – Modification of an Accredited Program
Dean Brian Vernon discussed changes to the program, focusing on the reduction in major credits to align more closely with the standard liberal arts degree programs and in response to feedback as provided from the National Association of School Art and Design. This modification aims to enhance the program's effectiveness for students, particularly those interested in art education. Dean Vernon confirmed that the modified 49-credit degree will still meet the requirements for teacher education in art.

9. Charter Oak State College – Dr. David Ferreira, Provost

- a. Academic Updates
Dr. David Ferreira shared that new program development is underway and will go through their governance process soon, along with modifications and discontinuations of existing programs. Notably, Charter Oak was recognized on Forbes' list of America's Top Colleges. Charter Oak ranked as the top online institution on this list, outperforming other online schools like the University of Florida and the University of Maryland Global Campus. Provost Ferreira also discussed ongoing work regarding a partnership with CT State, with a goal to create a seamless enrollment process for students transitioning between institutions, ensuring that the experience feels unified and straightforward. Regent Richard Porth and Regent Juanita James congratulated Provost Ferreira on these achievements. The full academic update occurs from [minute 1:33:10 to 1:36:40](#).
- b. No Action Items for October 2024

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to adjourn. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 4:08pm.

2023
CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Progress Report on Board Resolution to Restore Student Facing Services

October 10, 2024

Your Community. Your College.



In July of 2023, CT State became the **LARGEST COLLEGE** in Connecticut. Currently enrolling **64,883** students.

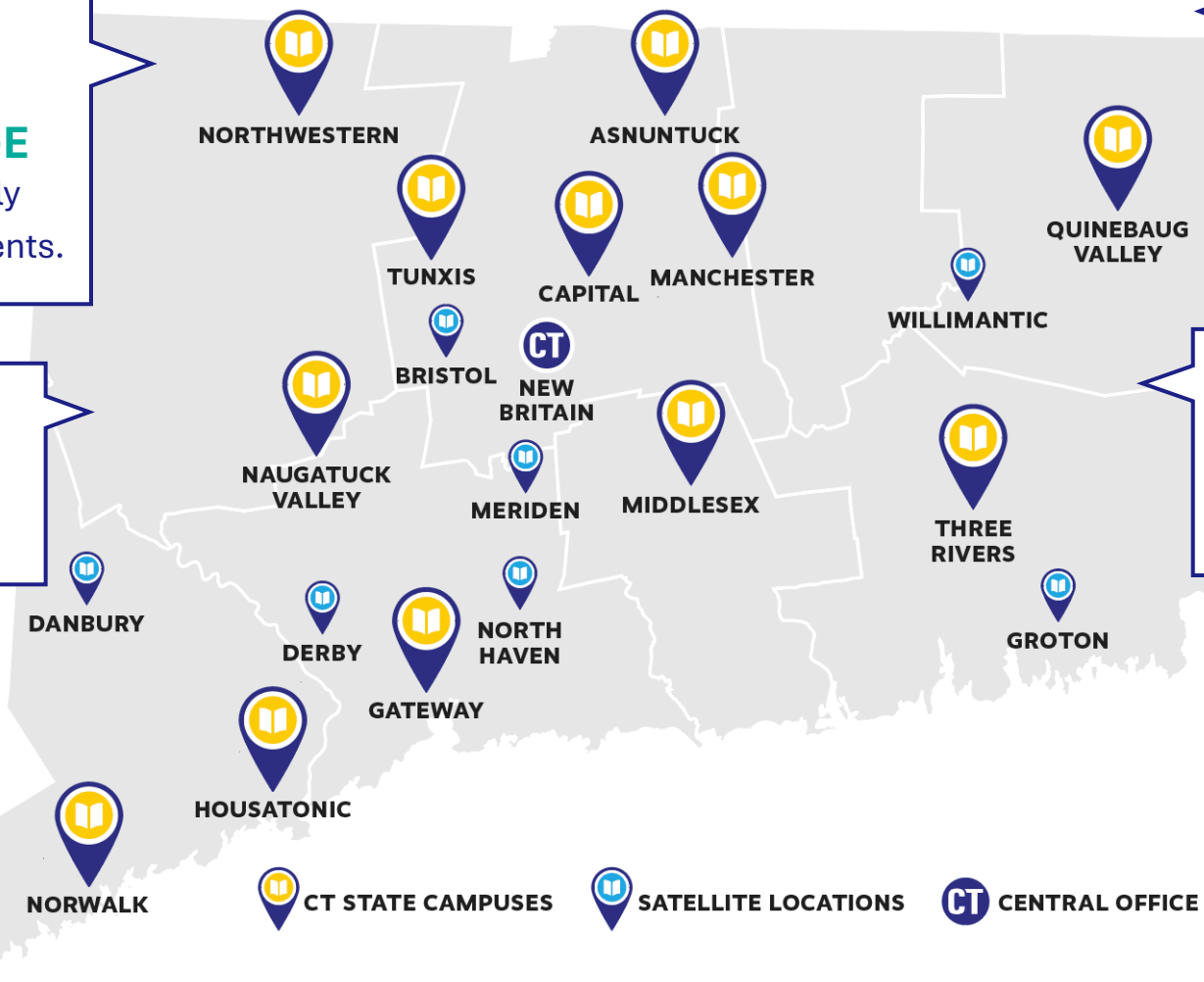
We serve **25%** of all undergraduate students in Connecticut.

