



# Board of Regents

**Executive Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 7, 2020 12:00 p.m.**  
**Conducted Via Remote Participation**  
<https://youtu.be/xH9dA4Ycs68>

## Meeting Minutes

HR/ADMIN COMMITTEE MEMBERS	PARTICIPATING
Matt Fleury, Chair	Yes
Richard Balducci	Yes
Naomi Cohen	Yes
Merle Harris	Yes
David Jimenez	Yes (arrived late)
Eliese E. Wright	Yes
Felice Gray-Kemp	No

### CSCU STAFF PRESENT:

Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff  
Pam Heleen, Assistant Secretary of the Board (recorder)

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

With a quorum present, Chair Fleury called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m.

#### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Fleury called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda as submitted; on a motion by Regent Wright, seconded by Regent Cohen, the Agenda was unanimously adopted as presented.

#### 3. REMARKS - BOARD OF REGENTS CHAIR MATT FLEURY

- a. Chair Fleury thanked the Finance Chair for bringing the appropriate focus to that challenging issue. The Board will continue to deal with the circumstances. One of the major points is Personnel expenses which is substantially contract-driven and as such, a small committee of the Board will be established to be the frequent touchpoint for the management team throughout the course of any forthcoming negotiations, both in the near term and routine contract renewals. The Chair expressed gratitude to Regents Jimenez and Gray-Kemp for serving on this new committee.
- b. Chair Fleury has asked that Regent Gray-Kemp join the Executive Committee.

**4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - JULY 28, 2020**

On a motion by Regent Cohen, seconded by Regent Wright, the July 28, 2020 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

**5. REMARKS - CSCU PRESIDENT MARK E. OJAKIAN**

Brief comments were provided. A much more comprehensive report will be presented to the full Board at next week's meeting.

- **Budget** - The October 7 Finance Committee meeting was a robust discussion. Special thanks to Ben Bates, his team, and the Finance staff at the institutions for putting together a realistic budget revision which shows that our deficit is down to \$69 million from \$90 million. President Ojakian reiterated the Chair's comments that there is more work to do. A lot of the work will be driven by personnel costs. Whether conversations happen within the structure of the current collective bargaining agreements or as part of the negotiations of future successor agreements, it will be important for the new committee to work with the management team to bring any proposals forward. The direction from the Finance Committee was clear; we need to continue to analyze staffing patterns, to consider workforce reductions, and to continue to press collective bargaining unit leaders to have meaningful conversations about concessions. A communication has been sent to union leaders with only one response (from AAUP) which did not offer meaningful financial solutions. Conversations will continue. Communications have been sent to the Governor and legislature leaders detailing the financial situation and asking them to be part of the solution. We will continue to focus on areas on the budget that contain the most exposure.
- **COVID Update** - Our colleges and universities continue to do relatively well given the status of higher education as a whole and where we are as a state and as a country. Last week, close to 1100 students were tested with only 6 positive test results, yielding a positivity rate of 0.55%. President Ojakian noted that we continue to watch and to monitor; we've had 45 resident student cases since the start of the fall semester and still have ample space to manage isolation should the need arise. We continue to work with communities that have seen upticks. For example, Three Rivers CC worked with the Health Department in Norwich and put up a pop-up test site on campus to assist. Even with these upticks, there has been no need to have any discussions concerning shutting down, but rather to reiterate the message is to wear masks and practice physical distancing - protect yourselves, your fellow students, and your community. Chair Fleury provided follow-up remarks about how successful our campuses have been in relation to national and statewide trends. He congratulated President Ojakian and the management team for an effective job in keeping COVID under control and encouraging everyone to do the right things. Special thanks was made to the job Dr. Alice Pritchard has done leading the effort for the system. Chair Fleury asked if there any statistical relationship between the higher positive rate in Hartford and any uptick at Capital CC; President Ojakian responded that has been nothing in proportion to the spike in Hartford. We have done a really good job of planning and implementing the plan. Everyone has ensured that protocols have been adhered to. President Ojakian also mentioned that as a system, the universities and colleges are not increasing capacity for events and gatherings to 75% according to the Governor's Phase 3 guidance. Campus leaders have agreed that we have in place is working.

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Regent Cohen, seconded by Regent Balducci, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:24 p.m. for discussion concerning the appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee.

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

The Board came out of Executive Session at 1:31 p.m. at which time Chair Fleury noted there were no votes taken in executive session and that discussion was limited to the appointment or evaluation of a public officer or employee.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Fleury declared the meeting adjourned at 1:31 p.m.

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