

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION MINUTES

## SPECIAL MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE

12:30 pm, Thursday, October 25, 2012

originating from 1<sup>st</sup> floor Boardroom, 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

### REGENTS PARTICIPATING

Lewis J. Robinson, Chair  
Yvette Meléndez, Vice Chair  
Richard J. Balducci  
Naomi K. Cohen  
Matt Fleury  
Craig S. Lappen  
Dr. René Lerer

Dr. Merle W. Harris  
Gary Holloway  
Michael E. Pollard  
Catherine H. Smith\*  
Alex Tettey, Jr.  
Zac Zeitlin

### REGENTS ABSENT

Dr. Lawrence J. DeNardis  
Nicholas M. Donofrio  
Michael Fraser

Jewel Mullen\*  
Sharon Palmer\*  
Stefan Pryor\*

*\*ex-officio, non-voting member*

### BOR STAFF

Interim President, Dr. Philip E. Austin  
VP for Human Resources, Steven Weinberger  
Counsel, Ernestine Y. Weaver  
Erin A. Fitzgerald, Associate Director for Board Affairs/BOR Secretary

### CALL TO ORDER

At 12:45 pm BOR Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order and noted a quorum was present.

### SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Following a report from Committee Chair Naomi Cohen, **on a motion by Merele Harris with a second by Michael Pollard, the following resolution was unanimously approved:**

WHEREAS on December 20, 2011, the Board of Regents adopted a resolution approving the appointment of David Levinson to serve on an interim basis as the Vice President of the BOR for the Connecticut Community Colleges as per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-1b(c);

WHEREAS on April 13, 2012, the Board of Regents received a communication from former BOR President Kennedy noting that he would be making a recommendation

to the full Board to approve the appointment of Dr. David Levinson to serve as the permanent Vice President of the BOR for the Connecticut Community Colleges and Dr. Elsa Nuñez to serve as the permanent Vice President of the BOR for the Connecticut State Universities as per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-1b(c);

WHEREAS on May 17, 2012, the Board of Regents adopted a Resolution approving the permanent appointment of Dr. Elsa Nuñez, the university president, and of Dr. David Levinson, the community college president, to serve as Vice Presidents of the BOR as per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-1b(c); and

WHEREAS, Dr. David Levinson has since December 20, 2011 and Dr. Elsa Nuñez has since April 13, 2012 undertaken the duties and responsibilities of Vice Presidents of the BOR; and

WHEREAS although the Board of Regents unanimously approved the appointments on May 17, 2012 of Dr. Elsa Nuñez as Vice President for the Connecticut State Universities and Dr. David Levinson as Vice President for the Connecticut Community Colleges its Resolutions did not address the compensation to be awarded for said appointments; and

WHEREAS, Conn. Gen. Stat. sec. 10a-1b(b) authorizes the Board of Regents to fix the compensation of its professional and technical personnel therefore, be it

RESOLVED the Board of Regents establishes that the additional compensation for David Levinson to be \$48,000 per year while serving as Vice President of the BOR as per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-1b(c) and that the award of this additional compensation shall be effective as of December 20, 2011, and

RESOLVED the Board of Regents establishes that the additional compensation for Elsa Nunez to be \$48,000 per year while serving as Vice President of the BOR as per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10a-1b(c) and that the award of this additional compensation shall be effective as of April 13, 2012.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Chair asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session. On a motion by Naomi Cohen, seconded by Merle Harris, the Board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 12:52 p.m. to discuss the matter listed below

- Executive Session to discuss the appointment and employment of a public officer or employee

All members of the Board listed above, along with BOR staff listed above excluding Dr. Austin for the portion during which his terms and conditions were discussed, were present during the Executive Session. **Executive Session ended at 2:35 p.m.**

## **OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to Open Session at 2:35 p.m.

**Terms and Conditions of Employment of Interim BOR President** – On a motion from Richard Balducci, with a second by Yvette Melendez, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED, that BOR Chairman Lewis J. Robinson is authorized to sign the employment agreement with Dr. Philip E. Austin dated October 25, 2012 on behalf of the Board of Regents for Higher Education.

**Authorization for interim BOR President to hire an interim Chief of Staff** – On a motion from Naomi Cohen, with a second by Yvette Melendez, the following resolution was unanimously approved.

RESOLVED, that BOR President Austin is authorized to hire an Interim Chief of Staff in an amount not to exceed \$129,000.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Merle Harris moved to adjourn; with a second by Michael Pollard, the special meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.**

Submitted,

Erin A. Fitzgerald, Associate Director, Office of Board Affairs/  
Secretary of the Board of Regents for Higher Education