

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION MINUTES - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

10:00 am, Thursday, January 16, 2020

Regents Boardroom, System Office, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Matt Fleury, Chair	Y
Richard J. Balducci	N
Naomi K. Cohen	Y
Merle W. Harris <i>via teleconference</i>	Y
David R. Jimenez	Y
Elese E. Wright	Y

CSCU STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Mark Ojakian, President
Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff
Rob Steinmetz, Regional President, Capital-East
Ernestine Y. Weaver, Counsel
Erin A. Fitzgerald, Director of Board Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fleury called the meeting to order at 10:05 am and, following roll call, declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Regent Cohen, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, the [previous meeting minutes of November 21, 2019](#), were approved as submitted.

CSCU PRESIDENT OJAKIAN

President Ojakian updated the Committee on the following topics:

- **Debt-Free College** – The Board approved policy was submitted to the legislature as required by January 1, 2020. Marketing will pick up significantly following the MLK holiday along with increased outreach to students in high schools, labor unions, NAACP and other potential audiences. Responsive to an inquiry from Regent Cohen, President Ojakian indicated that planning was proceeding on the assumption that some level of funding would be received and that he would keep the Board apprised of the status on this issue.
- **Tuition & Fees** – The Finance & Infrastructure Committee will receive and consider President Ojakian’s recommendation for tuition and fee adjustments in advance of their January 29, 2020 meeting. The recommendation is in the process of being developed with the continued goal of keeping the colleges and universities as accessible and affordable as possible.
- **Students First**
 - President Ojakian reported the team is very busy working to prepare implementation plan for NECHE’s April meeting. A final version will be provided to the Board at the March 26, 2020 full Board meeting, however, key

components thereof will be brought to the various standing board committees leading up to that meeting.

- Noted that administration is proceeding following the guidance and road map provided by NECHE to ensure that the implementation plan reflects that NECHE accreditation standards are being met. Discussion ensued among all committee members concerning the level of confidence that following NECHE's guidance and road map will yield NECHE's approval to proceed with final steps in the implementation of the college consolidation and affirmation that the plan meets their standards.
- Chairman Fleury noted that President Ojakian and his team has been in continued conversations with the accreditors and there is reason to be optimistic that following the guidance offered by NECHE, CSCU will be in a much better position to demonstrate the compliance with the accreditation standards.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Chair Fleury seconded by Regent Wright, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:23 am for discussion concerning the evaluation of a public officer or employee.

At the request of Chair Fleury, President Ojakian remained with the Committee.

The Committee returned to open session at 11:23 am.

Chair Fleury advised there were no votes in executive session and that discussion was limited to discussion concerning the evaluation of a public officer or employee.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fleury declared the meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

Submitted,

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

Attachments to Minutes and/or Meeting Handouts/ Presentations

Posted online at <http://www.ct.edu/regents/minutes>

No Attachments or Handouts