We serve over **5,000** dual-enrolled high school students.

Connecticut's community colleges have a 60-year history of educating **250,000** alumni.

Over **90%** of our alumni remain in Connecticut and are Connecticut taxpayers.

57% are students of color; we are a minority-majority institution.





Credit Student Profile



300

Credit Programs

15:1

Student to Faculty Ratio

221:1

Student to Advisor Ratio

40,320

Are Degree-Seekers

Others are pursuing a certificate or short-term workforce training.

27,166

Are First Generation Students

38,829

Attend Part-Time

27,952

Are Students of Color

We are a minority-majority institution.

30,000

Work While Going to School

6,300 are parents attending school.

11,000

Are Latine

Five of our campuses are Hispanic-serving institutions.

15,071

Attend Classes at More Than One CT State Campus

(up from about 600 per term pre-merger)

2,500

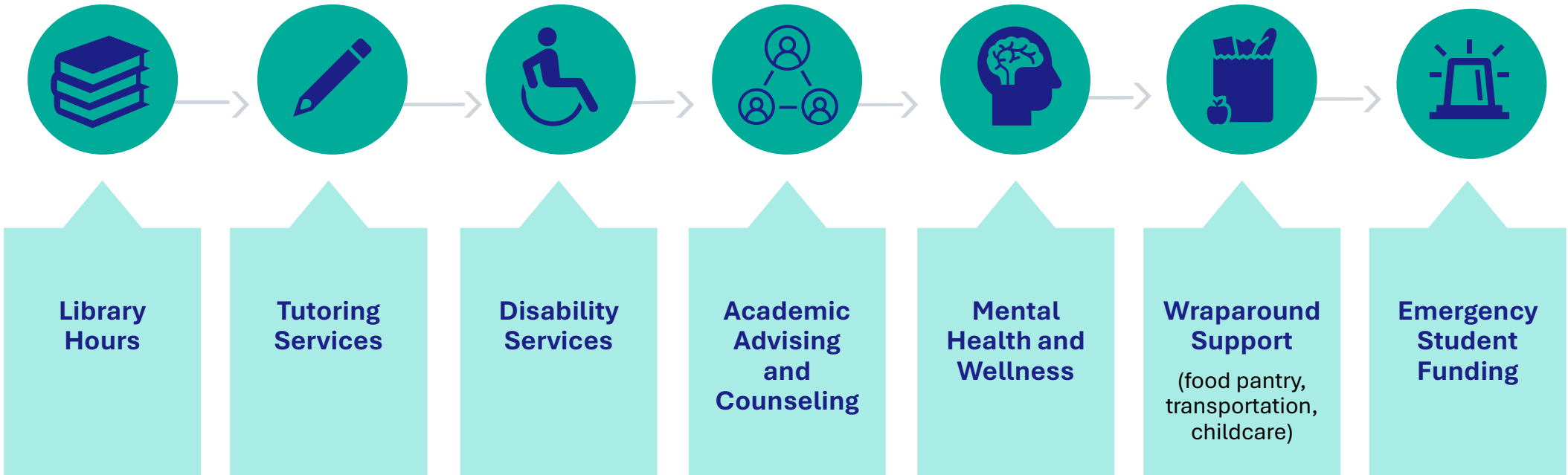
Have a Disability or Accommodation Needs

98% of CT State students are from Connecticut, representing all CT school districts.

