

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

**Wednesday June 9, 2021 @10:00 a.m.
Via WebEx Remote Participation**

Minutes

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT

David Jimenez
Ari Santiago

CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING

Ben Barnes, Kerry Kelley, Pam Heleen, Pamela Coleman

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and following roll call, declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MAY 5, 2021 FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE MINUTES

On motion of Regent Ryan, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the minutes of the May 5, 2021 Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Action Items

- **CSCU FY2022 Proposed Spending Plan**

Chairman Balducci thanked CFO Barnes and finance staff for the preparation of the CSCU budget.

CFO Barnes provided an overview of the FY2022 Budget and Spending Plan for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU). The System has experienced an unusual year and the proposed budget/spending plans reflect the extraordinary circumstances facing the colleges and universities as they recover from the enrollment drops and operational mayhem due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Universities anticipate a slight decline in enrollment and is currently behind the anticipated enrollment by ten percent. The Community Colleges enrollment projection rose slightly and a rebound is likely given the significant enrollment at the colleges. An enrollment effort is underway to close as much of the pandemic drop off in enrollment as possible.

The proposed spending plan attempts to balance the need for fiscal restraint in the face of unknown tuition and fee revenues with the need to provide resourced campuses to attract and support the students in this unprecedented environment. The budget also reflects significant improvement from state assistance. State appropriation was favorable this year and it was recently learned that an amendment for additional one-time funds in the amount of \$600,000 was approved by the Connecticut State House of Representatives.

HEERF funding was reviewed for the colleges and universities. The proposed FY2022 spending plan supports the consolidation of back-office functions, reorganization of enrollment management, implementation of Guided Pathways, and other steps preparatory to the Community Colleges merger which begins during this budget year. Federal stimulus funds are being used to roll out the Guided Pathways program and is supported for FY22 through FY24 although HEERF funds will not be available for use in FY24. The program will need to be entirely supported in our budget.

Regent Blitz expressed concerns about the Guided Pathways program and the funding. His concerns were addressed by CFO Barnes, Chairman Balducci and Kerry Kelley.

An explanation of the \$5 million in accumulated interest on debt-service reserves to reduce the annual obligations of the universities as part of the FY22 Spending Plan was provided.

On motion of Regent Gray-Kemp, seconded by Regent Ryan, the Resolution concerning the FY2022 Budget/Spending Plan was unanimously approved.

- **Naming of Science Building for Dr. David G. Carter, Sr. – Eastern CT State University**

Dr. David G. Carter, Sr. served as President of Eastern Connecticut State University from 1988-2006 and was later appointed Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System from 2006-2001. Dr. Carter was the first African American President of a four-year college/university in the State of Connecticut. He was a tireless leader whose advocacy, scholarship and vision positively impacted the lives of countless faculty, professionals, and students. During Dr. Carter's tenure at Eastern, he cultivated the small college campus with limited degree offerings into an advanced and diverse educational haven. Under his leadership, the college transformed

academically and physically into an accessible institution of higher learning offering a quality education for a diverse body of students. Always concerned about accessibility, he was especially proud of the consistently high percentages of first-generation students. Eastern became the state's Public Liberal Arts University, which helped to serve its current positioning.

On motion of Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Ryan, the Resolution concerning the Naming of Science Building for Dr. David G. Carter, Sr. at Eastern Connecticut State University was unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Gray-Kemp, seconded by Regent Ryan, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.