

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

10:00 am, Thursday, November 21, 2019

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	Y
David R. Jimenez	N
Elese E. Wright	Y

## STAFF PARTICIPATING

Mark Ojakian, President  
Leigh Appleby, Director of Communications  
Thomas G. Coley, Regional President, Shoreline West  
Erin A. Fitzgerald, Associate Director of Board Affairs  
Andrew Kripp, Vice President, Human Resources  
Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff  
Ernestine Y. Weaver, Counsel

## 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 Naomi Cohen, seconded by Elese Wright, the previous meeting minutes of January 17, 2019, were approved as submitted.**

## CSCU PRESIDENT OJAKIAN

President Ojakian updated the Committee on the following topics:

- **Public Safety Task Force** – advised that he recently met with Commissioner James Rovella, of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) and his team to share draft recommendations to ensure that there were no gaps in the proposed activities. Administration is continuing to look at a position description for a Vice President of Public Safety for the community colleges (including placement in the classification and compensation system).
- **Students First**
  - President Ojakian reported that he has retained Sally Johnstone and Dennis Jones from NCHEMS for transition planning for consolidation to a singly-accredited institutions. Sally and Dennis have extensive experience with states and systems undergoing reorganization, a strong relationship with staff at NECHE as well as Connecticut's work on the higher education strategic plan. With their guidance, finalizing plans for administrative consolidations in key areas (IT, HR, Facilities and some areas of Finance including Payroll, Purchasing and Accounting). Expect to have these in place and operational July 1, 2020.

- Staff is working on service level agreements between the System Office and the individual campuses to demonstrate what will be provided to the campuses for services and the associated cost.
- Continuing working with NCHEMS to draft the Academic and Student Affairs organization charts.
- Above-referenced work is being done in preparation for providing NECHE with an updated report in April 2020. President Ojakian and staff continue to communicate regularly with NECHE administration.

Following President Ojakian's comments on Students First, discussion ensued among Committee members resulting in the Committee reaching consensus that an item should be placed on the December 19, 2019 full Board agenda allowing the Board to reaffirm the guiding principles underlying the Students First planning.

President Ojakian confirmed he would develop and present an updated high-level listing of criteria for the Board's consideration at the December 19, 2019, Board meeting.

- **Ongoing efforts to address transfer concerns** – President Ojakian noted that he established a taskforce led by President Bertolino, SCSU and Ken Klucznik, CSCU Associate VP of Academic Affairs to identify specific concerns and measurable resolution(s) related to TAP.
- **CSCU Strategic Communications** – at President Ojakian's request, Leigh Appleby, Director of Communications, provided an overview of communications strategy for the System. Discussion ensued on this topic among all Committee members. (See Attachment A hereto.)

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**On a motion by Regent Naomi Cohen seconded by Elease Wright, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:03 am for discussion concerning the following items**

1. the appointment of a public officer or employee
2. pending litigation

At the request of Chair Fleury, the following individual(s) remained with the Committee and President Ojakian:

Erin A. Fitzgerald (discussion item #1)  
 Thomas Coley (discussion item #1)  
 Alice Pritchard  
 Andrew Kripp  
 Ernestine Weaver

**The Committee returned to open session at 11:30 am.**

Chair Fleury advised there were no votes in executive session and that discussion was limited to

1. the appointment of a public officer or employee
2. pending litigation

**ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion by Elease Wright, with a second by Merle Harris, the meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.**

Submitted,

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

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# Attachments to Minutes and/or Meeting Handouts/ Presentations

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

A. CSCU Strategic Communications – Leigh Appleby, Director Communications

# Strategic Communications at CSCU

November 21, 2019

CSCU

*Connecticut State  
Colleges & Universities*

# Communications Objectives

- **Telling the CSCU story**
- **Transparent look into operations and objectives of our institutions**
- **Raise awareness and provide updates on BOR initiatives**

# Intended Audience

- **Internal audience: students, staff, faculty, administrators**
- **External audience: the general public**
- **Legislative and governmental partners**

# Communication Tactics

- **Internal audience: email announcements, on-campus events, CSCU buzz, live social media events**
- **External audience: mass media, news conferences, press releases, television/radio/print interviews, newspaper opinion pieces**
- **Legislative and governmental partners: formal testimony, written communications, personal meetings**
- **All of the above: Formal communication with accreditors, other public releases**



# Contact Information

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