



## BOR ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### AGENDA

Friday, June 7, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.

**Conducted via Remote Participation**

Regents Present: Chair JoAnn Ryan, Committee Chair Ira Bloom, Regent Juanita James, Regent Richard Porth, Student Regent Luis Sanchez

Members: Professor Colena Sesanker

Staff Present: Aynsley Diamond, Tamara O'Day Stevens, Stephen Marcelynas, Pamela Heleen, Kaylah Davis

Other Attendees: Brad Baker (CT State), Kin Chan (ECSU), Garrett Dancik (ECSU), David Ferreira (COSC), Yaseen Hayajneh (WCSU) Stephen Hegedus (WCSU), Karen Hynick (CT State), Edward Klonoski (COSC), Kimberly Kostelis (CCSU), Kerri Langevin (CCSU) Kristine Larsen (CCSU), H. Justin Moore (CT State), James Mulrooney (CCSU), Joan Palladino (WCSU), Benjamin Pauley (ECSU), Robert Prezant (SCSU), Michael Stefanowicz (CT State), Emily Todd (ECSU)

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum

2. Approval of Minutes

a. May 10, 2024

**Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the May 10<sup>th</sup>, 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. Discussion of Board Enrollment Report

Committee Chair Ira Bloom discussed the updated Board Enrollment Report template. He advised that this template relates to a Board resolution requiring an enrollment report in May and September of each year. The updated template includes characteristics for full and part time enrollment, FTE, retention, and certificate data, with the intent to capture this information in a comprehensive report format.

Regent Richard Porth commented on his appreciation that the new format includes certificate enrollment.

Regent Juanita James added that this report will provide valuable information. No other changes to the report format were requested.

4. General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy – Dr. Aynsley Diamond, AVP of Academic Affairs, and Stephen Marcelynas, Director, Office of Transfer and Articulation, CSCU

Dr. Diamond and Stephen Marcelynas presented. The General Education Transfer Credit Alignment policy was discussed at the May BOR ASA committee meeting, which focused on the faculty involvement and vetting process that took place. The policy is intended to support student success, provide access, and have a clear process for general education credit transfer. With this policy, advisors can support students and address barriers, instead of navigating varying catalogs and agreements to determine credit transferability. The policy provides advisors and students the opportunity to create academic plans and explore options. The development of the policy was a collaborative process with staff and faculty across the system addressing the vertical transfer from the community colleges to the universities and guiding students to successful transition and completion of their degree. During development, discussions led to recommendations, which were

circulated at the campus level for further feedback and review. The institutions provided feedback to ensure that this policy is feasible.

Chair Ira Bloom commented that in the past, it was easier for CT State students to transfer to institutions outside of the system, and this policy highlights the alignment of course learning objectives for CT State to CSU transfer.

Regent Juanita James applauded the comprehensive effort, adding that she believes this will have a tremendous impact on students, and is an example of the benefits of systemness.

Regent Richard Porth added that this is an impressive recommendation that involved collaboration across the system and represents a step forward. He inquired about the articulation agreements amongst the community colleges and encouraged continued progress in this area.

Professor Colena Sesanker added that the intention of this is wonderful and appreciates the difference noted in the staff report and the prior transfer articulations. She inquired about the groups that reviewed this to get a sense of the level of review. She additionally inquired regarding development education and to ensure the academic integrity of the courses. Dr. Diamond added that there is a link to the provost reports in the packet and published on the website which documents the levels of review at each institution, as well as feedback. Stephen Marcelynas shared the link during the meeting, and added that in regard to developmental courses, the policy maintains common practice already in place for receiving and applying credit at the four-year institutions.

Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that this policy does not change any other policies. It was confirmed that this will not change or make any exceptions, as it adheres to what currently exists.

Professor Sesanker inquired about senate approval and official responses from representative bodies. She added again concern regarding developmental education standards, stating that CT State is an open enrollment institution, but the universities are not. Dr. Diamond responded to confirm that the provost reports are detailed and reiterates that this went through campus faculty senates, academic councils, as well as meetings with faculty to obtain feedback. This was a collaborative discussion on learning outcomes at both CT State and university levels. Refinements and further conversations are expected, and review schedules are in place as part of the policy.

Professor Sesanker commented regarding developmental education, adding that this is not central to CT State; per PA 12-40, this is a mandated state statute. Dr. Diamond confirmed that she will meet with Professor Sesanker to discuss further and confirm compliance with the statute.

Regent Juanita James commented on the thoroughness and inclusivity of input from stakeholders, and that another important component of this policy is everyone's willingness to make this work and their continued collaboration.

**Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the General Education Transfer Credit Alignment Policy. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the policy was approved unanimously.**

5. Recognition of Betsey Doane Award Recipients – Dr. Tamara O’Day Stevens, Interim Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success, CSCU  
Dr. O’Day-Stevens highlighted the Accessibility Summit that took place on May 17<sup>th</sup>, and thanked Sarah Ellis and the Charter Oak team for organizing the event, as well as Central CT State University for hosting. The Betsey Doane Award given at the event is sponsored by the Accessibility Council and is designed to recognize faculty and staff who are innovators in the accessibility of digital learning. Betsey Doane has taught math at the CT State – Housatonic campus since 1970 and is an inspirational leader for the visually impaired. Housatonic’s campus provided her with their lifetime achievement award. The winners of the Betsey Doane award are listed in the agenda materials on page 26. Dr. O’Day-Stevens recognized and thanked the winners and all accessibility folks across the system, as they ensure accessible learning to our students. Dr. O’Day-Stevens also formally introduced herself as the Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Success for CSCU. She will work with enrollment management and student success offices and serves as the advisor for the Student Advisory Committee (SAC).
6. Charter Oak State College – Dr. David Ferreira, Provost and Edward Klonoski, President
  - a. Academic Updates

Dr. David Ferreira shared an academic update and thanked Central CT State University for hosting the Accessibility Summit and added that it was a well-attended event.

b. Strategic Plan and Updated Mission Statement

Dr. David Ferreira and President Edward Klonoski presented the Charter Oak State College strategic plan and updated mission statement. Charter Oak State College is a niche institution with a focus on workforce development and being a low-cost provider. Their strategic plan process and results, highlight the rationale for the changes to the mission statement. To ensure compliance with NECHE Standard 1.2, formal adoption by the BOR is needed. The planning process included collaboration with a diverse set of groups including, alumni, faculty, staff, a research firm who conducted interviews with stakeholders, and secret shopper organization to determine how they fare with competitors which resulted in positive feedback. Upon completion of the process, Charter Oak created five pillars; academic quality, strategic partnerships, inclusive excellence, growth, and student experience and success. Each pillar has objectives that map to the CSCU-BOR key areas of focus and goals. The changes made to the mission statement include the highlighting of working professionals, industry-relevant online education, and learning experiences. Regent Richard Porth commented that the growth of digital and online learning is critical to the overall success of CSCU, and that this is importance for the growth of the system and provides access to opportunities for future and current students.

Regent Juanita James gave kudos.

Regent Ira Bloom added that COSC plays a unique role in the system to support digital and online learning.

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

7. Southern Connecticut State University – Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Robert Prezant provided an academic update, highlighting SCSU's Early College Program. This past year, 1,500 students were served, exceeding their goal of 1,000. They represent 108 high school partners. Dr. Olcay Yavuz in the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies program leads the program. The program has received a grant from the Center for CT Education and Research Collaboration, in partnership with UConn for expanding dual enrollment. Dr. Prezant also shared that at the meeting last month, he reported the SCSU has brought in \$15 million in external funding, but upon recalculation, they have brought in \$16 million, which is a record at the institution.

b. Modifications

i. Recreation and Leisure – BS – Name Change

Dr. Robert Prezant presented regarding 7. b.i. and 7.b. ii...

**Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the name change modification.**

**On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the name change modification was approved unanimously.**

ii. Recreation and Leisure – BS – CIP

Dr. Robert Prezant presented regarding 7. b.i. and 7.b. ii... Southern CT State University requested approval of a CIP change modification and a name change from a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Leisure Studies to a Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy.

This is driven by student demand and the development of their master's degree program in Occupational Therapy, which created a clearer track and pathway for students in the BS program. More than 3/4 of students are in programs that should be classified as recreational therapy, and input from the Advisory Board also suggested that based on career development and the need for a clear pathway to the graduate occupational therapy program, this change is needed.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked about the more traditional programs in this area. Dr. Prezant confirmed that these will move into tracks.

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

iii. Doctorate in Business Administration – CIP

Dr. Robert Prezant presented. Southern CT State University requested approval of a CIP correction for the Doctorate in Business Administration program. There is a more appropriate CIP code that this program falls under and is a better fit. There is no change to the program or what was approved at the previous meeting.

