



BOR ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

MEETING AGENDA

Friday, February 2, 2024 @ 9:30 a.m.

- Regents Present: Committee Chair Ira Bloom, Regent Juanita James, Regent James McCarthy, Regent Richard Porth
- Members: Professor Colena Sesanker
- Staff Present: Terrence Cheng, Aynsley Diamond, Pamela Heleen, Tamara O'Day Stevens, Kaylah Davis
- Other Attendees: Donna Bontatibus, Jess Boronico, Levy Brown, Jill Flanigan, Stephen Hegedus, Bruce Kalk, Kim Kostelis, H. Justin Moore, Joan Palladino, David Petroski, Robert Prezant, Kari Sassu, Elena Schmitt, Timothy St. James, Michael Stefanowicz

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Ira Bloom.

1. Call to Order: Declare Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes - December 1, 2023
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the December 1st, 2023 minutes. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy a vote was taken, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom advised that there are three discontinuations and eight modifications on the agenda. Items that are programmatically related will be considered and voted on at the same time.

3. Discontinuations
 - a. SCSU - Media Studies – BA
Items 3.a. and 4.b. are connected and were discussed and voted on together.
Dr. Robert Prezant, Dr. Bruce Kalk, and Dr. David Petroski presented. Southern Connecticut State University requested the discontinuation of the Media Studies Bachelor of Science program. Dr. Kalk advised that the Media Studies and Communication departments have merged and they are now merging curriculum. Dr. Petroski added that the curriculum merge will streamline the pre-requisite process, making it is easier for transfer students to enter and complete the degree. **Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuation and modification. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuation and modification were approved unanimously.**
 - b. CT State – Cybersecurity Operations – Certificate
Items 3.b., 3.c., and 4.g are connected and were discussed and voted on together.
Dr. Levy Brown, Michael Stefanowicz, and Dr. H. Justin Moore presented. CT State Community College requested the discontinuation of the Cybersecurity Operations Certificate program. Under the Computer Science program umbrella there are 31 degrees and certificates. With having overlapped and redundant options, enrollment is diluted. The Computer Science faculty are working to streamline enrollment by eliminating the certificate and associate degree, as there are better options to move students into. The two discontinuations have only four students enrolled, and they can be enrolled into a better fitting program and obtain training on industry recognized credentials.
Regent Juanita James commended the elimination of redundancies and making programs more

relevant. She inquired if an approach to determine relevant programs and review redundancies in offerings is being developed as this process continues, and how is it determined if goals and intentions are met within a particular timeframe. Dr. Moore advised that faculty are looking to improve student success outcomes and earning credentials, and there is improvement in recognizing where there may be redundancies. The outcome and timeframe depend on the type of program, a certificate can be determined after a year, and an associate degree may be two or three years. Regent Richard Porth added his excitement on the collaborative process, and inquired if this type of collaboration occurs across other discipline areas. Dr. H. Justin Moore advised that since the governance structure allows for representation in all discipline areas, there has been more participation since the initial alignment. As this alignment process continues, new innovative programs will come forth and redundancies will be recognized. Especially within the college of technology, collaboration has been occurring and will increase. Dr. Levy Brown added that collaboration is a strength and leads to positive outcomes for students. Regent James McCarthy echoed comments, adding this was the hope upon consolidation of the community college campuses. He also inquired whether reducing similar programs with smaller numbers, will make it easier for students to enroll in a course at another campus and if there has been an increase in cross campus enrollment. Dr. H. Justin Moore commented that there were many specialized courses offered at single campuses with low course enrollment, and by eliminating them more students can enroll in courses offered at other campuses and increase the course enrollment numbers. This will bring faculty together and make programs stronger. Professor Colena Sesanker commented that there is always benefit with increased collaboration across the system and added emphasis on the importance of reporting and evaluation on measures of success. With the balance of diversity across campuses, she questions how to ensure that we serve the wide range of students, keeping in mind demographics, as well as the challenges of public transportation within the state and the needs of community for first generation students. Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on modality. Dr. H. Justin Moore confirmed that courses are offered with a mix of modalities. Students will have on ground courses closest to them; but with computer science courses, there are flexible options, including hyflex and online remote. When scheduling courses, student and Guided Pathway Advisor feedback is important and they are responsive to that. Regent Juanita James noted her appreciation for Professor Colena Sesanker's comments, adding that she worked in partnership with a few of the community colleges to provide wrap around support services for students that needed it. She added that there are opportunities to partner with organizations and institutions to supplement funding for types of needs outside of the state budget. **Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the discontinuations and modification. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the discontinuations and modification were approved unanimously.**

- c. CT State – Cybersecurity – AS
Items 3.b., 3.c., and 4.g are connected and were discussed and voted on together (see 3.b. above).

4. Modifications

- a. SCSU – Business Administration – Masters – Program Modification

Dr. Robert Prezant and Dr. Jess Boronico presented. Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for the modification to the Master of Business Administration program. These are changes to the STEM component of the program to align with best practices and industry standards, as well as a change in the number of credit hours, allowing students to take electives. These changes will increase competitiveness, and the change in CIP will engage a broader range of students. Regent Juanita James commended the work being done and thought put into the request, adding that this is an excellent approach to be more competitive in this degree area. Regent Richard Porth added his excitement about the recommendation its efforts to widen reach, and an opportunity to make similar recommendations in future.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the modification

was approved unanimously.

