

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

10:00 a.m.

61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Richard Balducci, Committee Chair

Holly Palmer

Felice Gray-Kemp (Telephonic)

David Jimenez (Telephonic)

William McGurk (Telephonic)

Barbara Richards (Telephonic)

Catherine Smith (Telephonic)

CSCU Representatives

Charlene Casamento, CFO, CCSU; Jim Howarth, VP of Finance, ECSU; Mark Rozewski, VP of Finance and Loren Loomis Hubbell, University Comptroller, SCSU; Sean Loughran, VP of Finance, WCSU; James McDowell, Dean of Administration, MCC; Paul Martland, Dean of Administration, QVCC

CSCU Staff Presenting

Mark Ojakian, President; Erika Steiner, Chief Financial Officer; Keith Epstein, Vice President for Facilities & Infrastructure Planning

With a quorum present, Chairman Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the June 7, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the June 7, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, as written.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. CSCU 2020 Update

VP Epstein provided an update on the CSCU 2020 projects currently underway at the college campuses. Most of the projects are on schedule and within budget. A few of the projects that are completed or near completion were highlighted. The Joiner Hall project at NVCC is complete despite some problems and issues that arose. The new police station at WCSU will be completed in three months. The Health and Human Services building at SCSU is in the design program phase.

Chairman Balducci questioned the possibility that projects can be stopped or delayed due to the State's budget issues. President Ojakian responded that once Bond allocations are issued, the funds cannot be withdrawn.

B. Lease/License/MOU space update

VP Epstein commented on the modification to existing space agreements and continuation of current agreements. Capital CC lease agreement with DAS for parking spaces in the Morgan Street Garage expired in 2015 and was extended for two 1-year terms. The new lease allows Capital no more than 850 parking spaces and up to 25 additional visitor garage parking spaces. The new lease rate is \$392,700 annually and will remain valid through June 30, 2025.

A new license agreement was negotiated with the New Haven Board of Education for leased spaced at Gateway CC North Haven Campus for the Hyde School. The license is being extended for one additional 10-month term renewable for up to three consecutive 10-month terms at the same rate of \$1.00 per term. New Haven's share of utilities and miscellaneous operating expense will be \$309,009 for the first term of the agreement with a 3% increase for each additional term of the agreement.

The license agreement for Middlesex CC to lease space at Platt High School in Meriden was executed for \$1.00 per year for 3:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. use of 12-classrooms and the media center, cost of non-operational hour custodial expenses and providing five seats for each course offered at the high school to qualified Platt and Maloney High School students and staff. The Meriden Center lease was terminated.

A MOU agreement was completed for Quinebaug Valley CC to relocate from the Willimantic Center Campus to Windham Technical High School in Willimantic. The MOU at Windham Tech allows for the use of six classrooms and the library, Monday through Thursday from 2:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at an expense of \$1,500 per semester fee for utilities and custodial expenses. QVCC will also be required to reimburse Windham Tech for any security and cleaning requirement above current operations. The Willimantic Center lease was canceled.

3. ACTION ITEMS

A. FY2018 Budget/Spending Plan for CSCU

CFO Steiner reported on the FY 2018 Budget/Spending Plan for the CSCU System. Being that the State has not passed a state budget yet and the agreement between the State and State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) had not been consummated prior to the beginning of FY2018, not enough information is available to present a realistic budget to the Board. State appropriations and associated fringe benefit payments left significant uncertainties.

For purposes of budget development, the Governor's Executive Order for our appropriations, the Comptroller's fringe benefit rates, trend in enrollment for the past three years, and tuition

and fee rates approved by the Board for FY2018 were used. In order to prepare for the potential of further cuts when the state budget is eventually passed, each institution has been asked to develop contingency plans.

Chairman Balducci thanked CFO Steiner and staff for performing the task of formulating a budget without a reasonable method to estimate or assume our state funding and without a state budget.

The Resolution concerning the FY2018 Proposed Budget/Spending Plan for CSCU System was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Palmer, seconded by Regent Jimenez.

B. Change in Drop Policy CCC

CFO Steiner noted that the Drop Policy for the Connecticut Community Colleges was slightly modified in order to provide consistency of reporting student enrollment at census date. The goal of the policy is to provide accurate and consistent data supporting institutional research and college funding formulas while protecting students and providing responsible accounting and collection practices.

The Resolution concerning Change in Drop Policy CCC was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Palmer, seconded by Chairman Balducci.

C. Gas Line Easement to Eversource at WCSU

VP Epstein reported that natural gas supplied by the public utility was not available during the development of Western's Westside Campus. Eversource is currently making available natural gas service for the Westside Campus. The Westside campus boilers were purchased with dual fuel capability, allowing for the potential to switch to natural gas should it become available for consumption. Western's benefits of burning natural gas includes a more stable pricing structure, delivery continuity, more heating efficiency per BTU, lower cost per BTU, lower boiler maintenance and a cleaner burning fuel.

The Resolution concerning Gas Line Easement at WCSU was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Jimenez, seconded by Chairman Balducci.

D. New Haven's 21st Century Strong Magnet School & SCSU Lab

VP Epstein reported that Southern's School of Education has promoted long-term goals for integrating portions of their academic program with an elementary school. The City of New Haven and Southern have collaborated to develop the Strong Magnet School and SCSU Lab School program that includes expanding Southern's Magnet School involvement. Academic expansion is outlined in an MOU between Southern and the New Haven Board of Education. Final approval of the MOU is pending Academic and Student Affairs Committee approval.

Master Plan development of Southern's West Campus is linked to the School of Education. West Campus projected physical enhancements includes a 110,000 gross square foot new School of Education/Classroom Building (not currently funded), a future Early Childhood Education Center for childcare (not currently funded), and a K-4 school. The current pre K-4 proposed Magnet School would be constructed on the southwest campus end of Farnham Avenue.

The City of New Haven has proceeded to set the groundwork for this program. They have applied for and received State Board of Education grant fund approval for the design and construction of the proposed school.

The Resolution concerning New Haven's 21st Century Strong Magnet School and SCSU Lab was unanimously approved.

President Ojakian commended Southern for their hard work on this project.

Barbara Richards expressed an interest in allowing Gateway and Housatonic to be involved and have a commitment of having college students considered for teaching positions at the elementary school.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.