

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**
Board of Regents for Higher Education
Hartford, Connecticut

Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 10:00 am
Regents Board Room
61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Agenda

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 19, 2015 MEETING

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. CSCU 2020 Update
- B. CFO's Report to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee

3. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Resolution concerning Tuition and General Fund Distribution Methodology at the Connecticut State Universities
 - a. Suspension of the \$600,000 charged annually to the Connecticut State Universities "for system office operations, related activities, and other priorities of the Board of Trustees"
- B. Resolution concerning Use of Designated Fund Balance to Purchase Scientific Equipment at Southern Connecticut State University
- C. Correction of Board Resolution #15-xx Regarding Fee Waivers (action taken at February 26, 2015 Board of Regents meeting)
- D. Affirmation of 15% Tuition Set-Aside for Financial Aid

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education
Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.
61 Woodland Street, Hartford CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Matt Fleury, Committee Chair
Richard Balducci
Sarah Greco
William McGurk (Telephonic)

REGENTS ABSENT

Catherine Smith

CSCU REPRESENTATIVES

Mark Rozewski, Executive Vice President, SCSU; James Howarth, Vice President for Finance & Administration, ECSU; Steven Frazier, Dean of Administration, NWCC; Michael Lopez, Dean of Administration, TRCC; Cliff Williams, Chief Financial Officer, Charter Oak State College; Paul Martland, Dean of Administration, QVCC; Lise Brule, Controller, SCSU; Mary-Ann Dease, Budget Director, WCSU

CSCU STAFF

Gregory Gray, President; Elizabeth Caswell, Chief of Staff; Erika Steiner Chief Financial Officer; Keith Epstein, Vice President for Facilities & Infrastructure Planning; Christopher Forster, Controller; Karen Stone, Director of Internal Audit; Michael Kozlowski, Director, Public Affairs & Marketing; Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager; Melentina Pusztay, Director, Budgets and Planning; Ernestine Weaver; Counsel; Erin Fitzgerald, Associate for Board Affairs; Rosalie Butler, Administrative Assistant for Finance

With a quorum present, Chairman Fleury called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19, 2015 MEETING

The minutes of the February 19, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved, as written.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. CSCU 2020 Update

VP Epstein provided an update on CSCU projects to date. He characterized projects as being largely on schedule. He cited the CCSU classroom building as occupied and nearly complete. This project will be closed out shortly. He also indicated the SCSU lab building would be open within the next year. Epstein stated that minor capital projects for the Community Colleges, such as code compliance/infrastructure and academic improvements, are underway.

Epstein responded to Regents' questions regarding the operational costs and efficiency of new buildings coming online. Epstein also commented that estimates are coming in higher than anticipated for those projects still in the planning phase.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. Student Activity Fee at the Connecticut Community Colleges

Chairman Fleury turned to CFO Steiner for further explanation. Steiner advised the Student Advisory Council (SAC) had first approached the BOR Academic Affairs Committee. This request was subsequently redirected to the Finance Committee for approval. Regent Greco explained that the Community College Student Governments would like the same flexibility as the Universities currently have to determine their own campus activity fees, as warranted. The fee schedule had not been re-examined since the early 1970s and is no longer sufficient to support costs and related activities. Pending full BOR approval, any revised Student Activity Fees will become part of the Tuition and Fee schedules for the 2015-16 Academic Year.

The Resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Greco, seconded by Regent McGurk.

B. FY16 Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Budget Forecast, Tuition and Fees, and Mitigation Plan

Chairman Fleury remarked to the CSCU students attending that he had read their correspondence and appreciated their communication with their Presidents and Legislators. He recognized Regent Greco for her thoughtful request to not raise tuition. He then provided context for the consideration of Tuition and Fees for Academic Year 2015-16, citing the substantial fiscal challenge facing the State, alongside the requirements to both fulfill institutional missions and provide financial stability for the System. He cited the need for balance to fill a gap of nearly \$50 million. Timing is also an issue. While the Legislature has not reached a final FY16 budget, this decision comes late for campuses, which need to publish their catalogs and literature for the next academic year.

