

**MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

Board of Regents for Higher Education

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

10:00 a.m.

61 Woodland Street, Hartford CT

Minutes

REGENTS PRESENT

Richard Balducci, Committee Chair

Felice Gray-Kemp (Telephonic)

William McGurk

Barbara Richards (Telephonic)

Catherine Smith (Telephonic)

Yvette Melendez (Telephonic)

REGENTS ABSENT

David Jimenez

Holly Palmer

CSCU Representatives

John Clark, President, WCSU; Jay Murray, Associate Vice President of Enrollment, WCSU

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 10:10 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the September 6, 2017 Meeting

The minutes of the September 6, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved, upon the motion of Regent McGurk, seconded by Regent Balducci.

2. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. WCSU Expanded Pilot Program – In-State tuition rates for New York and New Jersey

President Clark, WCSU, provided remarks on the college's proposal to expand the pilot program of in-state tuition rates to New York and New Jersey residents. A year ago, the Board approved a pilot program for WCSU to offer in-state tuition and fee rates to residents of seven New York neighboring counties. The program has proved to be highly successful in attracting students and the student enrollment grew from 74 in the Fall of 2016 to 243 in the Fall of 2017. Despite the

increased enrollment, only 70 are resident students. Based on the success of the initial pilot program, WCSU is asking the Board to approve the expansion of the pilot program to include all New York and New Jersey residents.

Western has seen the highest enrollment reduction of the four universities over the past several years resulting in fiscal challenges. Expansion of the pilot program will offer greater ability to recruit out-of-state students, thus increasing enrollment to benefit the University both financially and academically. Additional students would afford the opportunity to offer more courses and programs to support the auxiliary services offered by WCSU.

The majority of the universities agreed that WCSU should lead in this pilot program and the other CSUs will observe the impact in order to assess in the following fiscal year whether a request be made to modify out-of-state rates more broadly.

WCSU proposes to begin the pilot program in the Fall 2018 in order to provide time for marketing. The pilot will be evaluated after a two-year period for continuation. It is estimated that the first year of the pilot would cost approximately \$1.5M in lost revenues due to grandfathering current students.

There was a general discussion about the decreasing college-aged population in Connecticut, decreased State funding, decline in enrollment and the proposal to expand the University's recruiting service area to maintain and improve services.

On motion of Chairman Balducci, seconded by Regent McGurk, The resolution concerning the WCSU Expanded Pilot Program for In-State Tuition Rates for New York and New Jersey Residents was voted. Voting yes: Regents Richard Balducci, William McGurk. Voting nay: Regent Felice Gray-Kemp.

B. Adjusted Tuition Rates for Victims of Hurricane Maria

CFO Steiner commented on the State initiatives of providing humanitarian aid to victims of Hurricane Maria by ensuring access to primary and secondary education. Presidents of our institutions have also expressed their interest in providing support to students in higher education residing in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands so that they can may continue their studies in Connecticut while their schools are being repaired or rebuilt. These students have little or no availability of options to continue their studies in their home territories.

Extending in-state rates to impacted students who have been attending the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands may be the best solution. Many of the impacted students are Pell recipients and would need to have the FAFSAs processed locally in order to get the student Pell financing for the Spring semester.

It is not clear how many students may avail themselves of this offer, it is certain that the colleges have the space capacity for additional students.

President Ojakian and Regent Melendez commented on the initiative of offering the impacted students with an alternative to continue their education with little disruption.

The Resolution concerning the Adjusted Tuition, Fees and Housing Rates for Victims of Hurricane Maria was unanimously approved on a motion by Regent McGurk, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp.

With no other business to discuss, on motion of Regent McGurk, seconded by Regent Gray-Kemp, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.