

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
Minutes of Finance & Infrastructure Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

REGENTS - PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
Richard J. Balducci, Chair	Y
Felice Gray-Kemp	N
David R. Jimenez	Y
JoAnn Ryan	Y
Ari Santiago (arrived at 10:07)	Y
*Julia Noriega, SAC Chair	N
*Brandon Iovene, SAC Vice Chair	N
*Dr. David Blitz, FAC Vice Chair	Y
*ex-officio, non-voting member	

CSCU STAFF:

Ben Barnes, Chief Financial Officer
Keith Epstein, VP of Facilities, Real Estate, & Infrastructure Planning
Pam Heleen, Asst. Secretary of the Board of Regents (recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Regent Jimenez, seconded by Regent Ryan, the minutes of the October 13, 2021 Finance and Infrastructure Committee meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Professor Blitz asked for additional details concerning the implications of the new funding formula. Ben Barnes indicated that he would provide a written response to Professor Blitz and the Finance Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of CSCU Naming Policy

Pam Heleen presented the item and summarized the staff report:

- This “new” CSCU System policy reflects the concerns and issues raised by the Naming Policy Review Workgroup which last met in October 2019 and replaces Community College Policy 4.7.2 Facilities - Naming of Buildings on College Campuses (dated September 18, 2006) and University Resolution 09-38 Policy - Trustee Recognition and the Naming of Facilities and Programs (dated April 8, 2009).
- Procedural aspects/language no longer appears in the policy. The resolution charges the Universities and Charter Oak State College to establish a consistent implementation procedure for the policy and similarly charges the 12 community colleges (and ultimately the Connecticut State Community College) to establish their consistent implementation procedure.

- The new policy no longer includes a single specific formula (i.e., 10% of construction or remodel costs) to be used as the minimum amount of dollars required for facility-related naming opportunities. This provides each university and college with the ability to determine, based on their fundraising goals and priorities, what constitutes the substantial and significant donation required to warrant a facility-related naming opportunity.
- The policy has also been significantly strengthened with specific language added providing the BOR with the authority to revoke the name of any facility or academic program if the benefactor for whom the facility or academic program was named engages in conduct which at the sole discretion of the BOR is deemed to be detrimental and that continued association between the individual or entity and CSCU would be the contrary to the best interests of CSCU.

Chair Balducci requested the following friendly amendments to the policy:

- *In cases where there may be some question regarding the need for Board approval, the System President will recommend (not determine) whether the proposed naming opportunity requires approval.*
- *Initial guidelines for what constitute substantial and significant donations must be submitted for approval 90 days (not 30 days) after the adoption of this policy by the BOR.*
- *The sentence "This procedure must be in place by March 12, 2022." should be duplicated in the paragraph explaining community college implementation procedures.*

On a motion by Regent Jimenez and a second by Regent Ryan, the resolution to adopt the friendly amendments was carried unanimously.

On a motion by Regent Jimenez and a second by Regent Santiago, the resolution was carried by unanimous voice vote for full Board consideration.

Reporting of Gifts - Paintings - Naugatuck Valley Community College

Keith Epstein provided introductory comments concerning the three Cleve Gray paintings to be donated to Naugatuck Valley Community College.

On a motion by Chair Balducci and a second by Regent Ryan, the resolution was carried by unanimous voice vote for full Board consideration.

Reporting of Gifts - Vehicle - Gateway Community College

Keith Epstein provided introductory comments concerning the 2019 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck donated by Dave McDermott Chevrolet, Inc., for laboratory and experiential instruction in the Gateway Community college's Automotive Technology Program.

On a motion by Chair Balducci and a second by Regent Jimenez, the resolution was carried by unanimous voice vote for full Board consideration.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- CT State Community College - Financial Policies

Ben Barnes provided an explanation of one of the required activities of the merger from 12 community colleges to CT State Community College. An introduction was provided to the process of reviewing all existing community college policies ensuring that financial policies conform to the new organizational structure. This is an expectation of NECHE.

A general description of the policy and an index of the policies that are under review was provided in the committee packet. Three things are happening during the review:

- Eliminating obsolete references (i.e., Chancellor → System President)
- Removing detailed and/or obsolete procedures
- Recommending substantive changes which will go to the Board through the Finance Committee

It is hoped that the 2011 Community College Policy and Procedure Manual that currently exists will be completely overhauled and replaced by a new CT State Community College Policy Manual.

Sections of the current manual were provided for discussion with an initial disposition of each policy. Revised policies will be brought to this committee in early 2022. A substantive change example of a re-drafted policy was provided.

Regent Ryan asked who on each campus works on policies - an individual or a team recommended by the Campus CEO? Ben Barnes noted that he has been considering how to pull a group of people together to work on this project. He has organized the activity but will need to put together a committee (from the Directors of Finance and CEOs at the individual campus) to author individual sections and review/comment on revisions.

Prof. Blitz commented on the reference to the "President" throughout the revised policy and the multitude of jobs that have "President" in their title. This is a cause for confusion and should be spelled out explicitly in policies. Ben Barnes agreed and is in discussion with General Counsel Ernestine Weaver for clarification of authority and uniform language. Prof. Blitz also suggested an explicit listing of each executive position and their level of authority. Ben Barnes and Chair Balducci agreed; Ben Barnes made a note for follow-up.

Ben Barnes clarified for Chair Balducci that the policies related to calculation of reserves will reflect our current practices; current practices will not be changed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Regent Santiago, seconded by Regent Ryan, the meeting adjourned at 10:41.