

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

10:00 a.m., Thursday, February 20, 2014

1st floor Boardroom, 39 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

REGENTS PARTICIPATING

Yvette Meléndez

Naomi K. Cohen

Rene Lerer *via teleconference*

Merle W. Harris *via teleconference*

Matt Fleury

REGENTS ABSENT

Nicholas M. Donofrio, Chair

Craig S. Lappen

BOR STAFF

Gregory W. Gray, BOR President

Elizabeth Caswell, Chief of Staff

Erin A. Fitzgerald, Associate Director of Board Affairs/BOR Secretary

Juliet Manalan, Director of Public Affairs and Marketing

Joseph McAuliffe, interim CIO

Erika Steiner, CFO

Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager

Ernestine Weaver, Counsel

CALL TO ORDER

Yvette Meléndez called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., declaring a quorum present.

UPDATE FROM BOR PRESIDENT GRAY

President Gray provided an administrative update on the following four items:

- 1) **2014 Projected BOR agenda items.** President Gray shared a listing of 2014 projected cyclical BOR agenda items. During the committee's review of the preliminary list, several suggestions were offered for inclusion (biennial capital budget, facilities/infrastructure cyclical items, contract negotiations, annual evaluations, board self-evaluation). President Gray noted he would have staff to the BOR Committees to review the draft listing with their respective Committee Chairs and submit proposed revisions. It was noted the listing was a fluid document and would be reviewed and monitored on a regular basis.
- 2) **CSCU 2020.** President Gray referenced the following four pillars:
 - a) **Enrollment**
 - i) Early college programs
 - ii) Scholarship funds for associate degrees (for community college completers who remain within the system).
 - iii) Go Back to Get Ahead
 - b) **Fiscal Stability**
 - i) Examination of revenue to include increased efficiency in operations

- c) **Infrastructure**
 - i) Systemwide IT audit to be conducted prior to developing a plan of action
 - ii) Deferred maintenance items (as identified Sightlines) need to be addressed
 - d) **System (vs 17 individual institutions)**
 - i) Expansion of existing cost-effective efforts and procedures to all institutions
 - ii) Common academic calendar
 - iii) Utilization of paperless systems
 - iv) Sharing best practices and maximizing benefits and cost-savings realized
- 3) **Expressed appreciation for Governor Malloy’s strong support** of the plan and his advocacy efforts to ensure the “down payment” on the road to a world-class system of higher education is achieved this legislative session. President Gray also referenced the plans primary goals:
- a) Students First
 - b) Ensure students, faculty and staff have the tools to succeed (facilities, infrastructure, IT, student support)
 - c) Accessibility/Affordability
- 4) **Presidential Searches at Community Colleges.** President Gray provided an update on the status of the ongoing presidential searches, sharing information on advertisements placed, applications received to date, and projected mid-March timeframe to begin process of identification of semi-finalists.

At President Gray’s request, CFO Erika Steiner provided a brief **update concerning mid-year budget projections**. Steiner shared that lower-than-expected enrollments indicated a potential \$4.5 million gap at the community colleges. Following a brief discussion which included ongoing efforts to mitigate the gap (managing hiring practices and programmatic adjustments), VC Melendez noted the matter would be discussed in detail at the next meeting of the Finance & Infrastructure Committee scheduled for March 6.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Matt Fleury, with a second by Naomi Cohen, the minutes from the November 12, 2013 meeting were unanimously accepted as presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Naomi Cohen, seconded by Merle Harris, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the following:

- strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation

All Regents listed above remained. Vice Chair Melendez directed the following staff members to remain during Executive Session: President Gray, Erin Fitzgerald, Ernestine Weaver and Elizabeth Caswell.

The Committee returned to open session at 10:50 a.m. Chair Melendez confirmed no votes were taken in executive session and that discussion was limited to the following:

1. strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims or pending litigation

BOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHARTER

VC Melendez noted that the Executive Committee Charter had been revised to allow the Executive Committee to serve, on an as-needed basis, as the Governance Committee of the Board. **The following language, added to the Committee responsibilities, was unanimously approved on a motion by Matt Fleury, seconded by Merle Harris, for submittal to the full Board at the March 13, 2014 meeting.**

Committee Responsibilities

As outlined above, the responsibilities of the Executive Committee are limited only to those instances deemed an emergency circumstance. The Executive Committee may act on behalf of the Board only in those emergency circumstances that do not permit the handling of a matter in the normally prescribed manner by the Board, and any such action taken by the Committee shall be subject to ratification by the full Board at the next regular meeting of the Board. The Executive Committee shall also serve, on an as-needed basis, as the Governance Committee of the Board of Regents for Higher Education. Upon recommendation from the BOR President, the Committee will review the Board's governance practices and provide recommendations to the Board of Regents to maintain or strengthen such practices, including but not limited to proposed bylaw amendments, committee structure, and board self-assessment. The Executive Committee shall undertake such other matters and review such other issues as may be directed from time to time by the Board Chair or as recommended by the BOR President.

ADJOURNMENT

Matt Fleury moved to adjourn; Naomi Cohen seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted,

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

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