Resolution to Restore Student Facing Services

The Board directed CT State to develop a plan to strategically restore student services affected by the FY 24 & 25 deficit mitigation

Plan should prioritize the key student services such as:





The CT State Plan Will

- Align with CT State's strategic priorities and goals
- Leverage the Holistic Student Support Surveys on student needs & challenges
- Recognize that no two years are the same & analyze the makeup of the student body and how they access our campuses/offerings
- Honor our Principles of Shared & Participatory Governance
- Provide a timeline for implementation
- Identify a funding source
- Be transparent



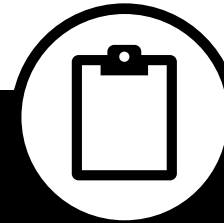
▶▶ CT State Progress in Developing the Plan



Campus leaders have engaged with local stakeholder groups to identify student needs



Initial recommendations submitted on 9/27/24
Finance Division is analyzing the cost for each



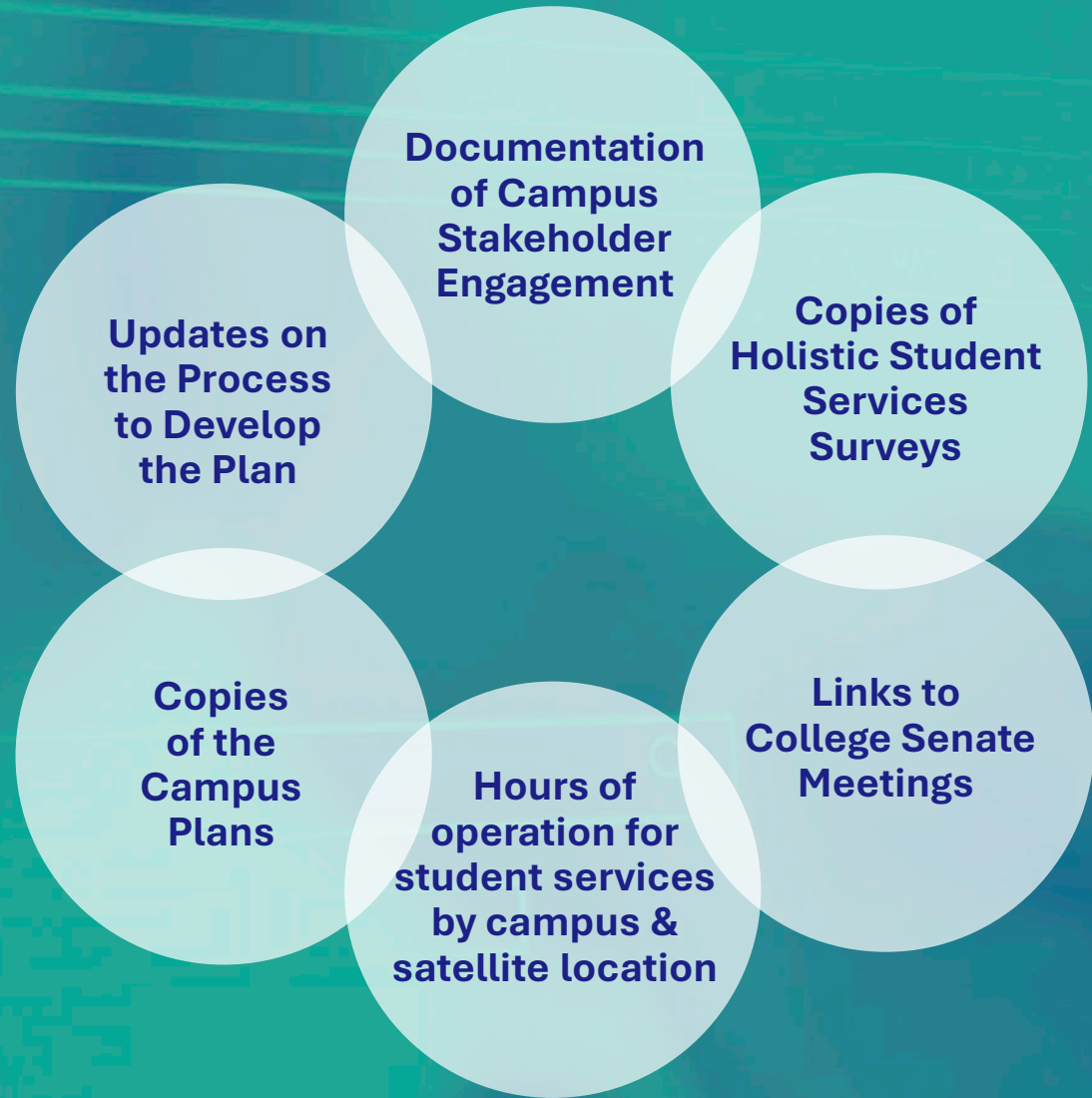
CT State completed a survey on the Hours of Operation by for student facing services by campus and satellite location



With support from College Senate leaders, the timeline to develop the plan was extended to allow for statewide shared governance

CT State is Committed to Transparency

The college has established a
webpage that will contain:





Thank You

CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE