

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Meeting conducted via remote participation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

Matt Fleury, Chair	Y
Richard J. Balducci	Y
Naomi K. Cohen	Y
Merle W. Harris	Y
David R. Jimenez	Y
Elease E. Wright	Y

CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING

Mark E. Ojakian, President
Dr. Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff
Andrew Kripp, VP for Human Resources
Ernestine Y. Weaver, Counsel
Erin A. Fitzgerald, Director of Board Affairs

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fleury called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Regent Cohen, seconded by Regent Balducci, the [minutes from the April 2, 2020, Special Meeting](#), were approved as submitted.

COVID19 – SYSTEM RESPONSE & FUTURE PLANNING

Overview - President Ojakian provided an overview on the COVID19 System Responsiveness and Future Planning. Highlights of his comments are listed below

- Administration is in the process of sending federal money to CSCU students under the CARES Act, noting that late guidance from Federal Department of Education significantly reduced the number of students eligible for the federal support. President Ojakian communicated those concerns in a letter to the Secretary of Education and Connecticut's Congressional delegation indicating that nearly 30,000 students were impacted by this change.
- There are two community college crisis teams looking at remote teaching and learning and enrollment management. The teams are identifying challenges for faculty, staff and students in these areas and proposing recommendations which are being quickly reviewed and acted upon.
- CSCU is engaged in the Governor's ReOpen CT advisory committee on higher education and providing input into the planning for fall. An announcement from the Governor is expected later in the week with further guidance to assist in that planning process.
- All 17 CSCU institutions are now engaging in a planning process to identify ways to reopen in the fall of 2020. They are meeting with faculty, staff, students, union leaders, etc. to identify options, challenges, new ways of doing business, etc. that will help us to reopen safely when possible.
- In reaching those decisions, CSCU is focusing on ensuring that the health and safety of students, faculty and staff remains the highest priority, while also seeking to continue delivering the highest quality learning and working environment possible.

Responsive to a question from Chair Fleury, President Ojakian reiterated efforts are underway to identify ways to reopen in the Fall (dependent upon ever-evolving and changing circumstances) as well as to be quickly responsive should there be a need to shut down. Further discussion ensued among Board members, with President Ojakian noting that there are many creative, variable and innovative approaches being considered in terms of reopening, including revisions to the existing semester schedule. In discussing the need for Covid19 testing, President Ojakian noted that any plans to be developed would be in consult and in compliance with the Governor's Reopening Plan which will also include necessary contingencies.

STUDENTS FIRST – NAMING OF SINGLE ACCREDITED COLLEGE

Responding to Chairman Fleury's request, President Ojakian provided an overview of the information provided in the proposed resolution and accompanying staff report (Attachment A hereto). Regent Jimenez suggested the resolution be revised to be more pointed that, both Students First, including the renaming of the College, falls on the statutory authority vested and mandated under the Board of Regents to be responsive to student needs. **Upon conclusion of further discussion among Committee members, the Executive Committee adopted the resolution on a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Vice Chair Harris, with the understanding that Administration would make necessary edits thereto prior to moving forward to the full Board on May 14, 2020, clarifying the process for naming of campuses and the requirements mandated to Board members under the statute for taking these actions.**

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Regent Cohen, seconded by Regent Wright, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 2:48 pm for discussion concerning pending litigation. Chair Fleury noted there would be no votes in Executive, that the discussion was limited to pending litigation. President Ojakian, Alice Pritchard, Andy Kripp and Ernestine Weaver remained with the Committee in Executive Session. He additionally noted that there would be no votes when the Committee left Executive Session and no action with the exception of his declaring the meeting adjourned.

Executive Session concluded at 3:17 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Fleury declared the meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.

Submitted,

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

ATTACHMENT A to 05/05/2020 BOR Executive Committee Minutes

NOTE: Exec Comm directed Administration to make edits to proposed resolution prior to moving to May 14, 2020, Board meeting, including clarifying the process for naming of campuses, as well as Board statutory authority and mandated requirements.

**CONNECTICUT BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
RESOLUTION**

concerning

**STUDENTS FIRST - NAMING OF THE SINGLE ACCREDITED
COLLEGE AS CONNECTICUT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

May 14, 2020

WHEREAS, In April 2017 CSCU President Mark Ojakian recommended to the Board of Regents the Students First strategy, addressing the system's fiscal challenges and the need for improvements in the quality of educational and support services for students; and

WHEREAS, One tenet of the strategy was the consolidation of administrative functions and the other being the merger of the community colleges into a single accredited institution; and

WHEREAS, The merger of the 12 regional community technical colleges into a single accredited institution was approved by the BOR, in accordance with its statutory authority as prescribed under Section 10a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and is an important action for improving student success measures and ensuring the long term fiscal sustainability of the community colleges; and

WHEREAS, The Board voted unanimously on March 9, 2018, to submit a Substantive Change request to the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly NEASC), seeking its approval for the merger of the 12 individually accredited regional community technical colleges into a single accredited college; and

WHEREAS, Plans are underway to have the single accredited community college operational for the 2023-2024 academic year; and

WHEREAS, CSCU President Mark E. Ojakian, after due consideration has presented a recommended name for the single accredited college for the Board's consideration, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the single accredited college will be named the Connecticut State Community College.

A True Copy:

Erin A. Fitzgerald, Secretary of the
CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

ITEM

Students First – Naming of the new institution as Connecticut State Community College.

BACKGROUND

In April 2017 CSCU President Mark Ojakian recommended to the Board of Regents the Students First strategy, including two central tenets to help address the system's fiscal challenges while improving quality of educational and supports for students: with one tenet being consolidation of administrative functions and the other being an organizational consolidation for the community colleges. The Board's authority to merge colleges is statutorily prescribed in Section 10a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

The Board voted unanimously on March 9, 2018, to submit a Substantive Change request to the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly NEASC) seeking its approval for the consolidation of the 12 individually accredited regional community technical colleges into a single accredited college.

On December 19, 2019, the Board reaffirmed the Students First guiding principles, originally adopted on April 3, 2017, and stipulated the priorities and key considerations to be utilized during the transition to a single accredited community college.

In June 2020, CSCU intends to submit a transition plan to NECHE highlighting the work already accomplished and the additional work to be completed in preparation of the launch of the single accredited college in 2023. Central to this plan is demonstration that the single accredited college is being constituted with key activities underway including the naming of the college so that its identity can be separated from the CSCU system office.

To accomplish the objective of selecting a name, President Ojakian is recommending the Connecticut State Community College as the name for the Board's consideration. In formulating this recommendation, several key factors have been considered.

Institutional mergers are a growing movement in higher education, often integrating multiple institutions to create one college and one identity. After reviewing research on this topic, it is clear that the choice of a name can influence the perception about an institution and how stakeholders make decisions about the institution. While a name is an important part of perception, it is only one part of the equation. Organizational values, vision, consistency, and experience all contribute to such perception.

President Ojakian and CSCU staff identified three potential naming options in determining a recommendation: Connecticut Community College, Connecticut State College, and Connecticut State Community College. The analysis of pros and cons of each potential name are as follows:

Connecticut Community College:

Pro: Short and concise; says clearly what it is; stays in line with what people currently know.

Con: Does not connote a major shift or change; audiences may continue to use current naming system. In a ranking of America's top two-year institutions, only two of the top 10 are called "community" colleges.

Connecticut State College:

Pro: Short, easy to remember; creates a collegiate and unifying name people would be excited to belong to; and elevates the offering for students.

Con: Loses the connection to being a community-based institution.

Connecticut State Community College:

Pro: Incorporates all key points and clearly states what is offered. A clear new direction for a new institution.

Con: “Connecticut” and “Community” are both long words, and audiences will likely shorten or drop words.

CSCU’s recommendation is for the Board to move forward with **Connecticut State Community College**. This name signifies the stature of the future single accredited college which will be one of the largest in the country with 80,000 students and prestigious degrees in hundreds of academic programs. The investment made into the merger deserves a name that is a departure from the past and signifies a new identity that builds on the past but speaks to the future. However, it is important to continue to show the strong community connection. This name positions the new college as one statewide organization.

It is important to note that the naming of the college is just one step in the process of identifying the single accredited college. Perhaps more important than the formal name is the colloquial name or abbreviation that will be commonly used to identify the College, the determination of what each individual campus will be called, and the development of marketing materials. CSCU intends those processes to include significant feedback from community college students, faculty, and staff and to take place over the next two years as we prepare for the opening of the single accredited college for the 2023-2024 school year. Today’s proposal only calls for the naming of the single accredited college while the campus identification and marketing processes and strategies will happen in the future.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board of Regents for Higher Education adopts the proposed resolution naming the single accredited college as Connecticut State Community College.

5/5/2020 Executive Committee

5/14/20 Board of Regents

c:\users\00353314\onedrive - cscu\desktop\brandsr - students first naming college.docx