Draft minutes 5/11

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Board of Regents (BOR) Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC)

Meeting convened at Board of Regents Offices, 39 Woodland St. Hartford, Conn. at 1:15 p.m. and adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Next regular meeting scheduled for June 5. Time and place TBD

Present: Chair Stephen Adair, Member, CCSU; Peter Bachiochi, Member, ECSU; Ilene Crawford, Member, SCSU; Vice Chair Tom Failla, Member, NCC; Joseph Fairchild, Alternate, MCC; Catherine Hoyser, Member, Charter Oak; Nick Lefakis, Member, ACC; Patty O'Neill, Alternate, WCSU; Barbara Richards, Alternate, HCC; Mary Jean Thornton, Member, CCC.

Guest: Wendy Change, Chief Information Office, BOR; Dr. David Levinson, BOR (via phone)

Draft minutes for the April 13 meeting were approved unanimously.

At the April 13 meeting of the FAC , the committee authorized the chair to send a communication to the system President and the BOR's Academic and Student Affairs Committee concerning implementation of the Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP). The chair briefed the committee on a subsequent meeting with Steve Weinberg, VP for Human Resources for CONNSCU on the recommendations of the FAC. Regarding the first recommendation by the FAC, that a full-time project manager be hired to oversee the implementation of the TAP, VP Weinberg is inclined to support a faculty member taking on the project manager responsibilities. The FAC discussed the importance of this project manager and concluded that a job description with duties, reporting lines, and release time be developed.

Wendy Chang, CIO for CONNSCU, joined the meeting, and the discussion focused on several information technology issues. The FAC seeks a method to be able to communicate with all faculty members of the CONNSCU institutions, independent of the Commons, and for all faculty members to be able to communicate with the FAC. The FAC seeks a distribution list of all faculty members. Dr. Chang pointed out that policies for communicating with faculty members vary by institution and recommended that the FAC seek permission from the individual who approves communications sent to faculty members at each institution. For some institutions, that individual is a dean. For others, that individual is the provost. A set of guidelines for communication with all faculty will be developed by the FAC, and shared with the appropriate individuals on each campus.

During the course of the discussion, Dr. Chang pointed out the sometimes large differences in information technology capabilities across the 17 campuses. For example, the e-mail addresses for faculty at different Community Colleges are readily accessible. This is not so for faculty at CSU institutions. The address books in Outlook contain faculty e-mail addresses only for the particular institution. Therefore, in order to e-mail a faculty member at a different CSU institution, one needs to type in the entire address, rather than using Outlook to find the address. This is in part because of the information technology policy at one CSU institution. Another difference in information technology capabilities concerns WebEX (https://csu.webex.com/mw0306lc/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=csu). WebEx allows for on-line conferencing. This capability will be extremely useful for the System-wide committees working to implement TAP in Summer 2012. Currently, three CSU institutions have WebEx capabilities. However, none of the Community Colleges carry WebEx, nor does Charter Oak. Only faculty members at institutions with WebEx will be able to initiate a conference. That means only faculty members at CCSU, ECSU and SCSU will be able to initiate an on-line conference. This is not ideal. Dr. Chang explained that the System was planning on extending WebEx capabilities to the Community Colleges by January 2013. It would be preferable for this to occur before then; however, there are pressing infrastructure issues at the Community Colleges, specifically, bandwith issues, that must be addressed first.

Another recommendation by the FAC concerning TAP focused on the development of an interactive transfer web site at which any student from any CONNSCU institution considering transfer would be able to easily determine transfer status. Dr. Chang discussed the many complexities involved in such a web site. A by no means exhaustive list of concerns: integration of Banner across 17 institutions; maintenance of updated information; bandwith issues; budgeting. Dr. Chang anticipates that such a web site may tentatively be available Summer 2013.

The FAC discussed "Winning by Degrees" http://mckinseyonsociety.com/winning-by-degrees/ by McKinsey & Company. McKinsey & Company presented to the Board of Regents on April 30, 2012. The FAC also discussed a counterpoint: http://futureofhighered.org/uploads/ClosingTheDoorFINAL_ALL32812.pdf. There are plans for a CSU conference this summer to formulate a response to "Winning by Degrees", and the FAC has been invited to attend. Date/time/location still to be determined.

Dr. David Levenson joined the meeting via conference call. Since SB40 was passed by both chambers of the legislature, it is vitally important that baseline data be collected in order to adequately assess the effects of the change in remediation policy. Dr. Levenson agreed, and conveyed that the BOR was beginning to address the financial implications of the change in remedial policy. No other state has made such sweeping changes in remedial policy, and, as a result, Connecticut could be considered a leader in these efforts. As such, there may be possibilities for outside funding for the change in

remediation. Various approaches to remediation have been taken by individuals here in Connecticut, and Dr. Levenson's hope is that there can be a convening of these individuals to develop a series of approaches for CONNSCU. A one-size assessment process is not adequate for our diverse student population.

The FAC discussed with Dr. Levenson the fact that the System-wide committees had all been formed, and that faculty were starting to wonder when work on the implementation of the TAP would begin. He agreed that the Steering Council should meet with the System-wide Steering Committee as soon as possible. Such a meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 5, 2012, and the FAC will be included in this meeting

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The meeting adjourned at 4:34 P.M.