



CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Meeting – April 6, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.

Conducted via Remote Participation

MINUTES

Regents Present: Chair Ira Bloom, Regent Juanita James, Regent James McCarthy, Regent Sophia Jappinen

Ex-Officio BOR Members: Colena Sesanker

Staff Present: Kaylah Davis, Pam Heleen, Rai Kathuria, Kenneth Klucznik, and Noreen Wilson

Other Attendees: Missy Alexander (WCSU), Amy Bataille (ECSU), David Ferreira (COSC), Stephen Hegedus (SCSU), Solomon Hill (COSC), Manisha Juthani, Kimberly Kostelis (CCSU), Casey McPherson (SCSU), H. Justin Moore (CT State), Yaw Nsiah (ECSU), Emily Stevens (WCSU), Niti Pandey (ECSU), Robert Prezant (SCSU), William Salka (ECSU)

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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.

Chair Ira Bloom made a comment to confirm that there will not be a Board of Regents meeting in April, and that all items recommended at this time will be considered in May.

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. March 10, 2023
Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2023, BOR ASA committee meeting. On a motion by Regent Juanita James and second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Action Items
 - a. Discontinuations
 - i. Post-Baccalaureate Certificates – Southern CT State University
Southern Connecticut State University seeks approval for the discontinuation of 17 post baccalaureate certificates due to restructuring related to academic programming at the graduate level for teacher preparation. Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost and Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Dean, College of Education presented. Also, discontinuation is due to decreased enrollment in the post-baccalaureate certificates with the implementation of the Master of Arts and Teaching (MAT) program. In addition, students in the post-baccalaureate certificate programs may

experience ineligibility for financial aid, as it is considered undergraduate aid rather than graduate. The discontinuation will serve as an opportunity to continue growth in the MAT program.

Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations. On a motion by Regent Juanita James and second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken and the discontinuations were approved unanimously.

b. Suspensions

i. Early Childhood Teaching Credential (EECTC B) – Interdisciplinary Studies – Southern CT State University

Southern Connecticut State University seeks approval for the suspension of the Early Childhood Teaching Credential concentration in Interdisciplinary Studies. Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost, Academic Affairs and Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Dean, College of Education presented. The program was initially developed in response to state legislature requiring daycare leaders to obtain the level B certification; however, the state no longer has that requirement. The concentration is available if the state reinstates the requirement using the course work for the concentration that is already developed can be utilized. Currently, there are no students enrolled in the concentration.

Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the suspensions. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy and second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken and the suspensions were approved unanimously

c. New Programs

i. Health and Wellness Management – B.S. - Western CT State University

Western Connecticut State University seeks the approval of a new program, Bachelor of Science in Health and Wellness Management. This program offers an interdisciplinary approach with a focus in health and wellness, as well as business management. Dr. Missy Alexander, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs and Dr. Emily Stevens, Chair, Health Promotion and Exercise Science Department presented. This program provides opportunities to students who are not interested in pursuing the science aspect of a Health degree. The interdisciplinary degree between health and wellness and business will aid in recruitment and retention, especially for students who have an entrepreneurial interest. This new program will be low cost, as it is developed with courses that are already existing, except for two.

Regent James inquired on the potential partnerships and pathways this program may have, as there are existing programs at the community college level with this focus. Dr. Stevens confirmed that the transfer form has been completed, and the next step is to connect with the community colleges to determine interest and opportunities for transfer students.

Regent McCarthy added that based on his background in the field, this is an excellent idea as there is a tendency to overlook the business aspect of health and wellness.

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

ii. Nursing – B.S. – Eastern CT State University

Eastern Connecticut State University seeks the approval of a new program, Bachelor of Science in Nursing. This new program is a necessary response to the severe nursing workforce shortage in the state, specifically the eastern region and provides an opportunity to combine a liberal arts education with a professional preparation in nursing. Dr. William Salka, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Yaw Nsiah, Chair of Health Sciences, and Dr. Amy Bataille, Professor of Health Sciences presented. ECSU has secured funding to develop this program by partnering with Hartford Healthcare, Windham Hospital, and utilizing a Health Horizons grant

and private donation. These funds will cover the startup cost of the program and building of the simulation lab. It is anticipated that the revenue generated from the student cohorts as the program progresses will exceed the initial expenses. The partnerships will also provide opportunities to students for internships, utilization of resources, and a network to employment. The curriculum was developed based on the research and standards for accreditation as provided by the CCNE and prepares students for the NCLEX exam. The program will offer courses in health care specialties such as complex diseases and mental health, all of which are in demand, timely, and have a positive social impact.

Regent James McCarthy provided kudos for taking on this program and for engaging strong community partnerships. He added that this may provide an opportunity for a direct entry graduate program.

Professor Colena Sesanker congratulated ECSU for addressing the nursing shortage. She inquired on the shared governance steps, as well as asking what the response to this program has been at ECSU and if it has gone through the faculty senate. Provost Salka added that there is the intention to start the first cohort for Fall 2023, and that the program will be voted on April 18. If there is not an acceptance from this vote, ECSU would need to request to remove this from the Board of Regents May agenda.

