

**Regular Meeting of the State of CT
Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education
Minutes
April 09, 2021, WebEx**

Present:

Aime, Lois, Admin Fac, At-Large Rep, NCC
Blitz, David, Fac, Chair, CCSU
Rep, MCC
Coan, Francis, Fac non-voting, TXCC
Creech, Paul, Fac non-voting, CCC
Emanuel, Michael, Fac non-voting, NWCCC
Grace, Sean, Alternate, SCSU
Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, Admin Fac, SUOAF, CSU

Long, Jennifer, Fac, Alternate, TRCC
Picard, Ron, Fac, Alternate, NVCC
Rajczewski, MaryBeth, Fac, ACC
Richards, Barbara, Fac, HCC
Sesanker, Colena, Fac, GWCC
Shea, Michael, Fac, SCSU
Stoloff, David, Fac, Alternate, ECSU
Wilder, Linda, Admin Fac, COSC

Absent:

Breault, Benjamin, Admin Fac, Alternate, At-Large
Brewer, Adam, Fac, non-voting, WCSU
Farquharson, Patrice, Fac, COSC
Gustafson, Robin, Fac, Alternate, non-voting,
WCSU

Kaufman, O. Brian, non-voting, QVCC
Kunene, Nikki, Fac, ECSU
Ruggiero, Christine, Fac, Alternate, MXCC
Wilson, Marvin, Admin Fac, Alternate, SUOAF,
CSU

Guests:

Barnes, Ben, SO
Heleen, Pamela, SO

Latour, Fred, CCSU
Parady, Kelli, SAC

[Voting Members: Aime, Lois, At-Large NCC; Blitz, David, CCSU; Farquharson, Patrice, COSC; Garcia-Bowen, Myrna, SUOAF CSU; ?, ECSU; Raczewski, MaryBeth, ACC; Richards, Barbara, HCC; Sesanker, Colena, GCC; Shea, Mike, SCSU; Wilder, Linda, COSC]

- Meeting called to order by Chair, Colena Sesanker, at 1:06 pm. Meeting is being recorded as required.
- Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve made by Sean Grace; seconded; approved unanimously
- Approval of 02/19/21 Meeting Minutes and from now on will create an “agenda packet” that will include all pertinent documents for the meeting. Motion to approve – Mike Shea, seconded – approved unanimously
- Approval of 03/12/21 Minutes deferred until May 14 meeting as were inadvertently not included with other documentation sent to members.
- Vice-Chair Report –
 - Finance –
 - will be a tuition freeze
 - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Rescue_Plan_Act_of_2021 and Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), CARES ACT, CRRSA (Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations) <https://pnpi.org/crrsa/>
 - Funding based on number of students on Pell grants at each college/university
 - See attached CSCU breakdown of funding
 - Ben Barnes broke down how some of this funding we have already received has been spent. There is additional funding coming to us.
 - Can claim lost revenue at end of fiscal year 2021. Estimate lost revenue for CSUs at around \$45M and CCCs at around \$30.5M
 - Universities making their own decisions about how to spend the funds available to them

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- Colleges are not making their own decisions – 12 colleges allocated \$10M total out of the \$51.3M allocated to the colleges as the maximum institutional amount from the feds for HEERF II funding.
- Suggestion by BOR to use HEERF money to fund “Guided Pathways”
- Suggestion to upgrade IT at colleges including the addition of full Hy-Flex equipment
- Other suggestions being reviewed
- Question – why hire Guided Pathways advisors if funding only available for two years?
Response – The interventions of these advisors will promote increase in number of credits students will take each semester and increase retention and enrollment and will therefore increase tuition revenues which will pay for these advisors in the future.
- Question – NVCC was allocated \$6M+ as maximum for the institution through HEERF II. How can the total for all 12 CCCs equal only \$10M? Response – no coherent response. The BOR has authority to do this.
- Personal statement from Vice-Chair on Students First – conversation ensued on this statement
 - Suggestion that joint meetings with FAC and BOR, if that ever happens, should be where conversation starts regarding this statement
- Chair report:
 - Open letter to ASA on equity and ACME – ACME does not actually recommend a co-requisite model since supports are voluntary; additionally, co-requisite model does not work for all students but will be the only option available to students; this is being done in the name of equity, i.e., everyone should have access to the same exact opportunities whether they might benefit from them or not. It is apparent that no one at the BOR and the System Office understand what the word equity means, or perhaps, they are using the word as a dog whistle/hollow-trope to further their agenda.
 - ASA meeting take-away – ACME policy is not a co-requisite model. It is the elimination of developmental courses and substituting this with courses with supplemental support that is purely voluntary for students.
 - We are not only eliminating developmental education with a co-requisite substitute that is not really a co-requisite model because it is all voluntary, we are also being told that we will be implementing a 7-1-7 schedule. This means that our classes will run for 7 weeks, with a one-week break in the middle. So, students will be able to graduate in one year without having to spend much time in learning anything. This is “equity” at its finest. We will try and get clarification on how this might work.
 - Review legislative bills on HB6187 and SB821 – Recovery for All bills re taxation on ultra-billionaires/millionaires; HB6403 and HB6402 regarding mergers and closures in Higher Ed are still pending
- Covid Relief Funding – System Office has created committees to help determine how CCCs should spend the monies allocated to them while the CSUs are independently determining how they will spend the money allocated to each of them. Motion by Ron Picard to approve statement on distribution of HEERF funding to community colleges. Seconded; Would be approved provisionally until we can determine whether the distribution of the funds is being done appropriately. Agreed to Table motion until next meeting.
- APRC and Aligned Curriculum Review – NVCC and GWCC resolutions

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- Request for joint meeting with BOR – possible talking points: transfer articulation; Guided Pathways; curriculum alignment, so it is clear we have specific items to talk about; other suggestion – should be more general in scope, Mike Shea made motion to approve request; seconded – approved unanimously
- Faculty/staff return to campus – NCC being told that return in fall to classrooms would be based on 3-foot social distancing, not 6-feet. Supposedly based on CT Dept. of Health recommendation. CCSU – passed senate resolution that required students to have been vaccinated; President decreed that admin. faculty would be returning by 4/09 – senate motion to move date to 6/15 and admin. has disregarded motion; Requested health care campaign to counter misinformation on vaccines – this has not happened yet. Grievance filed by SOUAF re CCSU return but rejected by BOR.
- FAC elections – so far officially elected people from MCC; Question re people on campuses who now report to System Office
- FAC Conference – will take place Friday, 16
- Old/New Business – consider by-law change at next meeting
- Motion to adjourn – David Blitz; seconded – passed unanimously

**Next meetings: May 14, 2021
June 11, 2021**

Submitted by,
Lois Aimé