



CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting – May 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.
Conducted via Remote Participation

MINUTES

- Regents Present: Ira Bloom, Aviva Budd, Holly Howery, Richard Porth, JoAnn Ryan, Colena Sesanker (ex officio)
- Regents Absent: Brandon Iovene (ex officio), Julia Noriega (ex officio)
- Ex-Officio,
Non-Voting
BOR Members: Dr. Manisha Juthani, Commissioner, CT Dept. of Public Health
- Staff Present: Kenneth Klucznik, Andrew Morris, Fran Rosselli-Navarra, Patricia Ryiz, Noreen Wilson
- Other Attendees: Missy Alexander (SCSU), Donna Bontatibus (MxCC), Saaid Elhadad (CCC), Teresa Foley (ACC), Andre Freeman (CCC), Kim Hogan (MxCC), H. Justin Moore (NVCC), Narendra Sharma (NVCC), Sheldon Watson (CCSU)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by Chair Ira Bloom.

An official roll call of the BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee members was taken and a quorum was declared.

Regent Bloom noted that there will be additions to Item 2e. Community College Emeritus. Tunxis Community College and Middlesex Community College have submitted additional nominations for Emeritus.

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. April 8, 2022
On a motion by H. Howery and seconded by A. Budd, a vote was taken and the minutes from the April 8, 2022, BOR ASA Committee meeting were approved unanimously.

2. Action Items

a. Modifications

- i. Engineering Technology – Mechanical – Option – AS – Naugatuck Valley CC [Name change to Mechanical Engineering Technology]

Dr. H. Justin Moore, Interim Dean of Academic Affairs, and, Narendra Sharma, Professor/Coordinator of Mechanical Engineering Technology, presented. The modification to this program is a name change only. The program is currently listed as Engineering Technology – Mechanical and NVCC seeks to change the name to Mechanical Engineering Technology. The reasons for this request are to provide consistency with the program title for all the College's publications, to match the format of the Electrical Engineering Technology degree, and at the request of the program's accreditation body, The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). Student transcripts will list the correct program title.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the program modification, specifically, a name change from Engineering Technology – Mechanical, to Mechanical Engineering Technology for the Naugatuck Valley CC AS program option. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

b. New College of Technology (COT) Program

- i. Technology Studies: Artificial Intelligence – AS Degree Option – Capital CC

Dr. André Freeman, Professor of Mathematics, and Professor Saaid Elhadad, Cybersecurity, presented. The Artificial Intelligence Option is a new option in the COT Technology Studies program. The new program is a collaboration between the College of Technology and the Intel Artificial Intelligence Incubator Network which provides the curriculum to community colleges and technical community colleges across the nation to construct a workforce of individuals who have the artificial intelligence skills to develop AI solutions - natural language processing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning fundamentals. CCC is also developing TAP Agreements with Southern CT State University and Central CT State University and an Artificial Intelligence Certificate program which will give students the option to take course work without completing the AS degree. Dr. Freeman and Professor Elhadad attended training in the curriculum, resources, and skills necessary for students to attain employment in the artificial intelligence sector.

Questions/Comments from the Committee included:

- i. *Are there job opportunities with only an AS degree? What is the timeline for SCSU/CCSU to have a BS in Artificial Intelligence for Transfer?*

Response: SCSU and CCSU did not give a timeline for a BS in Artificial Intelligence. All courses are transferrable to a BS in Data Science except for the Artificial Intelligence courses. Of the 60 credits in the degree, a majority of courses would transfer to the CSUs.

- ii. *Regent Howery noted that CCC offering a certificate in Artificial Intelligence is a smart move for employees working in Information Technology to add to their skills and expertise. Also, she stated that offering the AS in Artificial Intelligence at the community college level will offer students of color the opportunity to study artificial intelligence and, in turn, diversify the workforce in this area.*

- iii. *What kinds of jobs will graduates with an AS in Artificial Intelligence qualify for?*

Response: Students from CCC's AS in Data Science have obtained jobs as software developers and entry-level computer science jobs. The Data Science AS is very similar to Artificial Intelligence AS degrees. Representatives from Intel noted that they seek employees with an understanding of technology who can develop and implement artificial intelligence solutions. Students with the AS degree and these skills qualify for entry-level positions and can provide support to companies. CCC seeks to establish a Program Advisory Board to develop a workforce in the Greater Hartford Region to compete for entry-level jobs.

