



Board of Regents

STUDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes

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

SAC/SGA Members & Alternates	Staff
Julia Noriega, Chair – SAC	Angelo Simoni
Brandon Iovene, Vice Chair - SAC	Pam Heleen
Eliot Ryan, Sec’y - SAC	Dr. Kim James
Kimberly Shropshire	Kerry Beckford
Will Herens	Colleen Kearney
Luis Sanchez	
Saphira Dorelus	
Haneen Alkabasi	
Matt Julius	
Tennel Rhodes	
Patrick Moody	

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Julia Noriega called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and thanked everyone for coming. She announced that to be respectful of the guests’ time, the calling of roll, adoption of the agenda, and approval of meeting minutes will be deferred until the end of the meeting if time permits.

She asked that Angelo Simoni introduce the first speaker.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION UPDATES

Angelo Simoni stated that an update on both community college and university DEI initiatives appears as an agenda item to follow-up on questions at the Joint Meeting of the Board and the Student Advisory Committee that occurred in early March.

Angelo introduced Kerry Beckford, Interim Associate Director of Equity and Inclusion. She discussed the development of equity and inclusion initiatives with Dr. Kim James at Tunxis Community College and how those initiatives were the springboard to their introduction at the System level.

She noted that President Cheng is a huge advocate for DEI work with specific focus on the lack of faculty of color across campuses. She and Dr. James have been working with Human Resources to create “pause points” in the interview process to ensure (1) that advertising placement will generate a diverse pool of candidates and (2) that the pool of candidates is diverse.

Professor Beckford stated that the Equity Council was formed in 2019 and reports directly to President Cheng on how to DEI initiatives can improve all campuses and represent all students.

Discussion took place:

- Brandon lovene asked how they will demonstrate an equal focus across all marginalized groups. Kerry Beckford responded by saying that “this is a marathon, not a sprint” and the program will improve over time, but the focus right now is race issues across campuses.
- Will Herens asked why they have chosen to start with the faculty and not with students. Professor Beckford responded by saying that if they focus on who is filling the faculty positions, it will show students of many different identities that they can also fill those roles. Dr. James added that there is a need to create a vibrant student pipeline to fill CSCU positions.
- Brandon lovene stated that LGBTQ+ issues need to be acknowledged and not pushed aside, in addition to race issues.
- Tenell Rhodes shared the story of his job search, applying for all CT colleges and universities in advance of his completion of a Masters’ degree in May. He only received an automated response if any at all. He finally was offered and accepted an adjunct position at Charter Oak contingent on his degree completion. CSCU seems to be losing their graduates because CSCU does not recruit its own graduates before degree completion. He only secured the Charter Oak position because staff knew him.
- Haneen Alkabasi asked if adding people of color in administration would help increase enrollment. Dr. James responded that we need to add people of color to high level positions and provide the supports so that they stay.

TITLE IX UPDATES

Julia Noriega introduced Colleen Kearney, Project Director, CSCU SAFE to describe some of the Title IX initiatives. Video-based online training programs are available for students on sexual violence and prevention and intimate partner violence. The focus of some of the training is on consent, rethinking relationships, and bystander intervention.

Campus police and security attend extensive training through the State and work alongside the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Coalition provides 24/7 hotline coverage for domestic violence. Their advocates can come to campus and speak with students comfortably and confidentially.

Discussion took place:

- Brandon lovene noted the ineffectiveness of the “Not Anymore” training program because the answers to the required training are easily obtained by googling. Angelo Simoni noted the problem and stated that the System was not aware of the issue.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Angelo Simoni noted the following:

- The CT State Substantive Change document was accepted by NECHE and is available for review at www.ct.edu/merger.
- The May meeting of the Student Advisory Committee will focus on plans for the upcoming year.

ADJOURN

Julia Noriega called the meeting to a close at 11:00 a.m.