

**Student Advisory Committee to the
Board of Regents for Higher Education
March 7, 2014
12:00pm-2:00pm
2nd Floor: Room 263
61 Woodland St, Hartford, CT**

a. Call to order

- 12:05pm

b. Roll Call

- Gateway CC
- Middlesex CC
- Three Rivers CC
- Manchester CC
- Capital CC
- Northwestern CC
- Naugatuck Valley CC
- Eastern CSU
- Central CSU
- Western CSU

c. Approval of minutes

- i. Minutes approved

d. Update on tuition proposal from Erika Steiner, CFO

- Erika introduced herself and introduced
- Three topics:

i. Mid-year projections

1. Tuition and fees are lower than the budget due to enrollment declines
2. We budgeted revenue to be 502.9M but our forecast is 487.4M
3. The costs of fringe benefits are increasing. The state pays a large portion of those benefits; driving by the state pension plans. We budgeted for 185.9M and the forecast is 209.0M.
4. As a system we are projecting to lose 5.3million in incoming revenue
 - a. The cost increase in the community colleges. We budgeted 797,104 and it will cost us 5,474,229.
5. Enrollment:
 - a. Is largely flat or down.

ii. Tuition & fee increases

1. The finance team began to model Fiscal year 2015 outlook at the end of last year
2. Given enrollment trends and the low level of state funding, the outlook is not acceptable.
3. State funding has not been keeping up with rising cost
4. Our state block grants have not kept up with 15% CPI increase over the period shown.

5. Goal: “develop a long term tuition strategy to keep the tuition at the minimum while affording a world-class education and make tuition more predictable for families”
6. The BOR began to work with the office of policy and management to find a solution that is acceptable
 - a. Curtailing tuition increases is a common goal among the students, BOR, and governor
 - b. Developed a plan which includes additional operating support from the state which allows us to keep the tuition increase to 2% in the current year.
 - c. This is the lowest increase we have seen in a decade

iii. Governor’s Budget

1. Govern is very supportive of this
 2. Bond funds will enable us to begin implementation of our Transform CSCU strategic plan:
 - a. Creation of smart and genius classrooms across the 17 institutions
 - b. Upgrading our IT infrastructure to afford our students and our administration ease of use and efficiencies
 - c. Upgrade facilities system-wide with infusion of funds for maintenance and master planning
 3. Governor’s proposed budget
 - a. Strategic support providing \$60 million of operating funds
- iv. **Conclusion:** this new team is dedicated to making Higher education affordable, committed to creating a world class system of higher education, embarking on a strategic journey to get us there.

v. Questions & Answers:

1. The 60 million is not enough?
 - a. The governor is using this amount is a down payment on this system
2. Who is working with the early college program?
 - a. There is a lead person on it.
3. Go back to get ahead program is an incentive for people; to increase enrollment; what is the projection of success for that? And if we are offering that program; it seems like it’s a reward for people who are out of the system but not for people who are already in the system?
 - a. We have excess capacity and this program is to get people back in to increase enrollment. There are other scholarships to reward students already in the system.
4. There are capacity issues?
 - a. The BOR didn’t know that and will address this issue.
5. What will we be receiving on the level of services?
 - a. We are getting an infusion

vi. Information:

1. The genius classrooms are an addition more as like an option and will not replace the current classroom. This is just an idea and there is no plan yet. It could be someone of the webcam with people in the room.
2. Middlesex CC clubs are trying to attract high school students so that they can attend the school to help increase the enrollment.
3. The BOR will be campaigning and marketing the whole system
4. The 2% has been approved on the finance committee level and it will be taken to the BOR for approval.

e. Sub-committee reports

- **Legislative Affairs**

- i. As far as the statue change, Senator Cassano isn't sure how he will bring it up, he doesn't know if he will put it in the larger bill or propose an amendment.
- ii. Justin Ahern gathered a lot of students to attend the appropriations meetings with about 15 people.
- iii. We are working on the Veterans Bill: So that veterans who received advanced training, can use their training as transfer credits in their specific area of training. Currently their training allows them to only get physical education credits.
- iv. Statue change:
 1. Terms of SAC start in June so that campuses can begin their elective process
 2. Add charter Oak to executive position

