

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

**Wednesday May 5, 2021 @10:00 a.m.
Via WebEx Remote Participation**

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

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

CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING

Ben Barnes, Keith Epstein, Kerry Kelley, Pam Heleen, Christina Robinson

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and following roll call, declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF March 10, 2021 FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE MINUTES

On motion of Regent Ryan, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the minutes of the March 10, 2021 Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Informational Items

• **Use of Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF)**

CFO Barnes provided an update on the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF) that were awarded to the CSCU institutions by the U.S. Department of Education as part of the federal relief and stimulus packet in response to COVID. The funds were awarded under three separate rounds, with the third and largest round waiting for allocation to the institutions upon receipt of formal notification and deferment until the development of new rules.

Each round of HEERF funds includes a portion that must be spent on student financial assistance while remaining funds may be spent under separate rules of institutional funding, including new initiatives to respond to the pandemic as well as lost revenue and housing refunds. Components of the existing and proposed use of institutional funds was summarized. A committee consisting of the three Regional Presidents and the President of Connecticut State Community Colleges (CSCC) is working on recommendations regarding the use of these funds. The process for distribution of the student set-aside funds for the colleges and universities has yet to be determined.

- **Shared Services Budget Presentation Changes**

The FY2022 Spending Plan to be considered by the full Board next month will be presented in a different format this year to include the costs for shared services in four areas allocated to the colleges due to restructuring underway among the Community Colleges for Shared Services and the expansion of Shared Services in the budget. The new method will include the allocation of expenses for shared services for campuses oppose to campus provided services.

A draft Shared Services allocation to campuses and outline depicting the various organizational features of each service area was reviewed. Enrollment Management and Student Affairs (EMSA) will be phased in as part of One College as a division of the college.

- **Refunding Results**

A report was provided on the two-part refund process of municipal bonds with both being successful and performing favorably. Currently awaiting the allocated cost to each of the universities.

Action Item

- **Graduate Interns Change in Policy at the CSUs**

CFO Barnes commented on the Graduate Intern program at the Connecticut State Universities and its purpose of providing on-the-job training and development experience for graduate students in a variety of disciplines related to student services in higher education. Board Resolution 09-65 limits the number of Graduate Interns to full-time equivalent student enrollments. As a result of enrollment changes due to the pandemic, Central Connecticut State University has requested that the Board support a suspension of this cap during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years in order to honor commitments to returning students and new graduate students.

The proposed resolution was amended to allow for 25 graduate interns per university while enrollment recovers from the pandemic.

On motion of Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Ryan, the amended Resolution concerning the Graduate Interns in the Connecticut State University System was unanimously approved.

- **Manchester CC Electric Easement – Eversource**

Keith Epstein, Vice President, Facilities, Real Estate & Infrastructure Planning, reported on a request for an easement at Manchester Community College for Eversource to connect two current easements and install an underground electric cable along Bidwell Street, Interstate 384 and Ramey Road at the northeast college entrance. The easement will allow for a more direct route than currently exists.

On motion of Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Ryan, the Resolution concerning Eversource Easement at Manchester CC was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Santiago, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the meeting adjourned at 11:34 a.m.