

**Student Advisory Committee to the
Board of Regents for Higher Education
April 11, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Room 263
61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

Minutes

- I. **Call to Order at 10:08**

- II. **Roll Call** – No quorum.
 - a. ESCU
 - b. CCC
 - c. GCC
 - d. NCCC
 - e. NVCC
 - f. SCSU
 - g. TRCC
 - h. WCSU

- III. **Approval of Minutes** (January and March) – Postponed because of lack of quorum.

- IV. **Subcommittee Reports**
 - a. By-Laws – No Report

 - b. Legislative Affairs
 - SAC proposal to change term dates and add language regarding Charter Oak in the statute may be at a dead end.
 - Subcommittee co-chair will work to determine if something can be done at this point in the legislative session.

 - c. Student Affairs
 - *Discussion of proposal submitted by CT Students for a Dream to the BOR for institutional aid to be provided to undocumented students.*
Importance of issue emphasized by various students. Questions were raised as to whether there was anything to BOR could do without a change in state law. Rep from NVCC suggested that other discretionary funds might be available to college presidents for undocumented students, and raised concerns about how confidentiality might be handled to allay undocumented students' fears about revealing their legal status. Chair suggested inviting both Ernestine Weaver from the System Office and representatives from CT Students for a Dream to the next SAC meeting.

 - *Proposal for information campaign about community resources to address hunger and other issues.*

NVCC has compiled a list of community resources on its website and featured links to the page prominently on its homepage. Student Affairs would like to develop a proposal that would expand this model to other institutions.

- Awaiting feedback from SAC reps on waitlist feature

V. Campus Reports

- a. Gateway Community College
 - Continued concerns over deficit, vacant positions and cuts to services; projected budgets for next year do not appear to fill these positions or increase services
- b. Capitol Community College
 - Student Government and other organizations are planning end of the year activities, including Spirit Week, a cultural festival, and a talent show. Academic advisors are also having success meeting with students in alternative venues such as the hallways and cafeteria.
- c. Eastern Connecticut State University
 - Rep explained that support expressed for tuition increase at March meeting was due to ECSU's need for increased funding.
 - ECSU students testified before appropriations committee and have been involved in advocating for increased funding from the state legislature.
 - Rep inquired about the possibility of submitting an alternative appropriations bill to the legislature. Committee felt it prudent to continue to support the bill already offered by the BOR, but would like more information regarding Dr. Gray's testimony before the legislature.
- d. Northwestern Connecticut Community College
 - New facility under construction in the fall
 - Hosting Sexual Assault Awareness Month forum on 4/11/14 with Sen. Blumenthal as a launch for its newly formed Sexual Assault Response Team
 - End of the year programs include 18th annual literary festival, annual student vs. faculty softball tournament, and healthy choices festival.
- e. Three Rivers Community College
 - Current reserves will be able to cover this year's deficit, but there are concerns about covering costs over the next couple of years, especially with the large cost of fringe benefits for employees.
- f. Western Connecticut State University
 - National accreditation of School of Business and success of first year of its Learning Commons Center
 - Increase of student activity fee by \$9
 - Discussion of concerns about pilot remedial course Math 198, including overbearing workload and high dropout rate due to increased time commitment in lab and outside of class. Provost Gargano stopped in to introduce himself and fielded questions about whether these issues were being investigated and about whether

high schools were being targeted as a place to begin remedial coursework. Reps also expressed concerns about how college deficits were affecting tutoring services, especially for students in remedial courses. Provost Gargano agreed to return to a future meeting to get SAC input on the student-wide success center.

- g. Naugatuck Valley Community College
 - NVCC rep weighed in on the remediation/tutoring discussing by pointing out that NVCC's ACE program provides free tutoring 7 days a week and suggesting that the model might be expanded to other institutions in the system.
 - NVCC does not have a budget deficit, and some of its surplus is being used to assist other colleges
 - Student Activities added 10 new clubs through Student Activities
- VI. Announcements
- a. Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education is having their Conference in October, exact date TBA.
 - b. The Chair will be attending the remaining search committee meetings for the three community college presidential searches (ACC, TRCC, QVCC).
- VII. Adjournment at 11:32