Chair Ira Bloom inquired about the faculty for the program, oversight of the clinical component, and how it will be organized. Dr. Stevens confirmed that the hiring process for a clinical coordinator is underway. She added that clinical courses will begin in the third year of the program, anticipated for Fall 2025. ECSU plans to use their partnership with Hartford HealthCare and Windham Hospital to recruit faculty in an adjunct capacity.

Regent James McCarthy added that clinicals tend to be a smaller group, and in consideration of funding, ECSU should consider recruiting faculty to develop general education nursing courses.

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

d. Modifications

i. Organizational Management – M.S. – Eastern CT State University [Modification of courses/course substitutions; change in modality; name change]

Eastern Connecticut State University seeks the approval of modification to the Master of Science in Organizational Management. Dr. William Salka, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs and Dr. Niti Pandey, Dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies presented. This modification is in name and modality from a traditional on ground program to online. The program was experiencing a decline in enrollment and had dated curriculum that was no longer relevant to the field. The faculty provided opportunities for improvement by researching, reaching out to the community, and soliciting input from industry leaders. As a result, the curriculum was updated to add a health management concentration area, a change in modality to online, and offering the courses in 7 week increments instead of 15. The curriculum has changed without increasing resources, highlighting faculty strengths, and is anticipated to increase enrollment and revenue.

Regent Juanita James inquired about the challenges that organizations are facing in a remote environment, how to develop some of the relationship-building and soft skills, and how to fill the gaps that are created in an online environment. ECSU confirmed that the faculty are engaged in upskilling themselves to teach online.

Regent James McCarthy complimented the switch to a 7-week unit, as these are better designed to reduce challenges in an online environment and maintain engagement. He added congratulations for redesigning the program within the existing financial model.

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

- ii. School Psychology – M.S. – Southern CT State University [Modification of courses/course substitutions]

Southern Connecticut State University seeks approval of modifications to the M.S. and 6th Year Certificate in School Psychology. Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost, Academic Affairs, Dr. Stephen Hegedus, Dean, College of Education, and Dr. Casey McPherson, Assistant Professor, Counseling and School Psychology presented. This modification is in response to changes made to the standards for the National Association of School Psychology. In Connecticut, both the degree and certificate are required to become a school psychologist.

Chair Ira Bloom added that this program is important and relevant to the needs in the field of mental health. ECSU added that the program includes courses in crisis intervention and preparedness, as well as courses in counseling and special education.

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

- iii. School Psychology – 6th Year Certificate – Southern CT State University [Modification of courses/course substitutions]

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

- iv. Social Work – B.S.W. – Charter Oak State College [Modification of courses/course substitutions]

Charter Oak State College seeks approval of a modification to the Bachelor in Social Work program. Dr. David Ferreira, Provost and Dr. Solomon Hill, Director, Bachelor of Social Work Program presented. The Council of Social Work Education has made changes in language to promote anti-racist social work practice. As a result, the BSW program will change field education to practicum education. In alignment and approach with CSWE, this change will allow students to start their practicum experience in the third year and follow into their fourth year, giving students the opportunity to earn the 400 hours of experience needed spread over four semesters. This will provide flexibility to students and allow them to work while also earning their required hours.

Regent James McCarthy added that he is interested to see the shift of practicum experience, and that the change is a fantastic way to allow students to work and earn their hours concurrently.

Regent Juanita James echoed the same comments, and commends COSC on the articulation of inclusion, as it is necessary in today's environment.

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

- v. Studio Art – B.A. – Southern CT State University [Name Change]

Southern Connecticut State University seeks the approval of modification in name change from Studio Art to Art and Design. Dr. Robert Prezant, Provost, Academic Affairs presented. This modification is in response to student request and faculty expertise. The name change will add coherence to the course catalog and assist with broadening student career opportunities.

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

4. Informational Items

a. Below Threshold

i. Studio Art – B.A. – Southern CT State University

Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to amend the agenda and remove item 4. a.i.. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy and second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the agenda amendment was approved unanimously.

ii. World Languages Education – M.A.T. – Southern CT State University

iii. Art Education PK-12 – M.A.T. – Southern CT State University

iv. History / Social Studies – M.A.T. – Southern CT State University

v. History B.A. Accelerated Pathway to Master of Library Science Information – Southern CT State University

vi. Health Informatics – M.S. – Charter Oak State College [Modification of courses]

vii. Public Safety Administration – B.S. – Charter Oak State College [New Concentration]

b. Annual Report of the Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology

Chair Bloom made comment in reference to pages 14-15. There is a mention of open educational resources (OER) that ECSU and SCSU have been involved with.

c. Sabbatical Leaves

i. Community Colleges

ii. Southern Connecticut State University

iii. Western Connecticut State University

Chair Ira Bloom wished all a Happy Holiday season in anticipation of Passover, Ramadan, and Easter.

Chair Ira Bloom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Regent Juanita James and second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was passed unanimously at 10:38 a.m.