

CSCU Board of Regents

**Joint Meeting
Academic & Student Affairs Committee
Human Resources & Administration Committee
Friday, December 6, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

Meeting Minutes

ASA COMMITTEE	PARTICIPATING
Ira Bloom, Chair	Yes
Juanita James	Yes
Rick Porth	Yes
Colena Sesanker, ex officio	Yes

HR/ADMIN COMMITTEE	PARTICIPATING
Sophia Jappinen, Chair	Yes
Richard J. Balducci	No
Juanita James	Yes
Elise E. Wright	Yes

CSCU STAFF PRESENT:

Lori Lamb, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and Labor Relations

Kim Pacelli, Interim CSCU Title IX Coordinator

Pam Heleen, Secretary to the Board (recorder)

Secretary of the Board welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the Academic & Student Affairs Committee and the Human Resources & Administration Committee. She called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT REPORT UPDATE

- Kim Pacelli provided the Committees with an overview of the Annual Report on Sexual Misconduct for CSCU. The presentation is included in its entirety as Attachment A.
- Open discussion followed:
 - Regent James asked whether it's too early to tell if we have concerns about required changes in the future given the external landscape. Kim Pacelli responded that the common concern around where the Trump administration will go with Title IX substantively is the revisiting of their interpretation of whether discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Biden Administration etched it into federal regulation, and she predicts that the Trump Administration will say that Title IX does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. She added that she is not concerned because CT law prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Cameron Liston added that the federal regulations will set the floor, but it would be prudent to expect some floor lowering in terms of explicit right protection at the federal level. He added that the operational impact of the change will be minimal; personal impact will be high. It will be CSCU's mission to explain what is still protected at the institutions and what CSCU holds as its values.

- Regent Porth asked if there is a way to gauge or measure how CSCU's communications and educational efforts are working with regard to these issues. Kim Pacelli responded that the campuses engage in climate survey data to assess the climate around sexual misconduct issues on campus, and often a component of it is how well the survey participants understand or believe their peers understand the people, the process, and the procedure to make a report and what would happen. She continued that improvements are being seen in survey results; educational efforts have worked, and students, faculty and staff know who and how to get the assistance they may need okay.
- Regent Bloom asked if we have a policy in place to report sexual assaults to the local police departments. Kim responded that we do not, and we typically wouldn't. She continued to explain by stating that an individual over 18 has the ability and agency to make a report to law enforcement. The obligation for campuses is to make sure that individuals are informed about how to make a report to a municipality, police, or jurisdictional unit or to campus law enforcement.
- Regent Wright noted that this is one of the most comprehensive reports since she joined the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.



**BOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

Friday, December 6th, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.

Conducted via Remote Participation

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

Members: Professor Colena Sesanker

Staff Present: Aynsley Diamond, Tamara O'Day Stevens, Pam Heleen, Kaylah Davis

Other Attendees: Thomas Barron (COSC), Michelle Brown (WCSU), Renae Edge (CT State), Cindy Edgerton (COSC), Dave Ferreira (COSC), Samantha Gonzalez (CT State), Joseph Grodecki (COSC), Kim Hamilton Bobrow (CT State), Stephen Hegedus (WCSU), Maureen Hogan (COSC), Karen Hynick (CT State), Julia Irwin (SCSU), Kim Kostelis (CCSU), Terence McNulty (CT State), Steven Neufeld (CT State), Brooke Palkie (COSC), Ben Pauley (ECSU), Theodora Pinou (WCSU), MaryBeth Rajczewski (CT State), Tonya Rondinone (CT State), Stacey Walraven (COSC)

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 10th, 2024 – Regular Meeting
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the October 10th, 2024 minutes. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
 - b. November 5th, 2024 – Special Meeting
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the November 5th, 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. Eastern Connecticut State University – Dr. Ben Pauley, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates
 - b. Interim Provost Ben Pauley shared an academic update, highlighting that 153 students will be graduating in December. To celebrate this achievement, a commencement reception was held in honor of the graduates.
 - c. No Action Items for December 2024
4. Southern Connecticut State University – Dr. Julia Irwin, Interim Provost
 - a. Academic Updates
Interim Provost Julia Irwin presented an academic update, highlighting two grant initiatives led by Dr. Broadbridge and others at SCSU. The first, NSF Phase 1 of Quantum CT, has been completed, and a pre-proposal for Phase 2 is currently underway. This initiative aims to implement workforce programs based on the successful biopath and IAF models, with a focus on impacting the community college system. The second initiative is an NSF grant to build partnerships supporting community colleges and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), focusing on expanding access to the system, enhancing tech transfer skills, and fostering industry relationships.
 - b. No Action Items for December 2024