President Gray commented that at a meeting with representatives of the State's Office of Policy and Management, he had reinforced the pledge of Transform 2020 with regard to maintaining access and affordability. Campus Presidents have been involved. Gray added a hiring freeze had been put in place. All 18 institutions, including System Office, are evaluating and finalizing plans for cost reductions. Discretion has been given to the campuses as to how best to close the gap. Tough decisions will be made, but not at the expense of a quality education.

CFO Steiner explained how management had arrived at this recommendation. The Governor's budget was released four weeks ago. Tuition and fees cannot wait until the State budget is finalized. The recommendation presented today is based on the best estimates of impact, with the heaviest assumption of risk to CSCU, not students.

It was first thought the budget gap was \$38 million. But with fringe benefit rates rising and the additional cost of employee retirement plan conversions, CSCU is now facing a \$48.6 million shortfall. Steiner reiterated management's commitment to a balanced budget and indicated steps were already being put into place to mitigate the deficit. A hiring freeze has been instituted and no discretionary spending is permitted.

Systemwide, the recommendation is for a 4.8% increase in tuition, or \$186 for a community college student, \$440 for a full-time, commuting, undergraduate university student, and \$321 for students at Charter Oak State College.

Steiner indicated the proposal calls for \$21.7 million (45%) of the budget gap be closed through expense reductions, \$21.6 million (44%) will come from the increase in tuition and fees, and \$5.3 million (11%) will come from a one-time balance sheet release of funds.

Discussion followed as to which positions had been frozen, the potential negative impact of employee retirement plan conversions and fringe benefit rate costs. President Gray indicated he would reach out to bargaining units to explore other cost-savings measures.

Motion carried with Regents Fleury, Balducci and McGurk voting in favor. Regent Greco was opposed.

C. Resolution concerning Reallocation of CSCU 2020 Funding for the Police Station at Western Connecticut State University

Chairman Fleury turned to VP Epstein for further explanation. He explained the Police Station at WCSU is a 1960s structure attached to the Boiler Plant/Maintenance Facility, is undersized and generally in need of infrastructure improvements and physical enhancements.

While WCSU currently has \$1,947,000 in CSUS 2020 fund programmed in FY2017 for design and construction of a new Mini Chiller Plant, the University has subsequently determined that the Plant will not be as efficient as originally estimated and wishes to

cancel the project. They further request the funding be reallocated to CSCU 2020 FY17 Code Compliance/Infrastructure Improvements program, from which \$1,700,000 will be used to construct the new Police Station.




The Resolution was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Greco.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

