



# Board of Regents

## Executive Committee Thursday, August 19, 2021 10:00 a.m. Conducted Via Remote Participation Meeting Minutes

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS	PARTICIPATING
Matt Fleury, Chair	Yes
Richard Balducci	Yes
Felice Gray-Kemp	Yes
Merle Harris	Yes
David Jimenez	Yes
Elease E. Wright	Yes

### CSCU STAFF PRESENT:

- Terrence Cheng, CSCU System President
- Dr. Jane Gates, Provost & SVP, Academic & Student Affairs
- Dr. Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff/COO/Secretary of the Board
- Andy Kripp, VP, Human Resources
- Ernestine Weaver, General Counsel
- Dr. Ken Klucznik, VP of Academic Affairs
- Keith Epstein, VP of Facilities, Real Estate & Infrastructure Planning
- Dr. Terry Brown, Campus CEO, Gateway Community College
- Pam Heleen, Assistant Secretary of the Board (recorder)

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Fleury called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AMENDED AGENDA

*Chair Fleury noted that at this time, an Executive Session was not needed at the end of the meeting. Regent Balducci made the motion to remove the item from the agenda; Regent Wright seconded the motion which was unanimously approved by voice vote.*

*Chair Fleury called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda as amended; on a motion by Regent Wright, seconded by Regent Balducci, the agenda was unanimously adopted as amended by voice vote.*

### 3. REMARKS FROM BOR CHAIR

Chair Fleury shared:

- Condolences from the Board to Regent Felice Gray-Kemp on the passing of her husband, Herbert Kemp. Regent Gray-Kemp thanked everyone for their expressions of love and sympathy.
- Rick Porth will be joining the Board, a gubernatorial replacement for Naomi Cohen. He is known to many for his work with the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and many non-profit organizations.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

*On a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Harris, the June 16, 2021 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted by voice vote.*

#### 5. COMMENTS FROM PRESIDENT CHENG

- Communications were sent to all campus and institutional leaders outlining COVID reopening guidance for the fall. As things evolve, we will be as nimble as possible to ensure that we have a safe and secure return for all campuses.
- Dispersal of Federal Funds - A few weeks back, it was announced that there would be \$17 million in debt relief for community college students. In addition, \$58 million in direct funding support will be provided directly to over 80,000 community college students. \$37 million will be provided to university students. A great amount of federal relief is going directly to our students to support their continued education.
- NECHE - President Cheng, Chair Fleury, and the CT State team presented a status report to NECHE in June. A few weeks later, an encouraging letter was received indicating NECHE's support of CT State's progress to date and encouraging the January 2022 submission of the Substantive Change Report.
- Site visits - President Cheng is spending time getting to know CSCU - all the campuses, their leaders, the employees and students and local communities. Preliminary visits are underway with the campus leadership teams to learn what we can do to help them, to put them in a position to succeed. Phase II of the campus visits will be scheduled through the fall to meet with all constituent groups - faculty, staff, students, donors, community leaders and elected officials. The goal is to gather input and context for the development of short and long-term strategies for the System and each of our campuses and regions.
- Meetings are taking place with community, corporate, and government partners to understand where they are and what they would like to see from CSCU as we move to achieve our shared goals.
- Alignment of our academic value proposition with the needs of communities, society, and government is still a topic for heated discussion - how do we become a major force in the engine of economic and workforce development.
- The Governor announced that there would be raises for state management employees but did not include CSCU System. We have begun conversations with members of the Board and are creating financial models to see what can be done.

#### 6. Resolutions

- **Acceptance of Gift - Gateway Community College - Automotive Technology Program**  
Dr. Terry Brown presented this resolution. General Motors Corporation continues to generously support Gateway's Automotive Technology Program with this donation. The donated car will provide students with laboratory and experiential instruction. The resolution is before the Executive Committee to ensure that the vehicle can be donated in time for the fall semester.

