

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday March 10, 2021 @10:00 a.m.  
Via WebEx Remote Participation**

**Minutes**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING**

Richard J. Balducci, Chairman  
David Blitz  
Felice Gray-Kemp  
David Jimenez  
JoAnn Ryan  
Ari Santiago

**CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING**

Ben Barnes, Janes Gates, Alice Pritchard, Melentina Puszta, Kerry Kelley, Pam Heleen

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and following roll call, declared a quorum present.

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 16, 2021 FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE MINUTES**

*On motion of Regent Ryan, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.*

**Informational Items**

• **Community College Merger Update**

Kerry Kelly provided an update on the Community College merger and draft financial projection for the Students First: CT Community Colleges five-year financial forecast. The CT Community Colleges has experienced enrollment declines since 2014 and the baseline expenditures have outpaced revenues. If the status quo is maintained, a \$43 million deficit is foreseen by FY26.

The projection also highlighted the impacts of PACT, Guided Pathways and advising policy initiatives and the administrative consolidation underway as part of the college merger. Students First and PACT were developed to provide fiscal stability and improve revenue by increasing enrollment at the colleges while reducing spending. This initiative replaces vacancies with lower cost positions and eliminates duplicated positions as vacancies occur. A savings of \$35M from FY18-21 has been achieved by management for attrition of non-faculty positions. Guided Pathways is in the development phase and is designed to promote student success and increase student retention by implementing the Holistic Case Management Advising Model. Fiscal stability will be achieved by FY24 through these initiatives.

There was a general discussion about the initiatives and faculty concerns. Inquiries were addressed by staff.

- **Federal Stimulus Funds Update**

CFO Barnes provided an update on the federal funding received to help meet expenses and fiscal challenges related to the COVID pandemic. CSCU received \$163 million from funds provided by the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF), provided directly to institutions of higher education and \$37.5 million in funding passed through the state. The stimulus bill in Congress contains additional funds for higher education and for state government. The institutions are trying to recover loss from last Fall of CARE funds.

The HEERF II new funds are available and will be distributed in March at the universities and colleges on a need based. A revenue loss of \$6.5 million is anticipated for the spring semester and can be justified by the Colleges. Discussions are currently being held with OPM regarding additional Coronavirus Relief Funds for use by the universities during spring 2021.

### **Action Item**

- **CSCU Tuition and Fees FY2022**

CSCU has recommended freezing tuition and mandatory fees for the academic year that begins in the fall 2020. The Community Colleges propose to freeze tuition, College Services fees and extension fees at FY2020-21 levels for FY2021-22. Minor fee changes to the late drop fee is being proposed for \$50 per course with no per-term cap. The cost of each UPASS will rise from \$20 to \$40 per term for all public colleges and universities as a result of negotiations with the State Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Office of Policy and Management (OPM).

No increases to tuition and general fees is also being proposed for the State Universities undergraduate and graduate students. The on-line learning fees were waived during the pandemic. Minor lab and equipment fee changes are proposed for the universities.

A second year tuition freeze is recommended for Charter Oak State College. The tuition freeze reflects a system-wide focus on access and affordability and will strengthen Charter Oak's competitive position with other on-line institutions.

*On motion of Regent Gray-Kemp, seconded by Regent Santiago, the CSCU FY2022 Tuition and Fees recommendation was unanimously approved.*

### **Adjournment**

*There being no further business, on motion of Regent Santiago, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.*