

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education
Thursday, March 14, 2013, at 10:30 am
Community Room
61 Woodland Street, Hartford CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Lewis Robinson, Chair, Board of Regents for Higher Education
Gary Holloway, Chair, Finance Committee
Richard Balducci
Matt Fleury
Rene Lerer (Telephonic)
Catherine Smith
Merle Harris, Chair, Academic & Student Affairs Committee

REGENTS ABSENT

Zac Zeitlin

CONNSCU REPRESENTATIVES

Cathryn Addy, President, TXCC; Barbara Douglass, President, NWCC; Dorsey Kendrick, President, GCC; Martha McLeod, President, ACC; Anna Wasecha, President, MxCC; Jim Blake, Executive Vice President, SCSU; Charlene Casamento, Chief Financial Officer, CCSU; Steve Frazier, Dean of Administration, NWCC, Paul Reis, Vice President for Finance & Administration, WCSU; Jim Howarth, Vice President for Finance & Administration, ECSU, Paul Martland, Dean of Administration QVCC; Lester Primus, Dean of Administration CCC; Jim McDowell, Dean of Administration MCC; Cliff Williams, Chief Financial Officer, COSC; Steven Frazier, Dean of Administration, NwCC; David Sykes, Dean of Administration, MxCC

CONNSCU STAFF

Philip Austin, Interim President; Dennis Murphy, Interim Chief of Staff; William Bowes, Chief Financial Officer; Wendy Chang, Chief Information Officer; Elaine Clark, Vice President for Facilities & Infrastructure Planning; Braden Hosch, Director of Policy, Finance and Academic Affairs; Beverly Lambert, Director of Budget & Finance; Raymond Yirga, Director of Finance & Accounting; Finance; Susan Grant, Senior Finance Officer; Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager; Gail Coppage, Director of Innovation and Outreach; Ray Yirga, Director of Accounting & Finance; Terri Raimondi, Public Relations Specialist; Ilia Moldavski, Senior Finance Officer; Lutishia Pershad, Finance Officer; Alessandra Lundberg, Finance Officer; Meg Niewinski, Finance Officer

GUESTS

John Noonan, OPM; Kerry Kelley, OPM; Jacqueline Rabe Thomas, CT Mirror

With a quorum present, Chairman Holloway called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 19, 2013 MEETING

The minutes of the February 19, 2013 special meeting were unanimously approved, as written.

2. ACTION ITEMS

A. FY 2014 Tuition & Fees – Connecticut State Universities, Connecticut Community Colleges & Charter Oak State College

Connecticut State University

CFO Bowes presented background information on tuition and fees for the Connecticut State Universities, including the process for developing recommendations, factors considered and the basis for the proposals. In order to partially mitigate the decline in State funding and maintain instructional quality in the coming year, Tuition and Mandatory Fees are proposed to increase by \$434 or 5.1% for an in-state undergraduate commuter student. Under the proposal, total Tuition and Fees for an in-state undergraduate residential student would increase \$778 or 4.1%.

Connecticut Community Colleges

CFO Bowes presented background information on tuition and fees for the Connecticut Community Colleges, including the process for developing recommendations, factors considered and the basis for the proposals. The recommendations called for an increase in tuition of 5.25% or \$188 over current rates and increases of 5.25% or less for overall student cost.

Charter Oak State College

CFO Bowes presented background information on tuition and fees for Charter Oak State College, including the process for developing recommendations, factors considered and the basis for the proposals. The recommendations call for an increase of \$13/credit to \$258/credit and an increase of \$9/semester in the in-state College Fee to \$180/semester.

Discussion ensued regarding each unit's current finances, the budget recommended for FY 2014, risk factors, unrestricted net assets and the impact that the proposed tuition and fee rates would have on addressing financial needs.

FY14 Tuition and Fee Recommendations for the Connecticut State Universities, Connecticut Community Colleges and Charter Oak State College were unanimously approved on a motion by Regent Fleury, seconded by Regent Balducci.

B. License Agreement between the New Haven Public Schools (NHPS) and Gateway Community College for Use of Portions of the former Long Wharf Campus, New Haven

President Kendrick and Vice President Clark described a proposal whereby The Board of Regents, on behalf of Gateway Community College, would enter into a License Agreement allowing the New Haven Public Schools to have exclusive use of portions of the second floor and shared use of common and other areas at Gateway's former Long Wharf Campus, New Haven. The lease has a term of one year, renewable for three additional terms of one year each, for \$1 and payment of certain facility operating costs, effective as of September 2012.

Regent Balducci requested a change to the lease agreement to allow for three *optional* one-year renewal terms.

Resolution passed unanimously, contingent upon amendment to the lease agreement, on a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Fleury.