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

a. Academic Updates

Interim Provost Stephen Hegedus shared updates, including a faculty senate resolution to revise class schedules for better access and equity, and the implementation of CourseLeaf. The new General Education framework was adopted in May, and work is ongoing to align program maps and improve assessments. Surveys are helping gather student feedback on academic and support services. In addition, WCSU's new Chief DEI Officer is developing a DEI master plan aligned with the strategic plan. Additionally, a five-year financial plan is being developed, focusing on enrollment projections and the reconfiguration of programs to support future growth.

b. New Program

i. Atmospheric and Climate Science – Bachelor of Science

Western Connecticut State University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science program in Atmospheric and Climate Science, and was presented by Interim Provost Stephen Hegedus, Dr. Michelle Brown, and Dr. Theodora Pinou. This program is a redesign, based on an analysis of program data showing that the previous meteorology program struggled with low completion rates and was eventually discontinued. The new program features two tracks: standard and accelerated, the accelerated track will be aligned with a forthcoming meteorology program. This program is designed to meet the needs of two types of students: those interested in climate studies, which have always had strong interest, and those more inclined towards advanced computational modeling and meteorological research. The accelerated track includes a math minor, while the standard track focuses on embedding discipline-specific mathematics, providing students with the necessary mathematical foundation to build their confidence in the subject.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked about the role of generative AI in weather forecasting, noting that AI was mentioned in the proposal materials. Dr. Pinou advised that AI is widely used across many fields, with weather forecasting being just one component of the program. AI aids in weather prediction data collection, teaching students to communicate conditions to communities and understand climate change dynamics for developing mitigation strategies. Committee Chair Ira Bloom further inquired whether the program addresses the impact of climate change on sea levels and other topics relevant to public policy. Dr. Pinou responded that issues such as sea level rise, temperature change, and fishery economics are indeed covered. She also noted that the faculty brings strong expertise, including experience in grant applications, which enriches the program.

Regent Juanita James shared that it is heartening to see the scientific and factual approach this program takes. She emphasized the importance of shaping the broader narrative on climate science, advocating for its serious consideration and highlighting the need to protect the value of this field and its research.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that this program is in alignment with the deficit mitigation plan.

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

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

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis provided an academic update, announcing that 886 undergraduate and graduate students will receive their diplomas at the winter graduation, with the commencement ceremony taking place this upcoming weekend. She highlighted that more than 50% of the student body are first-generation students, and many graduates are from across the globe. Additionally, the CCSU gala raised over \$600,000 in scholarships and foundation funding.

b. Modification

i. Student Development in Higher Education – Master of Science – Name Change

Central Connecticut State University requested approval for a name change modification, which was presented by Dr. Kimberly Kostelis. This change is related to item 6.c.i. and aims to transform it into a standalone program. While the program will remain within its current department, the new name and structure will better reflect its focus on student support services, academic affairs, and other related areas. The modification will make the program more inclusive

and offer greater growth opportunities, as enrollment has ranged from 43 to 49 students, with potential for further expansion. The program will shift to 36 credits, aligning more closely with the format of other graduate programs. The core curriculum will still include three essential counseling courses to better prepare graduates for the field. Many current students are already working in the field, so the internship requirement will be replaced with a practicum to provide greater consistency in terminology. Additionally, an elective will be replaced with a case study course. With these updates, the program aims to increase enrollment and better serve students across the CSCU system, as many students work within the system while pursuing their degree. Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that program participants will focus on tools for delivering student support and wraparound services.

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

- c. Below Threshold
 - i. Student Development in Higher Education – Master of Science – Modification
 - d. Endowed Chair Reports – Information Items
 - i. American Savings Foundation Endowed Chair in Finance and Banking
 - ii. Governor William A. O’Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics
 - iii. Robert C. Vance Endowed Chair in Journalism and Mass Communication
- Provost Kim Kostelis provided updates on the three endowed chair reports. The American Savings Foundation Chair has been successfully aligning with the industry, bringing in guest speakers, and is set for renewal. The Governor William A. O’Neill Chair was recently approved and will welcome a new chair, with the report highlighting the integration of classroom learning, service-learning projects, and more. The Robert C. Vance Journalism Chair, previously vacant, now has a new chair who started this fall and has already created opportunities for students, including hosting a women’s basketball panel discussion.

