

**Student Advisory Committee to the  
Board of Regents for Higher Education  
December 12, 2014  
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Third Floor Boardroom  
61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

- I. Call to Order – 12:05
  
- II. Roll Call
  - a. CCC
  - b. HCC
  - c. NWCC
  - d. SCSU
  - e. COSC
  - f. WCSU
  - g. CCSU
  - h. GCC
  - i. ECSU
  - j. TRCC
  - k. MCC
  
- III. Approval of Minutes (November)
  
- IV. Presentation by Erika Steiner, CFO for the Board of Regents
  - a. Erika Steiner introduced herself as the CFO for the BOR
    - i. Discussed the recent recession.
    - ii. 1.2 Million from the Universities
    - iii. 1.1 Million was also removed from the transform budget.
    - iv. Nothing was taken from the Colleges because they are hugely underfunded.
    - v. Much of it was made up for in open positions that will not be filled and there was also a decrease in the fringe benefits increase.
    - vi. From the Transform budget, it was removed from go back to get ahead.
    - vii. The way we receive block grants is based on institutions. The Universities get a grant, Colleges get a grant, COSC gets a grant and the BOR gets a small grand for administrative costs. The Universities were issued recessions, but not the colleges.
    - viii. 4.8 million is remaining in go back to get ahead.
    - ix. If we have a huge spring turnout, we might go back to the state legislature but it's not currently in our plans.
    - x. Discussed the Biennium process

1. Current services budget
2. Capital Budget
  - a. There are different ways the colleges and universities have asked for money in the past. We are working toward the University model.
  - b. We are asking for bond money for IT infrastructure.
  - c. We have asked for money for smart classrooms too.
  - d. Lots of money for deferred maintenance
3. Budget options/expansion options
  - a. Additional funding above and beyond in operating expenses
  - b. Supports new programs, new endeavors, new requirements.
  - c. Some parts of 2020 are included in this budget
  - d. Security and safety expenses, which came from a study
  - e. Regents scholarship program
  - f. Academic advising
  - g. Early college
  - h. Developmental education
  - i. Veterans outreach
  - j. Advanced manufacturing
  - k. P20 Win Program (network infrastructure for all education in the state through higher education to be linked in one database).
4. Midterm adjustments are rare and generally only apply to mistakes in the original budget. The three areas are submitted separately.
5. There are assumptions made in the process including a fee and tuition increase.
6. There are challenges to the budgeting process
  - a. Half of our budget comes from tuition
  - b. 80% of our costs are going up 5.5%, the rest at inflation
  - c. We don't want an increase in tuition of more than 2%
  - d. State budgets are strained
  - e. We don't have a lot of manageable expenses
  - f. Enrollment is decreasing
  - g. The reserves are going down
7. Budgets are prepared with the input of a lot of committees and the schools
8. The budget calls for an increase in state funding to keep tuition increases at 2%.
9. We all play a part in helping the legislator put emphases on higher ed.
10. What do we need to do to help?
  - a. There's a very strong message in 90,000 students saying they can't afford another increase.
  - b. We need notice and an action plan as students to get the word out.

- c. We have an obligation to manage our expenses which is hard because most of the money is based in collectively bargained people costs

11. Can we get the system office its own budget? The formula doesn't seem fair to certain institutions.

12. How is the recent turmoil impacting our ability to ask for funding? We think that it might hurt our expansion options.

- b. Dr. Gray addressed the committee regarding how SAC works with BOR
  - i. The Provost is the official liaison between SAC and Dr. Gray
  - ii. Interim Provost will run through June 2016
  - iii. We are not doing a full blown search for an interim
  - iv. We should have the post filled by January
  - v. Participation – we need to have a clause in our by-laws to allow voting via phone conference. That should help get attendance up.
  - vi. We are encouraging Presidents of the colleges and universities to encourage students to participate.
  - vii. Goal is to get ahead of subjects we need to participate in.
  - viii. Student's voices are important to the process and that's a good thing.
  - ix. Legislative efforts to include students to the capitol to get our voices heard
  - x. Remember we are a young system. We've only been around for 3 years. These challenges are part of our maturation.

V. Joint Meeting with FAC 1:20 pm

- a. Introductions were done
- b. Transform 2020 – what are our values and priorities
  - i. FAC crafted a resolution opposed to Transform 2020 (a resolution not to endorse in its current form). That resolution has been making the rounds through the faculty at many of the campuses.
  - ii. Centralized enormous amounts of activities at the student office, we don't think that will work.
  - iii. Some objectives of the plan are very vague.
  - iv. The students aren't sure if it's fitting for the SAC to put forth a similar resolution as the FAC.
  - v. Students don't understand how to dig into the initiatives when they are so vague. How do we get more details?
  - vi. What we are doing doesn't appear to be working as students, what should we be doing to keep our voices heard as students?
  - vii. While there has been some "delay" things are proceeding as planned with transform 2020 despite what they are telling us.
  - viii. There are very limited amounts of funding requested for the next two years.
  - ix. We need to figure out what we oppose, what we want to explore, and what we want to add to the process. The committees should include students.
  - x. BCG never showed up in front of the SAC.

- xi. Focus groups meetings didn't happen until November but the initiatives started in May. The round tables ended up being mainly information centered and not feedback centered.
- xii. This is so confusing for students....faculty agreed it's confusing for them too.
- xiii. The surveys that went out to faculty and students were very focused on getting the 'right' answers.
- xiv. What of the 36 initiatives do we think are most valuable so we can advocate for them.
- xv. Eastern (students) is currently pulling apart the initiatives
- xvi. How do we get ahold of the community colleges. Some colleges just haven't sent representatives to the SAC.
- xvii. It's difficult to keep students engaged, they are such a diverse group. But we have to start with the people who show up.
- xviii. Let's have a joint meeting to discuss transform, a full day retreat.
  - 1. SAC and FAC open meeting with SGA's
  - 2. To be held on Southern campus
  - 3. SAC to hold the meeting to invite the FAC
  - 4. Members of the newly formed planning committee will address everything else including the date either 1/23/15 or 1/30/15.

VI. Announcements and Concerns

VII. Adjournment