C. Capital Construction Projects at Gateway and Middlesex Community Colleges; Property Acquisition at Tunxis Community College; Authorization to Request State Bonds for Three Manufacturing Centers

VP Clark stated that the Gateway, Middlesex and Tunxis projects are not currently funded, but are vital to improve safety, reduce extreme overcrowding, or achieve operating cost savings. Funding for the manufacturing center projects has been authorized, but not yet allocated.

Gateway Community College

VP Clark and President Kendrick presented the \$25 million request for Gateway Community College to Committee members. Funds would be used to renovate a portion of Gateway's Long Wharf Campus, allowing the automotive and renewable energy programs to relocate from Gateway's largely vacant building in North Haven. The building at North Haven could then be disposed of, saving the college substantial operating costs in the approximate amount of \$400,000 annually. If the North Haven building were vacated, it could be treated as surplus property and sold.

Middlesex Community College

VP Clark and President Wasecha presented the \$45.8 million request for Middlesex College. A new 69,000 square foot academic building was recommended in a 2006 study conducted by a higher education space planning consultant. The project was submitted in the BOR's request for biennial capital budget funding in September 2012. After that date, the Sightlines benchmarking study was conducted and demonstrated that Middlesex is excessively crowded. The project was not recommended for bonding in the Governor's FY 14 and FY 15 capital budget.

Under the DCS formula for computation of construction costs, a 69,000 square foot building would cost \$40.9 million, with pre-construction fees in the amount of \$4.9 million.

The building program would include general purpose classrooms, labs for allied health and sciences programs, office space for college administrative functions and student support spaces, as recommended by the Rickes Associates' Master Plan Space Program and Utilization Study dated August 2006. Middlesex has been documented to be the most crowded of all the community colleges and is one of the two colleges that have had only minor investment in physical facilities.

Tunxis Community College

VP Clark stated the request for Tunxis Community College is \$4.3 million to acquire a portion of adjacent property which has commercial parking facilities (appraised at \$2.8 million) and to make site improvements (\$1.5 million) addressing drainage, paving, some demolition and other matters. The acquisition and improvements will address a serious parking shortfall at Tunxis. Structures that are included in the sale may help to address future space issues at the college.

Tunxis is landlocked and has no option of on-street parking. In order to provide parking for students, the college has allowed parking on highway shoulders, grass lawns on campus, has leased remote lots and has shuttled students to and from campus.

President Addy explained that if the college were able to acquire property from the Centennial Inn, Tunxis would realize:

- Potential for up to 200 additional parking spots
- Termination of the lease at Westwoods Golf Course, realizing a savings of \$5,000/semester or \$10,000/year
- Termination of van rentals, realizing a savings of \$49/day or \$8800/six months
- The need for an additional security guard/van driver would be eliminated with a savings of \$81/day or \$8,424/six months

Advanced Manufacturing Centers

VP Clark stated ConnSCU is seeking approval to request \$7,325,000 in State Bond funds for three advanced manufacturing centers at Housatonic, Naugatuck Valley and Quinebaug Valley Community Colleges. These funds are from the "second phase" of a bond package totaling \$17.8 million. The first \$8.9 million was allocated in spring 2012. Of this amount, \$5.4 million has been expended at Housatonic, Naugatuck Valley and Quinebaug Community College facilities; \$3.5 million remains unexpended to be utilized for Phase II manufacturing center projects at the three colleges. This request seeks Board approval to request \$7,325,000 from the second \$8.9 million. When combined with the \$3.5 million remaining from Phase 1, the bonds will fund additional manufacturing facilities at Housatonic, Naugatuck Valley and Quinebaug Community Colleges with a combined total of \$10,825,000. The Board of Regents will seek the final \$1,575,000 at a Bond Commission meeting before June 2013. If approved, the funds would be applied towards design and preconstruction activities at Asnuntuck Community

College. This may require a minor change in the wording of the legislation authorizing the \$17.8 million in bonds for community college manufacturing centers.

Director Coppage addressed programmatic questions regarding the Manufacturing Centers.

Committee Chairman Holloway urged caution and asked Presidents Kendrick, Wasecha and Addy to ensure that net operating costs associated with any new facilities remain contained.

Motion passed unanimously to authorize: 1) Capital Construction Projects at Gateway and Middlesex Community Colleges; 2) Property Acquisition at Tunxis Community College and 3) the request of State bond funds for three manufacturing centers. Approval for projects at Gateway and Middlesex Community Colleges is contingent upon Board's receipt of documentation reflecting operational costs of those proposed new projects, prior to the March 21st Board of Regents meeting. Motion: Regent Balducci; Second: Regent Fleury

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 p.m., on a motion by Regent Balducci, seconded by Regent Fleury.