



# Board of Regents

## AGENDA & NOTICE OF MEETING STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

10:00 a.m., Friday, April 22, 2022  
Conducted Via Remote Participation

Meeting will stream live at [http://youtu.be/P\\_F0ozl8Xaw](http://youtu.be/P_F0ozl8Xaw)

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1. Call to Order, Roll Call & Declaration of Quorum
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - Regular Meeting – February 11, 2022
  - Special Joint Meeting with the BOR – March 4, 2022
4. DEI Overview at CSCU – Kerry Beckford
5. Title IX Updates – Colleen Kearney and Angelo Simoni
6. Update on CT State Merger
7. SAC Plans for upcoming year
8. Questions/Comments/Feedback
9. Adjourn

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)  
Minutes of Student Advisory Committee Meeting  
Friday, February 11, 2022  
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiJtM-zVn1E>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Julia Noriega called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

**REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT CHENG**

President Cheng welcomed each representative and alternate to the Student Advisory Committee and thanked them for their service to the Board. He introduced the recommended tuition and fee increase for the community colleges and discussed the decrease in enrollment in CT community colleges.

**REMARKS FROM KERRY KELLEY - CFO, CT STATE**

Dr. Kelley provided the following details for the tuition increase:

- Community College tuition and fees have been flat for three years.
- Tuition is proposed to increase from \$4476 to \$4700 (\$224 per year) for full time students
- Full time enrollment has dropped 34% since 2014
- \$2.8 million is going to be added to student financial aid
- CT is still the most affordable community college system in New England
- Revenue from tuition has dropped from 41% to 28% since 2018

SAC member Lorenzo Enderle asked if the cost of winter and summer classes go up with the tuition increase. Kerry Kelley said that credits will have an increased cost.

**REMARKS FROM STEVE McDOWELL - AVP, FINANCIAL AID SERVICES AND TITLE IV**

Mr. McDowell let the Committee know that 71% of aid-seeking students pay nothing for tuition and fees because of PACT, Pell, Roberta Willis or some combination of grants. An additional 11% have a portion covered, based on need. PACT alone accounts for nearly 25% of our current FTE enrollment. There is bipartisan support for increasing the maximum PELL grant.

Any questions about campus-specific or Foundation support for student expenses should be forwarded to Mr. McDowell to determine how they might be affected.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES - 11-5-2021**

Approval was tabled until the next meeting as a quorum was not present.

**COVID-19 UPDATE - ANGELO SIMONI**

- Expiration of the state mask mandate is expected on February 28<sup>th</sup>.
- CSCU is still evaluating options about continuation of masking.
- If cases continue to trend down, they will consider dropping the mask requirement; but for now, it remains in place.
- Most campus students are vaccinated.
- Weekly testing for non-vaccinated students is taken very seriously.

A question was asked about specific campus statistics for the covid-19 vaccine and Angelo responded that each campus has a COVID-19 coordinator.

**JOINT BOR/SAC MEETING - DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL TOPICS**

- Pam Heleen confirmed that we hope that the March SAC meeting will be a joint meeting with the BOR and that the joint meeting is a dialogue to hear and discuss student issues rather than moving on an action item.
- Angelo Simoni asked about topics of discussion for the meeting. Any thoughts about topics should be sent to Julia Noriega.

**OTHER**

A brief discussion took place about the statistics for the TimelyCare telehealth system. Angelo Simoni discussed how TimelyCare is widely underused throughout the system. In response to a question, he stated that the system receives no feedback about TimelyCare visits.

**ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.*



# Board of Regents

## SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF REGENTS & THE STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Friday, March 4, 2022  
Conducted Via Remote Participation

Regents	SAC/SGA Members & Alternates	Staff
Holly Howery (chaired meeting)	Julia Noriega, Chair – SAC	President Terrence Cheng
Rick Porth	Brandon Iovene, Vice Chair - SAC	Alice Pritchard
Elease Wright	Eliot Ryan, Sec’y - SAC	Alison Buckley
Aviva Budd	Kimberly Shropshire	Angelo Simoni
Julia Noriega	Will Herens	Pam Heleen
Brandon Iovene	Luis Sanchez	Kerry Kelley
Arrived late:	Matt Julius	Lesley Mara
- Felice Gray-Kemp	Nelson Rivera	Ben Barnes
- Ira Bloom	Haneen Alkabasi	Mark Rozewski
- JoAnn Ryan	Lysette Rojas	Sherry Paquette
- Ari Santiago	Chienye Emenyonu	
ExOfficio:	Tennel Rhodes	
- David Blitz	Eric Green	
- Kelli Vallieres	Tahira Gordon	
- Colena Sesanker	Yuxin Hao	
	Jocelyn Eagle	

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Regent Holly Howery, as moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Pam Heleen added that a quorum of the Board was present.