Intel's survey of company needs indicate that this credential, the AS in Artificial Intelligence, will make graduates of the program competitive and employable. They stated that their data shows that the BS and beyond are not necessarily needed for entry-level jobs. Graduates with AS degrees in Computer Science, Cybersecurity and Data Science can get jobs. With employer buy in, CCC graduates would be competitive for entry-level jobs.

- iv. *Regent Budd stated that she thinks the proposed AS in Artificial Intelligence is premature. She would rather see the BS in Artificial Intelligence in place before this program is implemented. She is concerned whether Guided Pathways advisors will inform students taking this program that two courses from the proposed AS in Artificial Intelligence are not transferrable.*

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure of a program, College of Technology: Technology Studies: Artificial Intelligence Option leading to an Associate of Science at Capital Community College; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020. The motion was moved by Regent Budd and seconded by Regent Porth.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

- c. CSU Promotions and Tenures
 - i. Central CT State University
 - ii. Eastern CT State University
 - iii. Southern CT State University
 - iv. Western CT State University

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the CSU Promotions and Tenures. Regent Budd moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

- d. Faculty Research Grants
 - i. Central CT State University
 - ii. Eastern CT State University
 - iii. Southern CT State University
 - iv. Western CT State University

Chair Bloom noted that Board action is necessary to approve the CSU Faculty Research Grants.

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the CSU Faculty Research Grants. Regent Howery moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

Dr. Klucznik recognized four people from the CSUs for their hard work in providing the administrative support for the Faculty Research Grants:

- Brenda Lopez – Central CT State University
- Amanda Irwin – Eastern CT State University
- Jennifer Hudson – Southern CT State University
- Gabrielle Jazwiecki – Western CT State University

e. Community College Emeritus

- i. Northwestern CT Community College
- ii. Tunxis Community College

Chair Bloom read the following recommendations for Community College Emeritus which were submitted after the agenda packet for the May 6, 2022 BOR Academic and Student Affairs Committee was distributed:

- **From Middlesex Community College**
 - Emily Canto
 - Janet Klinck
- **From Tunxis Community College**
 - Dr. Kimberly James
 - Susan Gentry
 - Marguerite Yawin
 - Lisa Celona
 - Salley Terrell
 - Judy Reilly-Roberts

Kim Hogan, Interim CEO, Middlesex CC, asked for permission to include additional names of faculty Emeriti for consideration. Chair Bloom asked the Committee if there were any objections to reading these names and including them in the recommendations. There were no objections.

- **From Middlesex Community College**
 - Dr. John Ambenge
 - Lionel Carmona
 - Donna Hylton
 - Richard Lenoce
 - Patricia Raymond
 - Dr. Judy Wallace

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the Community College Emeritus with the addition of the eight Emeriti from Middlesex Community College and the six Emeriti

from Tunxis Community College who were not included in the agenda packet. Regent Budd moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and it was unanimous.

f. CT State Community College Aligned Curriculum

Chair Bloom called for a motion to approve the licensure and accreditation of the degrees and certificates for Connecticut State Community College (listed in the BOR Resolution) developed from degrees and certificates *previously approved by the Board for one or more of the 12 individually accredited colleges*. Regent Howery moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

g. Recognizing the CSCU Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-Connecticut Academic Team

Chair Bloom called for a motion to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the students of the 2021 – 2022 All-CT Academic Team and their advisors. Regent Howery moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

h. 2022 Henry Barnard Award Recipients

Chair Bloom called for a motion to recognize the twelve students representing the Connecticut State Universities who have received a 2022 Henry Barnard Distinguished Student Award. Regent Budd moved the motion and Regent Porth seconded the motion.

Dr. Klucznik noted that to qualify for the Henry Barnard Award, students must achieve a 3.7 GPA and demonstrate a significant commitment to volunteerism.

A vote was taken and the vote was unanimous.

3. Informational Items were noted

a. CSU Emeritus

- i. Southern CT State University

b. Below Threshold

- i. Electronic Engineering Technology – AS – Naugatuck Valley CC [Program Modification]
- ii. Liberal Arts and Sciences – AA – Naugatuck Valley CC [Program Modification]
- iii. Environmental Science – AS – Naugatuck Valley CC [Program Modification]
- iv. Engineering Technology - Mechanical – AS – Naugatuck Valley CC [Program Modification]

Chair Bloom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Regent Howery and seconded by Regent Budd.

A vote was taken, and it was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.