

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
Minutes of Finance & Infrastructure Meeting
Friday, October 13, 2023
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

REGENTS - PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
Richard J. Balducci, Committee Chair	Y
Marty Guay	Y
JoAnn Ryan, BOR Chair	Y
Ari Santiago	N
Erin Stewart	N
Ted Yang	Y
*David Blitz, FAC Vice Chair	Y
<i>*ex-officio, non-voting member</i>	

CSCU STAFF:

Lloyd Blanchard, VP of Administration / Chief Financial Officer
 Rachel Cunningham, Administrative Assistant to Lloyd Blanchard (recorder)
 Pamela Heleen, Secretary of the Board of Regents
 Rai Kathuria, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
 Melentina Pusztay, Director of Budgets & Planning

CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:37 a.m. Following the roll call, Rachel Cunningham recorded a quorum present.

Chair Balducci welcomed new regents Ted Yang and Marty Guay to the BOR Finance Committee.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Balducci requested a motion to accept the minutes, Chair Ryan moved, seconded by Chair Balducci.

Professor Blitz requested to address what was stated in the minutes as significant problems with the Academic Planning Process and confusion about how the institutions are calculating different models to determine costs. He stated different cost models can show drastically different program results from a deficit to a surplus and although significant efforts have been made, the net effect of the June 28th Board resolution has

resulted in a crisis. Professor Blitz asked for the amendments within the resolution to be posted.

Chair Balducci responded that the request for amendments to the resolution will be reviewed and CFO Blanchard will provide an update to clarify and add or delete as necessary.

Due to the abstentions during the vote, approval of the minutes will be added to the next meeting agenda.

ACTION ITEMS:

Discounted Tuition Rate for Strategic Enrollment Initiatives

Chair Balducci explained the proposed resolution for expanding the discounted tuition rate will give Institution Presidents the option to expand enrollment initiatives to international students.

CFO Blanchard provided an overview of the proposed expansion of the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) rate as described in the staff report.

Regent Guay commented it's a great idea.

Chair Ryan shared that one of the high schools in Northwestern CT is also running a similar plan and it has tremendously increased enrollment and finances.

Regent Guay made a motion to accept, Chair Ryan seconded, and the motion was approved following a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Update from System CFO, Dr. Lloyd Blanchard

CFO Blanchard provided an update on the recent meetings with various state leaders that he and Chancellor Cheng have attended to share the challenges with the large shortfalls facing CSCU, particularly in FY25 with a projected \$140 million deficit. The goal of the meetings has been to walk through the various pieces that have contributed to the deficit and show a comparison of the way we calculate fringe, the swap that OPM implemented for Higher Education, and the nature of the differences.

CFO Blanchard stated mitigation steps are being implemented at each of the institutions and they are continuously being monitored to balance the budget for FY24. The first drafts of the full plans to identify the steps moving forward will be shared at the next board meeting.

Q: Professor Blitz asked for updated FY25 numbers which resulted in the \$146 million deficit; he commented that the numbers have changed monthly and tend to present in a more negative light at his institution, CCSU.

CFO Blanchard responded that projections are regularly communicated with the CFOs and Budget officers at each of the institutions and agreed projections change month to month,

every semester, based on different changes in fringe, revenues, etc. He confirmed that moving forward, meaningful numbers will be published at specific times when they can be confirmed and to the extent to which the projections have changed. He is happy to continue open communication and will carefully consider when to put out new information.

Professor Blitz commented further it makes a big difference in Academic Program Planning if one is projecting a deficit or a surplus for a particular year, which also affects the ongoing mitigation plans.

Chair Balducci agreed.

Chair Balducci requested a motion to adjourn, Chair Ryan moved, and Regent Guay seconded. Following a unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.