*Chair Fleury called for a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was moved by Regent Balducci and seconded by Regent Wright.*

Regent Wright asked if there was a discrepancy in the market value of the 2020 Chevy Equinox. Keith Epstein responded to the question by indicating that the actual MSRP is about \$20,000; but because the vehicle is titled such that it cannot be driven on the road, the market value decreases and is listed at \$7,652.06.

*The resolution carried by unanimous voice vote.*

- **Correction of Program Name - Business Management: Sport Management Option**

Dr. Ken Klucznik presented the time-sensitive resolution. For programs to be approved by the Office of Higher Education (OHE) so that campuses can offer them, they must have accurate names in their Board resolutions when they are sent to the OHE. The wrong name was listed on the April 2021 approved resolution; so, this resolution will correct it and allow us to send it to OHE. The program will then be available for students and the institution can award the credits and credentials for the program. If the issue waited until the September BOR meeting, the fall semester would have been missed.

*Chair Fleury called for a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion was moved by Regent Wright and seconded by Regent Balducci. The resolution carried by unanimous voice vote.*

7. **COVID UPDATE - Dr. Alice Pritchard**

- Documents have been sent to campus leadership and to the BOR outlining additional guidance for reopening campuses given the continued pandemic.
- Thanks to Ernestine Weaver, Andy Kripp, Angelo Simoni, Janel Wright (contract coordination), all COVID Coordinators of the 17 schools, and campus leadership for their efforts over the past 18 months.
- All students continue to be encouraged to get vaccinated.
- The vaccine mandate for students is well underway. Attestations of vaccine status are being gathered and exemption requests are being processed. These processes are in line with UConn. We will start the semester with some students who are not vaccinated, but more who are, and we will continue to provide opportunities to get vaccinated on campuses throughout the semester.
- Community college students are asking questions about the vaccine and the mandate. As these students typically register closer to the beginning of a semester, staff expects to be very busy. Testing for all those who are not vaccinated will be done at the community colleges. Janel Wright and the COVID Coordinators are working on this process now. Details are forthcoming.
- All colleges and universities are doing a form of contact tracing in partnership with local public health so that we can quickly identify those who may have been exposed and to mitigate the risk for others.
- The goal for the fall is a strong return to on-ground classes and services. At the universities, most classes and services will be on-ground. At the community colleges, less than 50% of classes are on-ground.
- Strong mitigation strategies are being put in place, including masking regardless of vaccination status and physical distancing in the classroom and student services offices.

Regent Wright asked if classrooms will have masks available for students who arrive without one. Dr. Pritchard responded that we still have a good bit of supply available to the campuses. It is expected that the moment someone crosses the threshold of a campus that their mask will be worn at all times. It is hoped that CDC guidance will be lessened for those who are fully vaccinated as we move into the semester.

Regent Harris asked if a vaccinated student can be assigned a room in a residence hall with an unvaccinated roommate. Dr. Pritchard indicated that this could happen. Regent Harris followed up by asking if there was anything the vaccinated student could do so this wouldn't happen. Ernestine Weaver stated that the unvaccinated student was the one primarily taking the risk as opposed to the vaccinated student. Exemptions to vaccination requirements are still being accepted, including in the residence halls. Dr. Pritchard indicated that the universities will be reporting soon the number of unvaccinated students in the resident halls. If there are issues, the VP of Student Affairs and the Residence Hall Directors will take them up.

Regent Harris asked who pays for the COVID testing that we may require. Dr. Pritchard indicated that at this time the State of CT has been the primary payer of our testing program and will continue to do so. They use federal resources to either reimburse CSCU or pay for the testing directly. In some cases, our vendors have been asked to bill insurance first with the State covering the balance.

Dr. Pritchard indicated that some of our campuses continue to be sites for community testing and vaccination. Thanks to the COVID Coordinators for making this possible.

Regent Balducci asked if we had considered putting all unvaccinated students on one floor of a residence hall. Dr. Pritchard indicated that there is guidance from the CDC that we not cohort unvaccinated students. On a case-by-case basis, this could be brought to the attention of the institution to see if there were options. We are not at capacity in our housing so there may be flexibility if need be, as well as continuing to hold rooms available in case of positive case isolation. Ernestine Weaver indicated that for those students who have a medical vaccination exemption, they can request an accommodation for housing.

