

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education

October 13, 2016, at 10:00 a.m.

61 Woodland Street, Hartford CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Richard Balducci, Committee Chair

William McGurk

Barbara Richards

Merle Harris

REGENTS ABSENT

David Jimenez

Holly Palmer

Catherine Smith

CSCU STAFF

Erika Steiner, Chief Financial Officer; Alice Pritchard, Chief of Staff; Joe Tolisano, Chief Information Officer and Sean Bradbury, Director of Governmental Relations

With a quorum present, Chairman Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Approval of the Minutes from the August 25, 2016 Meeting

The minutes of the August 25th meeting were unanimously approved, as written.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. CSU Policy re: Consolidated Telecommunications Charges

CIO, Joe Tolisano provided background information regarding the recent project that gave the 4 universities full control of their campus telephone systems. When the System Office ran all of the phone systems, funds were collected from each university annually to provide for equipment replacements and upgrades. The accumulated amount in reserves is approximately \$3.1 million. The proposal is to eliminate the charge back system of \$300,000 per year and to return those funds back to the Universities to fund their own reserve. Each University will determine their own needs when setting up their reserve funds.

A motion by Regent McGurk, the Committee unanimously approved the resolution.

B. Connecticut State Universities Student Health Insurance Policy

CFO Steiner introduced the proposed resolution, explaining that BR 12-094, which amended BR 03-15, requires the CSU's to provide mandatory accident and sickness insurance for full-time and

certain part-time students. She further explained that since the Affordable Care Act, there are significant changes on how students may obtain coverage. The proposal is to no longer provide sickness insurance coverage, which is paid for by the student, but to instead, provide education and information to students so they can make informed decisions about their healthcare. Accident insurance will continue to be provided. Sean Bradbury, Director of Governmental Relations, also spoke to the proposal, explaining that data from a study at CCSU and SCSU revealed that a significant number of students would qualify for Medicaid or subsidized private coverage. CFO Steiner further explained that this proposed change has no cost benefit to the system, only to the students. It was also explained that, if passed, this change would impact current students in July and they would be directly contacted informing them of the options for securing coverage. Information would also be provided to incoming students and on our websites.

The Resolution amending Board Resolutions 12-094 & 03-15 to no longer mandate sickness insurance programs and was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent McGurk.

3. DISCUSSION

A. Connecticut Community Colleges Banded Tuition Policy

CFO Steiner recapped the background information regarding a possible proposal that all students pay the same rate per credit hour taken.

Chairman Balducci also stated that this is for discussion purposes only; the Committee is looking for input from faculty, staff, students, members of the Board and the community and stated that changes are needed due to costs. He asked for questions.

The following questions were raised:

How does this proposal fit in a more comprehensive look at all cost savings measures?

Timing is an issue; students need time to plan for this.

How many students are PELL eligible?

How many students are not PELL eligible?

Is there enough institutional aid to help those students?

Would like more analysis as to how this pertains to students of different income levels; what actually happens to them with this proposal? Can they afford it?

Can we look to legislators to not cut community college funding?

Can we look in all areas of cost to make cuts?

Chairman Balducci stated this proposal, if passed in the future, would not take effect for the Spring semester, but possibly next Fall or later. Chairman Balducci further explained that input is needed from all involved, including students and legislators. He is also looking for involvement, from parents and students with ideas and suggestions for alternative cost savings. He further explained that this is the first of many financial issues that we will need to deal with. He also invited everyone to contact him with comments, stating that the Board is willing to listen.

CFO Steiner also invited anyone to send questions via email to her. She will collect and share with the Committee and the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m.