### **WELCOME**

President Cheng welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda items.

### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

*On a motion by Regent Wright and seconded by Regent Porth, the agenda was adopted by unanimous voice vote.*

### **WELCOME REMARKS**

Julia Noriega, Chair of the Student Advisory Committee gave her opening remarks and thanked everyone for attending.

### DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK ON KEY STUDENT ISSUES

Discussion took place on the issues of affordability and barriers to student success and completion:

- Julia Noriega asked if there are any increases in other types of aid for students as tuition increases (i.e., food or housing aid).  
Ben Barnes noted the increased set-aside money for student aid, as well as the increase in Pell grant funds and the fully funded PACT program. Lesley Mara commented on how the issues of food insecurity are being addressed (i.e., gift from Stop & Shop), as well as a community college pilot program for affordable housing.  
The Care for Kids program is also being looked at to address the issues of childcare for students with dependents.  
Luis Sanchez suggested that we should investigate using some of the emergency grant to offset the cost of gas for commuter students.
- Will Herens noted that non-traditional students who are only offered loans in the aid package may choose not to continue their education rather than incurring the debt.  
Alison Buckley noted the importance of community college affordability without student loans. It is one of our top priorities to find alternatives to support part-time students and adult learners.
- Brandon Iovene asked about the Board's top DEI priorities. Alison Buckley responded that the sense of belonging is at the core of their conversation. Professional advising staff has been hired to guide students, and it is important that these advisors reflect the student population. It was decided that a follow-up meeting to discuss DEI initiatives would be scheduled.
- Haneen Alkabasi asked about student aid options that aren't FAFSA based. Alison Buckley responded by suggesting that it is always best to fill out FAFSA first, then explore other options for grants and scholarships (work-study).
- Jocelyn Eagle asked about work-study possibilities for students to pay off tuition.  
Alison Buckley responded by pointing out that work-study finances will flow better once the colleges are one merged institution. Work has begun on campuses to ensure that student services are available when and where students need them (i.e., students taking evening classes).
- Mark Rozewski (SCSU) provided information on the cost drivers of tuition at the universities. CSCU is the least costly four-year degree in Connecticut and almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the students do not pay the full price of tuition because of state, federal, and institutional aid. In part, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) drives the increases in the cost of education.
- Julia Noriega asked what might happen to students who are eligible for PACT but who wouldn't receive PACT funding because too many students register. Alison Buckley responded that all students who register by the priority deadline are evaluated and then any who come in after are evaluated on a first-come, first-serve basis. Kerry Kelley said that if we become oversubscribed, they are prepared to request more funding from the state. She also that discussion have begun to expand the program to part-time students, non-credit students, and other non-traditional students.
- Haneen Alkabasi asked about food pantry participation by all the campuses, as well as suggesting that students would be excited about adding gas gift cards. Lesley Mara indicated that all institutions (including Charter Oak) are running some form of food pantries. Many have used the pantry as a hub for providing other supports. She will investigate whether there are any gas station partners willing to assist students.

Angelo Simoni indicated that there are some community colleges who have used student activity funds to purchase gas cards.

- Brandon Iovene asked how we can ensure residential housing costs don't become too expensive for students and why CSUs have different housing pricing, making some campuses feel less accessible for some students. Mark Rozewski explained slight differences in costs may be attributed to the differences in dorm design, when they were built, and how they were financed.
- Regent Porth indicated that many of the community foundations around the state have pretty large scholarship programs; some require a FAFSA and some do not. He suggested that if it isn't being done already that we should publicize on websites the availability of the non-public scholarships. He also provided the link [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org) for students to get additional assistance with non-academic supports such as housing, childcare, and mental health services.
- Eliot Ryan asked how PACT advertisement is being addressed. Kerry Kelley says marketing and a targeted launch is being worked on.
- Saphira Dorelus asked about extending PACT to part-time students. She indicated that it is very difficult to carry 12 or 15 credits with developmental/non-credit classes. Alison Buckley discussed accelerated terms and Guided Pathways. Saphira also asked whether Timely Care will be renewed at the end of the academic year. Angelo Simoni responded that the program is doing well and is running for two years.
- Regents Wright, Howery, and Budd thanked everyone for attending and urged them to continue these conversations within the SAC and on the individual campuses.

#### **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Regent Wright, seconded by Regent Porth, the meeting adjourned after a unanimous voice vote at 11:04 a.m.