

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

**Wednesday, October 9, 2019 @10:00 a.m.  
Regents Boardroom, System Office, 61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING**

Richard J. Balducci, Chairman  
Del Cummings  
Felice Gray-Kemp (via teleconference)  
JoAnn Ryan (via teleconference)

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT**

David R. Jimenez

**CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING**

Mark Ojakian, President  
Ben Barnes, Chief Financial Officer  
Sandra Bispham-Haywood, Director of Contracts, Procurement and Purchasing

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING**

On a motion by Regent Ryan, seconded by Chairman Balducci, the minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

**INFORMATION ITEM(S) –**

**FY20 System Office Budget**

CFO Barnes commented on the level of spending at the CSCU system office that has been the topic of criticism and concern. The system office budget was reviewed and clarification was provided to address the misunderstanding of what duties and functions the system office performs. A breakdown of the budget by departments, differentiating where each dollar is spent for BOR, Community Colleges and Connecticut State Universities was provided. It was noted that the BOR line is limited by State appropriations.

## **CSCU Fall 2019 Enrollment**

CFO Barnes reported on the fall 2019 enrollment and the implications it will have on the CSCU budget. The CSCU FY2020 campus spending plans assumed declines in fall enrollment based on the past year trend, however, the actual decline for fall is greater than anticipated. The enrollment decline appears to be in line with national statistics. As a result of the enrollment decline, the tuition and fees revenue is likely to be less than budgeted. Management is confident that the colleges will be able to absorb the tuition lost and enrollment will continue to be monitored for the spring semester. An updated revenue projection will be included in the mid-year projection in 2020.

The Vice President of Enrollment is working on a change in the strategic direction the institutions will follow. Programs and other major initiatives in the CSCU system should help to increase enrollment. The institutions will also be looking for alternative ways of attracting and retaining students. Targeting adult learners and the offering of on-line courses were also mentioned.

## **ACTION ITEM(S)**

### **CSCU – FY21 Mid-term Budget Expansion Submissions**

CFO Barnes commented on the recommended mid-term budget requests that were submitted to OPM, noting that the items were contingent upon the Board's approval. The Debt-free College program was the largest request with the remaining items to recoup some of our cost growth from expansion of manufacturing programs, SEBAC wage increases, and new facilities coming on line. CSCU asked that OPM continue to consider the requests made in 2018 as part of the biennial budget process being that OPM indicated that they would not consider additional capital budget requests this year.

An overview was provided of the Capital and Policy Options submission, including the technical adjustments. OPM also requested that a budget reduction option totaling 1% of our post-holdback budget be submitted. Although we complied with their instructions, a point was made that such a reduction would be harmful to the progress that is being achieved across the CSCU system.

*On motion of Regent Ryan and seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, it was voted to approve the FY21 Midterm Budget submissions.*

### **Adoption of Policy for Contracts and Procurement a/k/a “Red Tape Elimination” Guidelines**

CFO Barnes commented that the Board approved the posting of Notice of its Intention to Adopt Policy to Purchase Certain Goods and Services under Public Act No. 17-130 on August 23,

2018. Being that no comments or expressed views was received during the posting of the notice, approval of the policy is now being sought.

Sandra Bispham-Haywood, Director of Contracts, Procurement and Purchasing, highlighted the policy that will allow the CSCU to simplify the three types of purchasing agreements: (1) revenue-generating contracts, (2) non-monetary arrangements, and (3) “certain other agreements”.

*On motion of Regent Ryan and seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, it was voted to approve the Resolution for the Adoption of Policy for Contracts and Procurement.*

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, on motion of Chairman Balducci, seconded by Regent Ryan, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.