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

- a. Academic Updates

Interim Provost Karen Hynick provided an academic update, announcing that 1,247 students will graduate this fall and participate in the May commencement activities. On November 20, the Practical Nursing program was reviewed by the Board of Examiners for Nursing, and its feasibility study was unanimously approved, with the program set to begin in the summer. The college has started offering scheduling summits and is preparing to launch CourseLeaf. Additionally, the college will introduce the ACME Institute, where faculty will report on the results of the corequisite program and seek feedback.. CT State launched five dual enrollment summits, where 300 participants learned about efforts toward NACEP certification. The college will also be launching an AI Faculty Fellowship, enabling members to deepen their understanding of AI. In the February meeting, they plan to discuss modifications to the Liberal Arts and Sciences program.
- b. Modification
 - i. General Studies (GNST) – Associate of Arts – Modification of an Accredited Program

CT State Community College requested approval for the modification of its Associate of Arts in General Studies program. Interim Provost Karen Hynick introduced the item, explaining that the modification aims to clarify the choices available to students within the arts, social sciences, and science curriculum. Professor Renae Edge further explained that the General Studies (GS) degree is traditionally a terminal degree for students seeking to advance in their careers or for those transferring in with many credits. The GSNT program offers a flexible pathway for students to earn their degree, regardless of their individual circumstances. While the liberal arts program will focus on transfer opportunities, this program provides a more adaptable solution. The revised program ensures that students complete two courses in arts and humanities, offering flexibility and variety without being overly broad. Students also can explore a range of disciplines, including computer electives like graphic design, to meet diverse needs. Additionally, the program supports students using lifetime experiential learning credits, and the math and science components have been redesigned to offer greater flexibility, helping students meet their academic goals. Regent Juanita James emphasized the clarity of communication and the importance of clearly articulating the expected outcomes and benefits of the program so that they are well understood by

all. Professor Edge confirmed that the program description has been revised, with a clear statement at the top now specifying that this program is not intended for transfer, while the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) program is. Previously, this information was placed at the bottom of the description, Regent Richard Porth expressed appreciation for the attention given to addressing the challenges associated with the changes. He emphasized that this work, along with related efforts, is crucial to the commitment to access, highlighting that it is an important step in improving access to higher education across the CSCU system.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired about what would happen if, in the future, students with this degree wish to transfer to a four-year institution. Professor Edge explained that when a student earns a degree from CT State, they would transfer to a CSCU four-year institution as a rising junior.

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

c. Below Threshold

i. Tech Studies Industrial Technology – Associate of Science – Program Modification

Interim Provost Karen Hynick explained that this is a below-threshold request to remove a course, as the current math prerequisite is higher than necessary for the program.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired regarding math as a potential issue, to which Karen clarified that this modification focuses on the current math level, as is not required for the program. She also mentioned that math as a broader subject will be part of the ACME discussion.

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

a. Academic Updates

- b. Provost David Ferreira provided an academic update, noting that final term 2 enrollment is up 13.9% in headcount compared to last year, and FTE has increased by 30% compared to two years ago. The number of registered students has surpassed 2,000. He also shared that student feedback is gathered through course surveys, graduation surveys, and ad hoc surveys on topics such as inclusive access with the bookstore. Additionally, he meets with the Student Government Association (SGA) monthly to discuss feedback. The credit earned rate stands at 90%, meaning that 90% of students receive a grade that earns credit. The institutional profile has been updated, showing a graduation rate of 56%, which is considered strong for an online institution compared to other online colleges. COSC's retention rate is 74%, and both retention and graduation rates are areas the institution aims to continue to improve. Additional information on post-graduation earnings was also shared. COSC addressed its academic residency requirement, explaining that while it is exempt due to its previous role as a credit aggregator, it is currently reassessing the policy as they are now an online college. COSC is one of five institutions with a grandfathered credit aggregator history. The minimum residency requirement is 6 credits, the cornerstone and capstone course, but this may differ by program as various programs have specific accrediting requirements. Chair Bloom stated his concerns and requested further discussion.

c. New Programs

i. Curriculum and Instruction – Master of Science

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a new Master of Science in Curriculum and Instruction program. Provost Ferreira and Dr. Hogan presented the proposal, highlighting strong student demand both nationwide and in Connecticut, supported by research from Gray DI. This program aims to develop leaders to serve as program directors and curriculum specialists in early childhood education (ECE) programs, offering career growth opportunities for educators and enabling Connecticut residents to earn their degree in-state online. Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that this was approved by the Provost Council.