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

c. Behavioral Neuroscience – BS – Start Date Correction

Dr. Robert Prezant presented this information item. In April 2024, the BOR-ASA committee approved Southern CT State University's new program, a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience. This item is to notify the change in anticipated program initiation date, from Fall 2024 to Fall 2025. This is to ensure that there is time to market and advertise the program.

d. **Below Threshold**

**Information Only**

i. Recreation and Leisure – Modification

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

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Karen Hynick provided an academic update. CT State held their commencement ceremonies throughout May, and over 4,000 students graduated as the first inaugural CT State class. Next week, CT State-Capital will host an enrollment management institute event, bringing 12 campuses and the central office team together to focus on enrollment procedures. They will have a NECHE site visit in March 2025, and in anticipation, will focus on four areas; policy, dual enrollment, budget mitigation, and student learner outcomes.

b. **Below Threshold**

**Information Only**

i. Interior Design Career Program – AAS – Modification

9. Central Connecticut State University – Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis provided an academic update. In collaboration with the faculty on the Graduate Policy Committee, Accelerate Central programs have been expanded across varying departments and schools. This process allows students to accelerate their time to a graduate degree, by taking courses in a 4+1 or 3+2 manner and bridge pathways across disciplines. CCSU and WCSU have a partnership agreement for students in WCSU's Exercise Science bachelor's program, in which students can accelerate and finish their graduate degree in Athletic Training at CCSU.

b. New Programs

i. Climate Change Studies – BA

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Dr. Kristine Larsen, and Dr. James Mulrooney presented 7.b.i. and 7.b.ii. **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.**

ii. Climate Change Studies – BS

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, Dr. Kristine Larsen, and Dr. James Mulrooney presented 7.b.i. and 7.b.ii... Central CT State University requested approval of two new programs, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Climate Change Studies. A market analysis has indicated a need for these programs. As part of the academic program planning process and mitigation plan, this program aligns with workforce needs and the changing economy. They will be using expertise already in place to maximize resources, and Dr. Kris Larsen has helped lead the program's development and faculty alignment. There is a distinction between the BA and BS programs, and both have fundamental core courses. Outside of the core courses, the BA program has a focus with options in the sectors of journalism, policy, and resource management, and students can select minors that fit their specific needs. The BS has the same core foundation and is geared towards students interested in more science-based courses, such as renewable energy or green construction.

Chair Ira Bloom inquired if a letter of support from DEEP can be provided ahead of the BOR meeting, as they are mentioned frequently throughout the proposal. Additionally, he asked if they

support the bifurcated format. It was confirmed that DEEP is heavily in support of the format of the BA and BS approach, adding that it will be beneficial to students as they enter their careers, and that CCSU will work with DEEP to obtain a letter of support.

**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. Nursing – Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing

Dr. Kerri Langevin, Dr. Kimberly Kostelis, and Dr. James Mulrooney presented. Central CT State University requested approval of a new Accelerated Bachelor of Nursing program. There is a critical need for increasing the nursing workforce. This program has been in the works for some time and has been able to expand with the support of the Health Horizons grant. Resources currently in place can accommodate the proposed cohort sizes, and with success of the program, cohorts may expand further.

Chair Ira Bloom inquired about target audience for this program. Dr. Langevin shared that there have already been several inquiries, including from former graduates; that the target audience is Hartford County. There are two other accelerated nursing programs in the area, but this one would be at a lower tuition price point. Additionally, students currently finishing their undergraduate degrees may be interested. The cohort size is 20 seats.

Chair Ira Bloom inquired about attrition. Dr. Langevin confirmed that the caliber of students that apply are highly motivated and focused on obtaining their nursing degree. The program will also have a tutoring platform in place for NCLEX practice exams, as well as one-on-one faculty advising to ensure students are successful in completing the program.

**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.**

c. Modification

i. Modern Languages – MS – Name Change

Dr. Kimberly Kostelis and Dr. James Mulrooney presented. Central CT State University requested approval of a name change for the Master of Science in Modern Languages program to a Master of Science in World Languages. This modification reflects the change in name of the department and aligns with that and industry standard. There is no change to the substance of program.

**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.**

d. Below Threshold

**Information Only**

i. Climate Studies – Minor

ii. Computer Science BA-BS to Computer Information Tech – MS – New Accelerated Track

iii. Computer Science BA-BS to Software Engineering – MS – New Accelerated Track

iv. Cybersecurity BS to Software Engineering MS – New Accelerated Track

Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the accelerated tracks for 7.d.ii. and 7.d.iii., and if students of the BA program are prepared for a graduate level program. Dr. Kostelis confirmed that the foundational courses of the BS and BA are the same, which is needed for students to find success in the graduate program.

