

# BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Regents Boardroom, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

## REGENTS PARTICIPATING

Matt Fleury  
Yvette Meléndez  
Richard J. Balducci

Naomi K. Cohen  
Merle W. Harris  
Elease E. Wright

## NO REGENTS ABSENT

## STAFF PRESENT

Mark Ojakian, President  
Jane McBride Gates, Provost & SVP for Academic & Student Affairs  
Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff  
Erika Steiner, Chief Financial Officer  
Steve Weinberger, VP Human Resources and Labor Relations  
Ernestine Weaver, Counsel  
Sean Bradbury, Director of Government Relations  
Erin A. Fitzgerald, Associate Director of Board Affairs/BOR Secretary

## CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fleury called the meeting to order at 10:45 am, declaring a quorum present.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

**On a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Melendez, the [February 18, 2016 meeting minutes](#) were approved (5 in favor; Cohen abstained).**

## UPDATE FROM CSCU PRESIDENT MARK E. OJAKIAN

President Ojakian provided an update on the status of progress towards identified system goals ([see Attachment A hereto](#)).

Following President Ojakian's update, Chairman Fleury noted the benefit of the respective committees keeping the referenced goals and priorities at the forefront of the Board's committee deliberations.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

**On a motion by Regent Cohen seconded by Regent Balducci, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:11 am for discussion concerning the topics listed below.**

- Pending litigation;
- Strategy related to collective bargaining; and
- The appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee

At the request of Chair Fleury, the following staff members remained with President Ojakian and committee members: Erin Fitzgerald, Alice Pritchard, Steve Weinberger and Ernestine Weaver.

**The Committee returned to open session at 12:25 pm.** Chair Fleury advised that no votes were taken in executive session and that discussion was limited to the topics previously announced (relisted below and, in parentheses, staff members who remained with the Committee and President Ojakian).

- Pending litigation; (*Weaver, Pritchard, Weinberger, Fitzgerald*)
- Strategy related to collective bargaining (*Weinberger, Pritchard, Fitzgerald*); and
- Appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Regent Cohen moved to adjourn; Regent Melendez seconded; upon unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 12:26 pm.**

Submitted,

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

## REVIEW OF SYSTEM PRESIDENT'S GOALS

### **Goal 1: Rebuild relationships with key stakeholders**

Successfully established strong working relationships with legislators, particularly leadership, the administration and the media. These relationships helped to secure resources and legislative wins, increase media coverage and share the story of CSCU's value to the state.

### **Goal 2: Assist colleges and universities to manage budget challenges and end the fiscal year in the black**

Secured significant bond funding for CSCU and student financial aid through the Roberta Willis Scholarship Fund. Worked with colleges and universities to mitigate budget cuts throughout the year. Passed modest tuition increase despite budget cuts. Exploring tuition pilots with ACC and WCSU to help border colleges capture out of state enrollments. Consolidated system office space to promote cohesion and cut expenses.

### **Goal 3: Establish System Office as a resource and advocate for institutions**

Improved coordination among system office and the colleges and universities through regular meetings of the Presidents, Executive Staff, Administrative Councils and Faculty and Student Advisory Committees. Created the CSCU Foundation to promote fundraising system wide to support students and special initiatives. Conducted extensive statewide marketing campaign to promote enrollment in manufacturing programs as well as spring and fall enrollment in 2016. Established work groups on purchasing, compliance, financial aid, human resources, marketing and enrollment/retention to generate recommendations for increased coordination and efficiency across the system and potential savings.

### **Goal 4: Promote talent development and address student barriers to enrollment, retention and graduation**

Established 11 TAP pathways as well as marketing materials to promote with teachers, students and parents and the community colleges continue to make improvements in developmental education. Built relationships with key state agencies to address student barriers including childcare, transportation, food security, as well as identify resources to support cost of education and training.

### **Goal 5: Review strategic plan for technology and move to implement projects in expeditious fashion**

Made significant progress in upgrading CSCU infrastructure including phones, 21<sup>st</sup> century classrooms, and software.

### **Goal 6: Work closely with business and industry to create job opportunities for graduates**

Established strong relationships with a number of constituencies including the state's workforce investment boards, and Departments of Labor (CTDOL) and Economic and Community Development (DECD) to connect CSCU to their workforce efforts. Engaged in federal grant applications and special events to promote the system, particularly unemployed workers and veterans with the CT DOL.