

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.
61 Woodland Street, Hartford CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Matt Fleury, Committee Chair
Richard Balducci
Sarah Greco (telephonic)

REGENTS ABSENT

Catherine Smith

CONNSCU REPRESENTATIVES

James Blake, Executive Vice President, SCSU; James Troup, Provost, NVCC; Charlene Casamento, Chief Financial Officer, CCSU; James Howarth, Vice President for Finance and Administration, ECSU; Sean Loughran, Interim Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, WCSU; Jim Lloyd, Dean of Administration, ACC; Darlene Mancini-Brown, Director of Facilities and Planning, MCC; Mary-Ann Dease, Director of Planning and Budgets, WCSU

CONNSCU STAFF

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

GUESTS

John Noonan, OPM
Kerry Kelley, OPM
Kathleen Megan, The Hartford Courant

With a quorum present, Chairman Fleury called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., welcoming the recent appointment of William McGurk as Regent and new member of the Finance & Infrastructure Committee.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2014 MEETING

The minutes of the September 4, 2014 special meeting were unanimously approved, as written.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. CSUS 2020 Update

CFO Steiner provided an update on CSUS 2020 construction projects. All projects are largely on schedule and within budget.

B. FY15 Budget Risks and Opportunities

CFO Steiner explained that while it was too early in the current fiscal year to make projections, this item focuses on significant areas of the budget for FY15. Presidents have weighed in on how they are proceeding against budget. While some institutions have had upticks this fall, overall enrollment is low compared to budgeted enrollment. Retention efforts have been boosted, with a renewed focus on cost-side containment. Steiner characterized the Go Back to Get Ahead program enrollment numbers as slightly lower than projected. This has put a stress on those institutions which were counting on the program to reach break-even. CSCU is hoping to attract more students in the spring, many of whom did not qualify for GBTGA this fall.

Steiner also indicated that the Community Colleges are running close to budget with regard to the estimated fringe benefit rate, while the universities are projecting savings of just over \$5 million.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. FY15 Fee Adjustment at Charter Oak State College

Chairman Fleury turned to CFO Steiner for further explanation. Steiner indicated that subsequent to the March 2014 BOR approval of Tuition and Fees, Charter Oak reexamined the application of its Portfolio Assessment Fee and determined that the fee would be more appropriately charged if levied on a per-course basis.

The FY15 Fee Adjustment at Charter Oak State College was unanimously approved.

B. FY16-17 Biennium Budget Options

Chairman Fleury recalled that the Committee had approved the Operating and Capital portions of the biennial budget request to OPM at the September 4, 2014 meeting and turned to CFO Steiner for explanation. She indicated that CSCU had received OPM's permission to defer submission of Reduction Options to a later date. Today's item refers solely to Expansion Options. Most are tied to the BOR's strategic Transform 2020

initiative, with the exception of Security and Safety and P20 WIN. Steiner provided detail for all portions of the request, including Security and Safety, Regents Scholarship Program, Academic Advising, Early College, Developmental Education, Veterans Outreach and P20 WIN. The recommend to OPM for expansion options for FY2016 and FY2017 total \$30.2 million (2.4% of Current Services) and \$45.5 million (3.5% of Current Services), respectively.

The Resolution concerning FY2016/FY2017 Biennial Budget Options was unanimously approved.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.