10. Eastern Connecticut State University – Dr. Benjamin Pauley, Interim Provost

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Benjamin Pauley provided an academic update. ECSU has seen an increase in their first time, full time, and transfer rates from the previous year. They are pleased with this positive trajectory and will be looking to see what factors influenced this change. They recently implemented customer service software that provides them with the improved ability to engage with prospective students and their support networks. Additionally, their liberal arts core cultivates and provides a foundation for rewarding and successful careers. Departments across campus have been working to strengthen this core and refine major programs to ensure they are relevant to current and prospective students.

b. New Program

i. Computer Science – BA

Dr. Benjamin Pauley, Dr. Garrett Dancik, and Dr. Emily Todd presented. Eastern CT State University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science program. This program is consistent with deficit mitigation plans and will create an option that opens this field of study to students who may have not otherwise considered it. One audience for this program may be students who have a computer science minor already, allowing them to enter a double major. Dr. Todd advised that this interests students who may be drawn to a program that is not as heavy on math requirements. This program is an interdisciplinary approach and allows students to develop coding and software development skills. Students will have a range of options for completing courses in disciplines outside of computer science to complement the program. Chair Ira Bloom inquired about AI, as it was not referenced in the proposal and if students in this program will be exposed to AI upon graduation. Dr. Dancik added that with the evolution of AI over the last year, there is an introduction on this topic in the department and other disciplines. Adding that courses on this topic, as it is so prevalent, are an active discussion on campus. This program's focus is based on programming and software development. Dr. Todd added that students would not be able to complete the program without touching on AI, and that they just received a grant that aids in the curricular development of AI.

Regent Juanita James added a recommendation that in advance of the BOR meeting, supplemental materials should be provided that address the addition of AI. It was confirmed by the Board Secretary that this is feasible.

**Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program, with the qualification of adding supplemental materials regarding the inclusion of AI. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the new program with the qualification was approved unanimously.**

c. Modification

i. Spanish – BA – Modification

Dr. Benjamin Pauley, Dr. Kin Chan, and Dr. Emily Todd presented. Eastern CT State University requested approval of a modification for the Bachelor of Arts in Spanish program. This is a refinement of the major, is consistent with budget mitigation plans, and taught by existing faculty. The modification reduces the number of credits, making it easier for students to select this as a double major. This also allows the major to be complementary to other programs, where knowledge of Spanish is beneficial, for example, Health Sciences. There is a need for Spanish speakers for various professions, and the interdisciplinary and professional focus supports career readiness, as students are required to take a 3-credit experiential course.

Chair Ira Bloom confirmed that this program is not designed for students to obtain a doctorate in Spanish. Dr. Todd confirmed that if a student chooses to, they can, but this program is not intended for this. Students would need to take a pre-professional course in this program regardless of furthering their degree in this direction, and all elective courses can prepare them for success in a doctoral program.

Chair Ira Bloom inquired if the track at the secondary level is strong, and it was confirmed yes.

**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.**

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

a. Academic Updates

Dr. Stephen Hegedus provided an academic update. WCSU's senate sub-committee on general education is working to operationalize and align the framework and policy as mentioned earlier today. The senate has also passed an updated academic suspension probation policy, which allows for more support regarding rebounds. There will also be a grants workshop to build collaboration and skills to seek external support, especially in consideration of WCSU's recent HSI designation. There are retreats planned to implement Western Rising. Similarly, WCSU has seen an increase in enrollment, transfer, and housing deposit rates, all positive indicators of a positive turn in enrollment.

b. Discontinuation

i. Nutrition – MS

Dr. Stephen Hegedus and Dr. Joan Palladino presented. Western CT State University requested approval for a discontinuation of the Master of Science in Nutrition program. This program was housed in the Health Promotion department but did not see enrollment take off. Additionally, due to a change in registered dietician requirements, they would have needed to add courses to the program and did not have the resources to do so. There are no remaining students in the program, and the last graduating class was May 2023.

An administrative comment was made to note that the agenda packet materials include a discrepancy in effective dates on the resolution and staff reports, which will be corrected prior to the BOR meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup>.

**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.**

c. Modification

i. Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Law – BS – Name Change

Dr. Stephen Hegedus and Dr. Joan Palladino presented. This program modification was initially brought forward in February for a name change to Criminal Justice, Criminology, and Law, however, the name is unable to fit administratively into the Banner system. The change to Criminal Justice is to ensure the program name fits into the system.

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

d. Below Threshold

**Information Only**

i. Cybersecurity – New Minor

ii. Literacy and Language – MSED – Modification

iii. Management – Minor – Modification

iv. Special Education – MSED – Modification

Dr. Hegedus added that the two MSED programs have been reduced in credits, to make the programs more accessible for students, and that there is no change to the main learning objectives.

12. Sabbatical Leave

**Information Only**

a. Western CT State University

**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 11:37am.**