

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

Wednesday, December 4, 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)
David R. Jimenez
JoAnn Ryan (via teleconference)

CSCU STAFF PARTICIPATING

Ben Barnes, Chief Financial Officer
Keith Epstein, Vice President of Facilities, Real Estate & Infrastructure Planning

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 9, 2019 MEETING

On a motion by Regent Ryan, seconded by Chairman Balducci, the minutes of the October 9, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

ACTION ITEMS –

Northwestern Community College – License Agreement with Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board

VP Epstein commented on Northwestern Community College's (NCCC) opportunity to extend community involvement on campus to benefit the students of Northwestern by licensing current available space to the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board (NRWIB), an affiliate of the American Job Centers (AJC). The agreement will allow NRWIB to conduct their work on campus with the students at Northwestern in addition to local business operations. NRWIB presence on campus will provide services at levels greater than currently supported at Northwestern that will enhance student employment opportunities. An added benefit to the college will allow NRWIB clients connection to the college's short-term job training programs as well as provide a recruitment opportunity for NCCC's Continuing Education classes and credit programs.

Northwestern is requesting that a two-year license agreement occur between CSCU and the NRWIB with renewal options of 1-year extensions, not exceeding 10-years above the base term, with a termination clause be granted that allows the NRWIB an opportunity to conduct their business operations at NCCC. Conditions of the license will allow the NRWIB to operate part-time within Goulet space at no cost to the NRWIB.

There was a general discussion amongst the Committee members in regards to the success of the OJC program and the logistics of space usage at the college.

On motion of Regent Jimenez, seconded by Regent Ryan, it was voted to approve CSCU entering into a license agreement with the Northwest Regional Workforce Investment Board at Northwestern Community College.

Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) Policy

CFO Barnes reviewed the PACT manual that was prepared by a steering committee consisting of CSCU system personnel in response to Public Act 19-117, passed by the Connecticut General Assembly during the 2019 session. The Public Act requires the Board of Regents to establish a debt-free community college program. The intent of the scholarship program is to ensure that Connecticut high school graduates who are attending college for the first time be able to attend a Connecticut community college without any out-of-pocket charges for tuition or mandatory fees.

The proposed program was crafted to meet the requirements of the law while aligning administratively with other forms of financial assistance already offered by the colleges. A few minor technical changes that were made to the manual since its preparation were highlighted. The CSCU President has authority to make changes to the manual as necessary.

There was a discussion about the requirements and statutory mandates of PA19-117. Concerns were expressed about the lack of additional funds being provided by the legislature to implement the debt-free community college program.

Regent Jimenez moved, seconded by Regent Ryan, to approve the establishment of the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) and implementation of the program.

Voting AYE: R. Balducci, D. Jimenez, J. Ryan

Voting NAY: F. Gray-Kemp

Abstained: None

The resolution was amended to include an additional “whereas” clause to address the CSCU Finance Committee’s concern regarding the mandate by the General Assembly to establish the debt-free community college program without provisions for additional funds provided by the legislature.

A vote was taken on the amended resolution.

Regent Jimenez moved, seconded by Regent Ryan, to approve the amended resolution for the establishing of the Pledge to Advance Connecticut (PACT) and implementation of the program.

Voting AYE: R. Balducci, D. Jimenez, J. Ryan

Voting NAY: None

Abstained: F. Gray-Kemp

Adjournment

There being no further business, on motion of Regent Jimenez, seconded by Chairman Balducci, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.