PROJECT NAME	PROJECTED SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT BUDGET				PERCENTAGE OF COMPLETION	PROJECT ON SCHEDULE	REASON FOR DELAY	ACTIVITY SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT
		BUDGET	EXPENDITURES TO DATE	PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED VARIANCE (Budget-Projected Expenditures)				
CCSU									
Burritt Library HVAC Code Compliance Improvement	4/1/2013	2,182,000	141,200	2,182,000	-	6%	N	Project to commence Summer 2015	
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2011)	Ongoing	462,500	459,996	462,500	-	99%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2013)	Ongoing	2,235,000	1,407,822	2,235,000	-	63%	Y		X
Window Replacement in Four General Fund Buildings	Phased Project	2,297,500	675,332	2,297,500	-	29%	Y		
New Classroom Office Bldg - Design & Construction	5/30/2013	37,992,000	37,200,350	37,992,000	-	98%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2013)		3,200,000	1,962,647	3,200,000	-	61%	Y		
ITBD Renovations		200,000		200,000	-	0%	Y		
HVAC Improvements - Campus-Wide		5,970,000	4,464,615	5,970,000	-	75%	Y		
Copernicus Hall Lower Roof Replacement		722,000		722,000	-	0%	Y		
Maloney Hall HVAC Improvements		1,220,000		1,220,000	-	0%	Y		
Willard & DiLoreto Hall Renovate/Expand		8,360,137	17,424	8,360,137	-	0%	Y		
ECSU									
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2009)	Ongoing	872,686	855,666	872,686	-	98%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2013)	Ongoing	3,325,000	2,510,671	3,325,000	-	76%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2014)	Ongoing	1,000,000	831,906	1,000,000	-	83%	Y		X
Fine Arts Instructional Center		83,556,000	51,876,804	83,556,000	-	62%	Y		X
New Warehouse	10/1/2013	2,269,000	2,154,554	2,269,000	-	95%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2011)	Ongoing	813,000	812,999	813,000	-	100%	Y		X
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2012)	Ongoing	2,200,000	1,862,504	2,200,000	-	85%	Y		X
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2014)	Ongoing	1,000,000		1,000,000	-	0%	Y		
Goddard / Communication Building Renovations		2,551,000	71,855	2,551,000	-	3%	Y		X
Shafer Hall Renovations		4,100,000	111,279	4,100,000	-	3%	Y		X
SCSU									
Academic Laboratory Building (New)	7/1/2015	67,587,000	25,227,920	67,587,000	-	37%	Y		X
Buley Library Addition & Renovations (2020 Share)	1/1/2016	17,437,937	17,437,937	17,437,937	-	100%	Y		X
Earl Hall Mechanical & Electrical Upgrades	1/24/2011	6,454,456	4,642,230	6,454,456	-	72%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2009)	Ongoing	776,845	775,574	775,574	1,271	100%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2011)	Ongoing	1,656,000	1,653,231	1,656,000	-	100%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2013)	Ongoing	1,299,000	1,163,565	1,299,000	-	90%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2014)	Ongoing	1,000,000	928,382	1,000,000	-	93%	Y		X
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Programs (FY 2015)	Ongoing	1,000,000	88,332	1,000,000	-	9%	Y		X
Jennings Hall Mechanical & Electrical Upgrades	3/4/2011	6,013,168	5,009,514	6,013,168	-	83%	Y		
Moore Field House - Locker Room Renovations	1/30/2012	929,500	922,195	929,500	-	99%	Y		
Moore Field House - Swimming Pool Renovations	7/30/2011	925,000	821,800	925,000	-	89%	Y	Increased Construction Scope	
Old Student Center Renovations (New School of Business)	6/1/2012	6,124,145	5,728,543	6,124,145	-	94%	Y		
Earl Hall Broadcast Studio Security Corridor	T.B.D	136,189		136,189	-	0%	N	Project schedule to be determined	
Moore Field House Locker Room Renovation, Phase III		963,600	657,827	963,600	-	68%	Y		X
Moore Field House Roof Replacement, Phase II		1,119,592	691,953	1,119,592	-	62%	Y		
Wintergreen Renovations		1,975,000		1,975,000	-	0%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2011)	Ongoing	1,126,265	1,052,346	1,126,265	-	93%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2012)	Ongoing	2,800,000	1,583,677	2,800,000	-	57%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2013)	Ongoing	400,000	0	400,000	-	0%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2009)	Ongoing	5,466,717	5,253,284	5,466,717	-	96%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 2015)	Ongoing	1,000,000	0	1,000,000	-	0%	Y		
WCSU									
Fine Arts Instructional Center	4/1/2014	97,593,000	88,666,062	97,593,000	-	91%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2009)	Ongoing	1,485,000	1,221,906	1,485,000	-	82%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2011)	Ongoing	1,165,000	995,906	1,165,000	-	85%	Y		X
General Fund Minor Capital Improvement Program (FY 2012)	Ongoing	2,800,000	1,542,523	2,800,000	-	55%	Y		
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2013)	Ongoing	545,000	390,088	545,000	-	72%	Y		X
General Fund Minor Capital Improvements Program (FY 2014)	Ongoing	1,000,000	29,823	1,000,000	-	3%	Y		
Higgins Hall Annex - HVAC Improvements	6/30/2011	280,000	132,488	280,000	-	47%	Y		
Higgins Hall Annex - Two New Lecture Halls (Classroom Re-configuration)	1/15/2012	699,258	676,700	699,258	-	97%	Y		
Higgins Hall Annex - Learning Emporium		807,025	583,387	807,025	-	72%	Y		
Steam and Hot Water Utilities' Infrastructure									
Central Heat Plant Improvements	Ongoing	1,975,000	1,626,227	1,975,000	-	82%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 09)	Ongoing	985,000	637,130	985,000	-	65%	Y		
Auxiliary Services Fund Facilities (FY 11)	Ongoing	1,081,000	27,050	1,081,000	-	3%	Y		
New Police Station (Design Only)		500,000	131,974	500,000	-	26%	Y		X
Litchfield Hall Renovations		1,139,213	203,005	1,139,213	-	18%	Y		
Westside Athletic Complex Synthetic Turf Replacement		853,450	610,322	853,450	-	72%	Y		X
Asnuntuck									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	1,152,497	13,810	1,152,497	-	1%	Y		
Advanced Manufacturing		2,000,000		2,000,000	-	0%	Y		
Campus-Wide Infrast. Improvement		1,255,000		1,255,000	-	0%	Y		
Capital									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	809,036		809,036	-	0%	Y		
Gateway									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects		661,291	49,684	661,291	-	8%	Y		
Housatonic									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	830,436	163,178	830,436	-	20%	Y		
Manchester									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	1,156,451	97,757	1,156,451	-	8%	Y		
Compl/Infrast. Improvement - Campus-Wide Structure - Concrete Repairs		450,000		450,000	-	0%	Y		
Middlesex									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	1,195,803		1,195,803	-	0%	Y		
Roof/Re-Roofing Investigation		500,000		500,000	-	0%	Y		
Wheaton Hall - Chem Lab Renovations		800,000		800,000	-	0%	Y		
Naugatuck									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	2,063,574		2,063,574	-	0%	Y		
Compl/Infrast. Improvement -Campus-Wide Remediation		980,000		980,000	-	0%	Y		