Chair Fleury referred to the June BOR Vaccination Policy concerning vaccination for all employees. The Board is unambiguous in their statement that the vaccine is crucial for everyone. The contractual matters have been resolved at UConn and there are continued efforts to do that in our system. The FAC, as well as the members of the Board, have been advocating very strongly for this. Andy Kripp provided the following update:

- We expect the unions to have full approval of a MOA by Friday, August 20 at 3:00 p.m.
- Two of the unions need to take the finalized MOA to their executive boards; they expect a positive outcome.
- System office staff are working to ensure that the correct structure and testing is in place to achieve all objectives - to confirm vaccine status, manage an exemption process, to engage in necessary testing - to keep everyone safe.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fleury requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was put forth by Regent Harris and seconded Regent Wright. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

RESOLUTION

concerning

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS

GATEWAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE - AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

August 19, 2021

WHEREAS, Gateway Community College is the recipient of a generous donation of a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox from General Motors Corporation for laboratory and experiential instruction in the college's Automotive Technology Program; and


WHEREAS, The donation will allow Gateway Community College to include the latest in the automotive technology curriculum and provide the students with learning and career opportunities that they previously did not have; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED THAT, The Board of Regents accepts and acknowledges with appreciation the following gifts from General Motors Corporation:

Description:

2020 Chevrolet Equinox AWD LT 4 door SUV Blue VIN: 3GNAXUEV9LL157326  
Total Current Market Value: \$7,652.06

A True Copy:



Alice Prichard, Secretary of the  
CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

**CT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

**RESOLUTION**

concerning

Program Name Correction

August 19, 2021

WHEREAS: At its April 22, 2021 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a new program with the name Business Management: Sport Management Option (CIP Code: 31.0504, OHE# TBD – one for on ground/hybrid, one for online) – leading to an Associate of Science at Gateway Community College, and

WHEREAS: Due to a clerical error, the name was listed incorrectly in the resolution to the Board of Regents and should be Business Administration: Sport Management Option, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the correction of the name of the program to Business Administration: Sport Management Option.

A True Copy:



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Alice Pritchard, Secretary of the  
CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

**ITEM**

Establishment of a new program, Business Management: Sport Management Option, leading to an Associate of Science at Gateway Community College.

**BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the demand for entertainment and sports occupations is expected to grow by 7% through 2026, which is faster than the national average, and within Connecticut, jobs in sports showed an 18% increase in the last decade with “coaching and scouts” listed as “Hot Jobs”. There are 11 sport venues in Connecticut, nine professional sports teams (including developmental leagues), and 23 colleges that play intercollegiate sports. Each of these present wonderful opportunities for our students because they require numerous support positions to be filled. The types of careers they will be hiring for include media, marketing, ticket sales, event management, and more. In February 2021, Indeed.com listed 503 jobs in sports in the state of Connecticut.

Jobs available to students with an associate degree with a sport management focus include: facility and event management, sport sales, coaching, public relation specialist, fitness management at health clubs, YMCAs, and more. For students transferring to a four-year school, the degree also makes students more attractive for college work/study and internships within the schools’ athletic departments which can open doors to financial assistance for the students who work there.

Gateway’s program will be aligned with Southern Connecticut State University’s Sport Management program in both learning outcomes and program courses. Both institutions are working together to build a strong transfer track, and have outlined and agreed upon, a 2+2 program which will provide a seamless transfer and graduate students with a 4-year degree. We have discussed sharing resources, instructors, and student opportunities to build a strong network. Members of Southern’s Sport Management program have already agreed to be part of Gateway’s advisory board.

Because this program is an option, it does not require a program coordinator. There is already a faculty member with the education and experience to teach the courses specific to sport.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Following its review and deliberative process, it is the recommendation of the Academic Council that the Board of Regents approve this new program. The System’s Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs concurs with this recommendation.