- **Student Affairs**

- i. Waitlist feature for the community colleges and state colleges is available. The CCs are testing it. Please test out your own institutions waitlist so we can compile that information and tell IT if it is working or not.
- ii. We want to standardize a communication system for SAC members so that students can bring their concerns directly to us. Students don't know who we are; we can create an e-mail so they can reach us directly.
 1. Hold a forum once a month for an hour, give out snacks and ask them if there are any concerns and let them know it's unanimous so they can express themselves freely.
 2. Manchester CC provides information about SAC through the student newspaper, and active clubs.
 3. Middlesex holds a session once a month and offers food.
- iii. Hunger issue in the CC: spoke to a Regent and she suggested speaking to legislators to make exception for snack benefits. It may not solve the issue because the food is so expensive. So we should see if CC can work with food banks to provide for food. NVCC provides gift cards and debit cards for the hungry. A lot people are at school for 8 hours days with no ability for eat, there is no refrigerator and many can apply for SNAPP but they don't know that.
 1. Action plan:
 - a. Bring awareness of SNAPP benefits
 - b. Work with Food banks to see if they can provide aid.

- iv. E-mail Linda if you have specifics on how to create a food pantry to standardize across the CC system. – Three Rivers CC holds a food pantry.
- v. PLEASE FILL OUT: The “wait list for registration on mycommnet” sheet and bring to next meeting for Linda

- **Bylaws**

- i. Didn't have enough members when meeting
- ii. Move forward with the elections process
- iii. Two possible changes:
 - 1. Allow a formal way for candidates to get up and speak
 - 2. Open ballot that is published to see who vote for whom.
 - a. Why open ballot?
 - i. The committee thinks that we should be held accountable for the votes that we make.

- f. **Preparation for meeting with the Board of regents – March 13, 2014**

- Next Thursday, bi-annual combined meeting with the BOR – 10AM at Capital CC
- Script written out by Sarah that Eugene will be read to BOR; before he does that he wants our input.
 - i. 2% block is extremely favorable, but we believe we should say no to take stance and demonstrate that the student body does not like the tuition increase at all.
- Eugene will e-mail everyone the document that Sarah prepared to present to the BOR and wait for our 48 hour response on what else we want to add:
 - i. Manchester CC wants to see how the Transform CSU will impact students?
 - ii. NVCC wants to know if there are steps in place?
- Capital CC says we should vote NO so we show the student opposition.
 - iii. If Sarah and Eugene vote NO, it will still most likely be passed by the rest of the regents because the Finance committee voted yes.
- How should Sarah and Eugene handle the voting situation?
 - i. Everyone should give Eugene feedback within the next three days (by Monday.)
- The e-mail issue has NOT been resolved and should be brought to IT
 - i. Sarah and Eugene are assigned to the student affairs committee, 90% of their vote is on that committee. The other committees, they can state their voice but they do NOT have a vote in that committee.
 - ii. To get a vote in the IT committee, we are waiting on Sarah on that information.

- g. **New Business**

- Those in favor of Eugene and Sarah voting NO for tuition increase 2% block
 - i. Naugatuck Valley CC
 - ii. Middlesex CC
 - iii. Three Rivers CC
 - iv. Manchester CC
 - v. Capital CC
 - vi. Northwestern CC
 - vii. Central CSU
 - viii. Western CSU

- Those in favor of Eugene and Sarah voting YES for tuition increase
 - i. Eastern CSU
- They have 15 minutes to present to the BOR
 - i. Eugene will read Sarah's remark and allow for Sub-committees to present what they want. Remarks are brief and we are just focusing on 2 minutes for each sub-committee to state their opinion. **YOU MUST SEND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING TO EUGENE BEFORE THE MEETING.**
 - 1. Student Affairs
 - 2. Legislative Affairs
- Capital CC proposed having an actual dialogue meeting with the BOR members so we can have more than 15 minutes to talk and actually express ourselves.
- NVCC comments in regards to crisis counselor; the issue is being addressed by legislators, the state will be providing crisis counseling in the community colleges.

h. Adjournment

- 12:59pm - Moved by Gateway CC and Second by Northwestern CC