CSCU 2020
 Monthly Project Status Report
 Reporting Period Through March 2015

PROJECT NAME	PROJECTED SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION DATE	PROJECT BUDGET				PERCENTAGE OF COMPLETION	PROJECT ON SCHEDULE	REASON FOR DELAY	ACTIVITY SINCE PREVIOUS REPORT
		BUDGET	EXPENDITURES TO DATE	PROJECTED EXPENDITURES	PROJECTED VARIANCE (Budget-Projected Expenditures)				
Code Compl/Infrast. Improvement -Sprinkler Lab Relocation Project		400,000		400,000		0%	Y		
Northwestern									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	831,767		831,767		0%	Y		
Norwalk									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	1,460,002	468,121	1,460,002		32%	Y		
Library HVAC Repairs/Adj.		430,000		430,000		0%	Y		
East Campu Chiller Replacement		1,385,000		1,385,000		0%	Y		
Quinebaug									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	707,215		707,215		0%	Y		
Three Rivers									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	679,601		679,601		0%	Y		
Boiler Replacement		950,000		950,000		0%	Y		
Indoor Air Quality Adjustments		450,000		450,000		0%	Y		
Campus-Wide Site Remediation		450,000		450,000		0%	Y		
Tunxis									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	824,172		824,172		0%	Y		
Charter Oak									
Code Compliance/Infrastructure Impr. - Minor Capital Projects	Ongoing	60,570		60,570		0%	Y		
SYSTEM									
Master Plan Upgrades	Ongoing	3,000,000		3,000,000		0%	Y		
Consolidation & Upgrades of Student Financial IT Systems		20,250,000		20,250,000		0%	Y		
Smart Classroom Technology (SMART)		20,000,000		20,000,000		0%	Y		
Telecom Upgrades to Campuses		7,500,000	636,620	7,500,000		8%	Y		
New & Replacement Equipment (FY 2009)	Ongoing	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000		100%	Completed		
New & Replacement Equipment (FY 2011)	Ongoing	8,000,000	8,000,000	8,000,000		100%	Completed		
New & Replacement Equipment (FY 2012)	Ongoing	8,895,000	8,895,000	8,895,000		100%	Completed		
New & Replacement Equipment (FY 2013)	Ongoing	9,500,000	8,344,578	9,500,000		88%	Y		X
New & Replacement Equipment (FY 2015)	Ongoing	20,000,000	5,646,820	20,000,000		28%	Y		X
TOTALS		535,253,597	320,846,093	535,252,326					

