

**Student Advisory Committee to the
Board of Regents for Higher Education**

Friday, October 14, 2016

1:00-3:00 pm

Board Room, 1st Floor

61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Minutes-Regular Meeting

1. Call to order: 1:06
2. Roll Call:
 - MXCC
 - COSC
 - CSSC
 - CCSU
 - NCCC
 - HCC
 - QVCC
 - ECSU
 - GWCC
 - ACC
 - TXCC
3. Greetings from President Ojakian
 - Wished to check in and wish everyone well with school and holidays. This upcoming year we will need to work hard at the legislature (state budget is not doing well).
 - The Board of Regents will not be meeting again in full until March, please keep that in mind.
 - Celebrate and enjoy your holiday, be ready to come back and work in January.
 - “No matter what you think is ahead of you, regardless of what happens in the world, I will always have your backs. We will make this a secure and inclusive, diverse place for everyone together.”
4. Motion to adopt minutes from October 14th, meeting. Linda from COSC motioned, Fred from HCC second.
5. Holly acknowledges Jason Ebling to introduce guests to SAC meeting.
 - David Johnston, Allan Crammer, and student representatives of program-Proposal for a state wide student voice committee, main concern is how to bring together campuses?

- Asking SAC members to bring this to attention of SGO at their schools and if they are interested to share their voice and be a part of the group.
 - Plan for spring of 2017- State wide conference with student leaders leading students.
 - Create a way for students to come together and participate in events on each other's campuses. Consider a board of college presidents who can help facilitate, create an app that allows for sign in and updates per campus, and ways to connect with a variety of students.
 - David and Allan are open to any feedback and encourage any phone calls or emails if interested or have any questions or any interest in the leadership conference.
 - Please take this to your student governments and discuss this with them as well.
6. Remarks from Chair:
- Every student has the chance to be heard and non-communication will not be tolerated. Holly would like feedback regarding any and everything that concerns those represented because the BOR report reflects everyone. If there are any questions or comments, please do not hesitate in bringing them to Holly.
7. Open Education Resources with Kevin Corcoran:
- Book and other educational resources available for two year, four year, public and private colleges and universities.
 - The rising cost of textbooks is having a direct effect on students, showing an increase in dropouts from classes and schools all together as well as grade decrease due to not being able to afford a textbook.
 - PIRGS is an advocacy program partnering with Trinity College and UConn Storrs CT chapters to help cover the state with new book buying programs.
 - The program allows for creative commons licensing which allows faculty to work with the user friendly program as well. An example of this is My Open Math with Housatonic being a leader and success in the program. Currently working in 8 out of the 17 colleges in Connecticut.
 - Other possibilities include: Open Stacks Textbooks, a program partnering with Central Connecticut State University. And text.com, a text book exchange organization.
 - For further information the power point will be available. Remember, there is not right or wrong way to use these programs and can be tailored per campus and what needs can be met.
8. Board Of Regents Report Items:
- Fred from HCC asking for a better cohesion and partnership between students and faculty to promote programs on campus and advocate for fellow students. In response, Barbra Richards, Vice President of Faculty Chair on Faculty Committee

proposed a joint meeting between SAC representatives and Faculty Committee representatives to offer a better working environment for the two.

- Holly acknowledges the state has financial troubles and previous legislative session did not remedy these situations. There will be likely be tuition increases. Haley from NCCC notes a larger cut means losing professors and programs which affects students. Holly responds with support President Ojakian as much as we can and show support for our colleges. Understand their will be budget cuts however, we will do what we can to make the increase as easy as possible on other students.
 - Haley from NCCC raises security concerns. NCCC has an over-time police officer patrol ground from 6:30pm-9:00pm four days a week. This is making students feel unsafe and unsecure on their campuses. Cathy Chapman an advisor at NCCC states that the faculty is trained on what to do in an emergency and it might help to train students as well so they feel prepared and safer too.
 - Library hours: Several colleges need better hours that are more conducive to early morning and evening students as well as students who utilize the technological resources of the library to complete projects and other class tasks. SAC representatives propose the possibility of student workers, or re-management of hours during day and/or possibly taking weekend days and applying those hours to the week day.
 - Gay/Straight Alliance Club: NCCC proposes the preferred first name program which allows students who are more comfortable with a different first name to be called this and be on transcripts, and attendance rosters officially. This allows for an open environment that is more comfortable. Central is already using this program and there have been highly positive results. Will be taken to BOR for discussion or adoption at all schools.
 - Transportation via bus or train: New bus passes are being reduced for students what about train passes for campuses closer to trains than bus stations? SAC representatives are asked to gather more information regarding bus and train passes for students for next SAC meeting.
9. Getting more students involved: Holly tabled conversation until next meeting in the interest of time.
10. Committee reports: Linda from COSC notes BOR bylaws were reviewed during a brief meeting regarding updating there is a more in-depth meeting to be had in the coming month.
11. Open discussion and any other concerns:
- Barbara Richards from Faculty Committee: SAC representatives and other SGO members interested in tuition and retention focus groups?
 - Holly listed dates and times of next SAC meetings: January 13th at 1:00pm, February 24th at 10:00am (possible joint faculty meeting a week earlier), March

31st at 10:00am, April 28th at 10:00am, June 9th at 10:00am, July 28th at 10:00am
(elections), September 8th at 10:00am.

12. Adjourn meeting at 3:02 motioned by Holly from CSSC, second by Brian from CCSU.

**Have a great holiday everyone, and remember to bring ID to next meeting to check in
at door!**