- b. SCSU – Communication – BS - Modification of Courses – Course Sub
Items 3.a. and 4.b. are connected and were discussed and voted on together (see 3.a. above).
- c. SCSU – School Health Education – MS – Modification in Modality
Dr. Robert Prezant presented. Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for the modification to the Master of Science in School Health Education program. The modification is changes the mode of delivery to offer the program fully online. This program is currently offered on ground and online but was shifted to fully online during the pandemic with success.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.
- d. WCSU – Criminal Justice – BS – Modification of CIP Code
- e. WCSU – Justice and Law Administration – BS – Application for Name Change
Items 4.d and 4.e. are connected and were discussed and voted on together.
Dr. Stephen Hegedus and Dr. Joan Palladino presented. Western Connecticut State University requested approval for modifications to the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Bachelor of Science in Justice and Law Administration programs. The modification for the Justice and Law Administration program is for a name change to increase visibility when searching online and increase in enrollment. The modification to the Criminal Justice program is to the CIP code to be more indicative of the program. Neither modification changes the curriculum.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modifications. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the modifications were approved unanimously.
- f. CT State – Health Information Technology Data Management – Modification to Accredited Program
Dr. Levy Brown, Michael Stefanowicz, and Jill Flanigan presented. CT State Community College requested approval for the modification to the Health Information Technology Data Management program. The change is for additional credit hours in Anatomy and Physiology, as industry partners and field demands require interpretation of medical terminology. The successful completion of A&P coursework will ensure the interpretation requirement is met.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.
- g. CT State – Cybersecurity Essentials – Certificate 2 – Program Modification Name Change
Items 3.b., 3.c., and 4.g were discussed and voted on together (see 3b. above).
- h. CT State – Computer Networking Technology – Certificate 2 – Program Modification Name Change
Dr. Levy Brown, Michael Stefanowicz, and Dr. H. Justin Moore presented. CT State Community College requested modification to the Computer Networking Technology, Certificate 2 program. The modification is a change in name to provide clarity on the computer related certificates offered. These are connected to the Cyber Security changes as previously discussed.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom inquired on the challenges as things change in computer science programs. Michael Stefanowicz advised that curriculum is not locked in, and curriculum changes can be made as changes in the field are taking place, ensuring that faculty can respond and incorporate them into the curriculum.
Regent Juanita James commented on the paradigm shift in this area, and the need to pay attention to those changes.
Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the modification. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent Juanita James, a vote was taken, and the modification was approved unanimously.

i. SCSU – TESOL – BA

Dr. Robert Prezant, Dr. Bruce Kalk, Dr. Kari Sassu, and Dr. Elena Schmitt presented. Southern Connecticut State University requested approval for a new Bachelor of Arts program, Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). There is growth in multicultural communities, especially in urban areas, and the need and employment opportunities in this area are growing. Dr. Kalk discussed the shortage within pre-K through 12 public schools, with an increased proportion of English language learners in CT that is projected to increase in the coming years. There are only ten undergraduate level TESOL programs nationwide, only one in the northeast. There are no additional faculty resources necessary for the program. Dr. Sassu added that culturally competent educators possessing unique skills are critical to ensuring student success. Dr. Schmitt added that the program would be a great service to the public schools, as ESL teachers support students in other areas, as well. Regent Richard Porth commented his pleasure with the initiative, especially that this will be the second offering in the northeast, and it is an opportunity for us to serve.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom confirmed the program is undergraduate. Dr. Schmitt advised that there are master's level programs in this area offered at SCSU and CCSU, but nothing available at the baccalaureate level. In market analysis, students have shown interest in getting initially certified in TESOL, and a baccalaureate level program will be able to grow that population sooner.

Regent James McCarthy added thanks for addressing needs of the state and substantial workforce shortage.

Regent Juanita James added kudos and excitement for this program.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the new program. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the new program was approved unanimously.

5. Centers and Institutes

a. SCSU – The Research Center on Values in Emerging Science and Technology

Dr. Robert Prezant and Dr. Bruce Kalk presented. Southern Connecticut State University requests approval for the continuation for The Research Center on Values in Emerging Science and Technology (RC-VEST). RC-Vest has been a fixture on campus, is sponsor for the notable speaker series, and remains self-sustaining.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom commented that generative AI is not referenced in the proposal, and inquired if the center will engage in this area. Dr. Bruce Kalk confirmed that they will discuss plans for this with Professor Sarah Roe.

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the Center continuation. On a motion by Regent Juanita James, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the continuation was approved unanimously.

6. CSU Promotion

a. Western Connecticut State University

Committee Chair Ira Bloom asked for a motion to approve the promotion. On a motion by Regent Richard Porth, second by Regent James McCarthy, a vote was taken, and the promotion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Hegedus made comment of a spelling error to President Manohar Singh's name. Pam Heleen advised this has been corrected.

7. Below Threshold – Information Only

a. SCSU – Computer Science – MS - Modification in Credits

b. SCSU – English – BA – Modification – Curricular Revision

c. SCSU – English BS – Program Modification

d. SCSU – Music – BA – Program Modification

e. SCSU – Music Therapy – BS – Program Modification

f. SCSU – Women, Gender, and Leadership – Graduate Certificate – New Certificate

g. CT State - Health Information - Clinical Coding – Certificate - Addition of Course

h. CT State - Radiography Program – Middlesex - Modification in Course

i. CT State - Respiratory Care – AS – Modification

Kaylah Davis made note for item 8.a. The modality checkbox indicates the program is moving to online, however, the program will remain hybrid.

Chair Ira Bloom called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Regent James McCarthy, second by Regent Richard Porth, a vote was taken, and the motion to adjourn was approved unanimously at 10:26 a.m.