PROJECT SCHEDULE COLOR CODE	
	PROJECT IS WITHIN SCHEDULE ISS
	MINOR PROJECT SCHEDULE ISSUE
	SIGNIFICANT PROJECT SCHEDULE

ITEM

Connecticut State University (CSU) Distribution Methodology - Suspension of System Office \$600,000 Charge

BACKGROUND

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10a-99 (b) “The board of trustees shall establish an equitable policy for allocation of appropriations from general revenues of the state, fringe benefits transferred from the State Comptroller and tuition revenue deposited in the Connecticut State University System Operating Fund.” Further, by Board Resolution dated May 15, 2008 and amended on October 8, 2009, the Board determined (1) that “Each institution [University] will be assessed a portion of its tuition receipts to support priorities of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees’ priority portion will be a total fixed amount of \$600,000 per year, assess proportionally based on prior year ending tuition net of waivers. The Board of Trustees may assess the universities additional amounts for other Board priorities as they see fit.”, and (2) that the distribution methodology will be reviewed biennially...”

The System Office has collected from the CSUs \$600,000 in aggregate for a number of years (at least since 2000), using different formulas over time. Funds were subtracted from the CSU appropriation as a part of the distribution model. The \$600,000 was intended to cover unbudgeted projects and strategies for the system. For example, when changes were made to the distribution model, Universities that were adversely impacted were compensated from this funding for the first year of the new model’s implementation. Any unused funds were collected as a part of the System Office’s Unrestricted Reserves (which are maintained separately by constituent unit).

ANALYSIS

The intent for establishing a priorities fund for the Universities is important for special projects that cannot be forecast in advance, and therefore may not be a part of the normal System Office Budget process. However, inasmuch as the State Budget for the next FY2016/FY2017 Biennium has not funded expansion options, the CSCU System has put all special projects on hold for the next several years. Further, with no parallel collection in place from the Connecticut Community Colleges, System-wide projects would not be fully funded under this mechanism.

In order to maximize the appropriations for University usage, we request suspension of this reduction to distributed appropriations until further request.

RECOMMENDATION

Suspend the \$600,000 charge to the Universities for priority System-level programs.

RESOLUTION

concerning

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTRIBUTION METHODOLOGY
SUSPENSION OF
SYSTEM OFFICE \$600,000 CHARGE

April 15, 2015

- WHEREAS, Pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut General Statute 10a-99 (b) “The board of trustees shall establish an equitable policy for allocation of appropriations from general revenues of the state, fringe benefits transferred from the State Comptroller and tuition revenue deposited in the Connecticut State University System Operating Fund”, and
- WHEREAS, Board Resolution dated May 15, 2008 and amended on October 8, 2009, the Board determined (1) that “Each institution [University] will be assessed a portion of its tuition receipts to support priorities of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees’ priority portion will be a total fixed amount of \$600,000 per year, assessed proportionally based on prior year ending tuition net of waivers. The Board of Trustees may assess the universities additional amounts for other Board priorities as they see fit.”, and (2) that the distribution methodology will be reviewed biennially...”, and
- WHEREAS, The State Budget for the next FY2016/FY2017 Biennium has not funded expansion options, and
- WHEREAS, The CSCU System has put all special projects on hold for the next several years, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the annual reduction to distributed appropriations of \$600,000 from the Connecticut State Universities be suspended until further request.

A True Copy:

Erin A. Fitzgerald
Secretary

ITEM

The Use of Designated Fund Balances to Purchase Various Scientific Equipment at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU)

BACKGROUND

SCSU proposes to purchase \$1.5 million in scientific equipment for use in a planned effort to support science teaching and research at the University. Approximately 35-40 different items of equipment will be purchased, depending on final prices. Principal among these will be:

- a) An Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrophotometer,
- b) A Spinning Disk Confocal Microscope,
- c) An Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer,
- d) A Microtome, and
- e) A Super Computer Cluster.

These items will all be installed in the University's soon-to-be completed Science Building.