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

ii. Data Analytics – Bachelor of Science

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science in Data Analytics program. Provost Ferreira and Joseph Gradecki presented the proposal, highlighting data analytics as one of the fastest-growing fields nationwide. The program will provide students with a quantitative focus and incorporate Coursera Career Academy curriculum. COSC is also establishing a 2+2 transfer agreement with the Community College of Vermont (CCV), which

offers an associate degree in data analytics. The program is closely aligned with the software development and AI practitioner programs, with overlapping curriculum between software development and data analytics. Students will also have the opportunity to earn Google Data Analytics and Microsoft Power BI micro credentials. Chair Bloom inquired regarding this program's academic residency requirement. It was confirmed that 12 credits in this program is the academic residency requirement, but as mentioned, this conversation is ongoing with NECHE.

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

iii. Marketing – Bachelor of Science

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a new Bachelor of Science in Marketing program, presented by Provost Ferreira and Dr. Barron. This program has high student demand and interest, and as an online institution, this program is essential to remain competitive in the region. The program is built on a common business core with a strong emphasis on digital marketing, social media, and AI. Students will have the opportunity to earn three professional certifications: Google, Meta, and Salesforce. The residency requirement is 6 credits, consistent with the business core, and the business accreditor does not require additional academic residency, allowing students to transfer credits from other programs.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired about the inclusion of political, social, and multicultural sensitivity learning outcomes as mentioned in the materials. It was confirmed that these topics are covered within the business core across four courses: International Business, Business Ethics and Individual Values, Managing Diversity in the Workplace, and Business Law.

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

d. Modifications

i. Health Informatics – Master of Science – Name Change

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a name change of the Master of Science in Health Informatics program. Provost Ferreira and Dr. Palkie presented the proposal, noting that both students and industry are shifting toward the term healthcare data analytics. This change reflects current trends, moving from a focus on technology to using technology for validating data and making informed decisions, with an emphasis on integrating AI. Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students enrolled in this program. It was confirmed that this program has about 15-20 students enrolled.

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. Healthcare Administration – Bachelor of Science – Name Change

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a name change of the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration program. Provost Ferreira and Dr. Palkie presented the proposal. The change reflects the shift in terminology from "health care" as two words to a single word, aligning the program's name with current language usage. Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students enrolled in this program. It was confirmed that this program has about 180 students.

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

iii. Healthcare Administration – Master of Science – Name Change

Charter Oak State College requested approval for a name change of the Master of Science in Health Care Administration program. Provost Ferreira and Dr. Palkie presented the proposal. The change reflects the shift in terminology from "health care" as two words to a single word, aligning the program's name with current language usage. Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the number of students enrolled in this program. It was confirmed that this program has about 25 students.

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

e. Discontinuations

- i. Clinical Documentation Improvement – Certificate
Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of the Clinical Documentation Improvement certificate program. Provost Ferreira and Cindy Edgerton presented. The decision was driven by low enrollment and was difficult to recruit nurses into this area. This certificate is not connected to any industry recognized certification. Regent Richard Porth expressed his general interest in certificates and non-degree options as they relate to access and workforce issues but acknowledged and appreciated COSC's thorough review and redesign based on student demand. Provost Ferreira advised that though there may be certificate discontinuations, their review and determination of student interest have increased stackable options and enrollment in those areas.

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

- ii. Health Insurance Customer Service – UG Certificate
Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of the Health Insurance Customer Service certificate program. The decision was driven by low enrollment and the certificate is not connected to any industry recognized certification.

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

- iii. Leadership in Health Care Administration – UG Certificate
Charter Oak State College requested approval for the discontinuation of the Leadership in Health Care Administration certificate program. The decision was driven by low enrollment.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuation. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the discontinuation was approved unanimously.

f. Below Thresholds

- i. Software Development – Bachelor of Science – Program Modification
- ii. AI Practitioner – New Certificate
- iii. Early Childhood Education – Associate of Science – Program Modification
- iv. Health Informatics – Master of Science – Program Modification
- v. Health Information Management – Certificate – Program Modification
- vi. Health Information Management – Bachelor of Science – Program Modification
Provost Ferreira shared that the Software Development and AI Practitioner programs address interest and demand by providing stackable options. Regarding the Health Information Management program, revisions have been made to correct course language to avoid limiting options for students.

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 11:49 A.M.