ANALYSIS

While the equipment to be funded under this request will all be installed in Southern's new Science building, and indeed, the purchases are only made possible by the fact that the new building provides the space and systems to install and operate the equipment, the university never intended these items to be supported from the science building project budget because they are part of a larger effort to support a broader university goal; an evolution of the overall science curriculum, combined with more substantive support for faculty research. The university is currently engaged in a vigorous fund-raising effort through its foundation to complement this proposed purchase with additional items funded by private giving. Ultimately, as much as \$6 million of new scientific equipment may be purchased by the university for this program, with the vast majority of the items funded by private giving. Some later items purchased in other phases may not necessarily be installed in the new Science Building, but rather in the university's other science facilities.

The use of reserves for this initial purchase, which has been planned for several years, was always intended by the university.

The budget of the Science Building project, which has its own line item for equipment, will support further equipment purchases specific to the Science building. The Science Building project at SCSU is currently on track to meet its planned completion date of mid-summer, and is on budget. Purchasing the equipment at this time will enable the University to have the items largely installed and operational for the start of the Fall semester.

The designation of unrestricted fund balances for specific projects and purchases at a university is authorized by Board policy. Expenditure of these funds requires Board approval. SCSU's undesignated fund balance meets the requirements of the Board's fund balance guidelines.

RECOMMENDATION

Approve the utilization of up to \$1.5 million in designated fund balances to fund the scientific equipment purchases outlined above.

RESOLUTION

Concerning

THE USE OF DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES
FOR THE PURCHASE OF VARIOUS SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT

At

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

April 15, 2015

- WHEREAS: Southern Connecticut State University has identified a need to support the continuing development of its science curriculum, as well as faculty research, with the purchase of certain new items of scientific equipment, and
- WHEREAS: Principal items of equipment on the proposed list include, but are not limited to: an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrophotometer, a spinning disk confocal microscope, an atomic absorption spectrophotometer, a microtome, and a supercomputer cluster, and
- WHEREAS: A total of \$1.5 million of scientific equipment items has been identified for purchase, constituting 35-40 items, and
- WHEREAS: The equipment to be purchased will be installed in Southern's new Science Building, which is to be completed in July, 2015, and
- WHEREAS: SCSU proposes to purchase the scientific equipment with designated fund balances of the university, and
- WHEREAS: Board policy allows the use of such fund balances for the proposed purchase, subject to Board approval, therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That Southern is authorized to use up to \$1.5 million in designated fund balances to purchase the above noted scientific equipment.

STAFF REPORT**FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

ITEM

To correct language in Board Resolution #15-xx regarding Fee Waivers (action taken at February 26, 2015 Board of Regents Meeting)

BACKGROUND

In February 2015, we presented the Finance Committee and the Board with a request to clarify language regarding waiver authorizations for certain Connecticut residents, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, Section 10a-99. The specific language used, but not the intent of the request, requires modification.

ANALYSIS

The request for modification of previous Board resolutions inadvertently referenced the equity between on-line and classroom tuitions, which is incorrect.

The proposed Board resolution corrects this language, and clarifies that waivers for certain residents, as defined in CGS 10a-99, apply for online courses as well as classroom courses.

RECOMMENDATION

Rescind the previous Resolution approved on February 26, 2015 and approve the revised Board resolution as currently drafted.

RESOLUTION

concerning

FEE WAIVER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ONLINE COURSES
AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITIES

February 26, 2015

WHEREAS, The Board pursuant to its statutory authority - Section 10a-99 of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS) - "...shall fix fees for tuition and shall fix fees for such other purposes as the board deems necessary at the university..."; and

WHEREAS, ~~The Board has previously determined that there be no differentiation in the tuition charged for online courses offered by the State University System, and courses offered in-person at the institution; and~~

WHEREAS, When online courses, previously known as OnlineCSU, were first established, students were charged for courses taken through a fee structure that was separate and distinct from standard tuition charges, and that no longer applies to such courses; and

WHEREAS, Whereas Section 10a-99(d) requires certain waivers of tuition be issued to certain enumerated classes of students; therefore be it

RESOLVED That Board Resolution 08-45 is rescinded; and be it further

RESOLVED, That CGS section 10a-99(d) shall apply to tuition for courses offered online through a Connecticut State University System Institution.

A Certified Copy:

Erin A. Fitzgerald
Secretary

RESOLUTION
concerning
TUITION & FEES WAIVER AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ONLINE
COURSES
AT THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITIES

April 15, 2015

- WHEREAS, The Board pursuant to its statutory authority - Section 10a-99 of the Connecticut General Statutes - "...shall fix fees for tuition and shall fix fees for such other purposes as the board deems necessary at the university..."; and
- WHEREAS, When online courses, previously known as OnlineCSU, were first established, students were charged for courses taken through a structure that was separate and distinct from on ground course charges, and
- WHEREAS, Upon review, it has been determined that the waivers for online courses should be equivalent to those offered for on ground courses; and
- WHEREAS, Section 10a-99(d) of the General Statutes requires that the Board waive "tuition fees at the Connecticut State University System" for certain enumerated classes of persons; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That persons eligible for tuition and fee waivers for on ground courses pursuant to Section 10a-99(d) of the General Statutes shall also be eligible for tuition and fee waivers for online courses through the Connecticut State University System; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Resolution concerning Fee Waiver Authorizations For Online Courses At The Connecticut State Universities dated February 26, 2015 is rescinded.

A Certified Copy:

Erin A. Fitzgerald
Secretary

ITEM

Tuition Set-Aside for Financial Aid at the Connecticut Community Colleges and State Universities

BACKGROUND

The Board of Regents under its statutory authority - CGS 10a-99 and Public Act 11-48 - reviews and establishes tuition and fees annually for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities for such purposes as the Board of Regents deems necessary. In accordance with CGS 10a-99 (f), "Said board shall set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student employment for any undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do have a financial need as determined by the university in accordance with this subsection. In determining such financial need, the university shall exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in the student's principal residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent."

ANALYSIS

The respective predecessor boards for the Connecticut Community Colleges and the Connecticut State Universities have, over time, approved the amount of tuition set-aside to comply with requirements stated above, and to meet the needs of the students of the sixteen institutions.

The set-aside has typically been established at a minimum of 15% of net tuition revenues, with some exceptions.

In order to establish a consistent, repeatable set-aside at each of our Universities and Colleges, we request affirmation by the Board of Regents that a minimum of 15% of net tuition revenue will be set aside by each of the sixteen institutions until further resolution or amendment. Such fund is not intended to carry forward, but is used as required in the fiscal year in which it is established.

Net tuition revenue is defined as gross tuitions, less: waivers, contra-revenue and refunds.

We note that periodically, actual financial aid expense for a fiscal year may fall below 15% of net tuition as grants made could be unused if a student does not attend or drops out of school. On occasion and due to timing, these unexpended funds may not be reallocated to another student.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize and continue to require each Connecticut State University and Connecticut Community College to set aside a minimum of 15% of net tuition revenues annually, to establish a financial aid fund to be used by that institution in the fiscal year that is it established, and under the institution's discretion, to support students in need, in accordance with CGS 10a-99(f).

RESOLUTION

concerning

TUITION SET-ASIDE FOR FINANCIAL AID
AT THE
CONNECTICUT COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND STATE UNIVERSITIES

April 15, 2015

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents under its statutory authority - CGS 10a-99 and Public Act 11-48 – “Reviews and establishes tuition and fees annually for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities for such purposes as the Board of Regents deems necessary. In accordance with CGS 10a-99 (f), “Said board shall set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of governors’ tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of subsection (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses and student employment for any undergraduate or graduate student who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated student in a degree-granting program, or enrolled in a precollege remedial program, and who demonstrates substantial financial need. Said board may also set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an additional amount equal to one per cent of said tuition revenue for financial assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible for financial assistance but who do have a financial need as determined by the university in accordance with this subsection. In determining such financial need, the university shall exclude the value of equity in the principal residence of the student’s parents or legal guardians, or in the student’s principal residence if the student is not considered to be a dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the earnings of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.”, and

WHEREAS, General practice at the Community Colleges and Universities has been to set aside a minimum of 15% of net tuition revenues (defined as gross tuitions, less waivers, contra-revenue and refunds), now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, That each Connecticut State Community College and University continue to set aside a minimum of 15% of net tuition revenues annually, to establish a financial aid fund to be used by that institution in the year it is established, and under the institution’s discretion, to support students in need..

A True Copy:

Erin A. Fitzgerald
Secretary