

**Student Advisory Committee to the
Board of Regents for Higher Education
May 15, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 am.
Regents Boardroom (Ground Floor)
61 Woodland St, Hartford, CT**

Minutes – Regular Meeting

- I. Call to Order: 10:09

- II. Roll Call:

COSC
CCSU
SCSU
GCC
NVCC
TRCC
MCC
ACC
NCC
WCSU

- III. Approval of Minutes (March, April 9th and 10th)
 - a. Tabled to the next meeting, motion to revise current agenda to reflect the proper end time of 11:30 am. Motion passed.

- IV. SAC Elections: Information/Updates
 - a. Guest: Atty. Greg Daniels, Asst. Counsel, CSCU Legal Services
 - i. Information was provided
 - ii. You should have already held your elections
 - iii. Tom Clark has turned the duties over to Greg Daniels
 - iv. Make sure your students are getting certified after the election
 - v. Working to combine the certification letter with a release from the students to allow their email address to be released together
 - vi. Elections have to take place in July. We will announce the date next week.
 - vii. In advance of the June meeting, representatives will have information on what and when to submit.

- V. Possible formation of ad hoc committee?

- a. Can we form an ad hoc committee to do research into tuition? How are some states working to reduce tuition? How can we do that?
- b. Comments, we think that would be very helpful not only to gather the information but also to make the contacts with other student leaders around the company. We should have a deadline so we can get this ready for the next legislative session.
- c. We should do the work over the summer when we aren't in full blown school mode.
- d. We will propose it for next session after the new elections.

VI. Student Background Checks

- a. This came up a couple of months ago. New guidelines have been proposed and passed. They are now considering what should apply to student workers.
- b. The BOR wants more information and comment from our committee.
- c. We have stated we need more information on the proposal, here's what they came back with:
 - i. Proposed policy to apply to new student workers
 - ii. Limited to RA, Students assigned to public safety, involved in financial transactions and other deemed to be in safety or security positions.
 - iii. SS trace, Criminal searches local, state, and national including sex offenders list.
 - iv. Are we limiting access to higher education to people who need a second chance, especially at the community college?
 - v. What are the ramifications if something shows up?
 - vi. Are we considering violations if students were minors?
 - vii. What degree of infractions will be held against the student?
 - viii. Some would like to see the same standards apply to everyone employed by the schools.
 - ix. There are currently few background checks, some would like to see that changed.
 - x. Should the background check just be informational about the applicant or exclusionary
 - xi. Is there any financial impact? Yes, it would cost about 250-400 per student. It should be on the lower end of that because the checks would not be as extensive as with other employees.
 - xii. Would we check every student eligible for work study? Or wait until a student is actually hired. There should be a two day turnaround for checks so waiting won't cause an issue.
 - xiii. These are all questions that are great, but how do we feel about these specific students being checked? We will bring a couple questions back to the HR department but it sounds like we are in line with what they think about it.
 - xiv. Final question, who's paying for it? The BOR or each institution.

VII. Looking ahead: Legislative Advocacy Training Sessions

- a. Ad hoc committee
 - i. Staggered letter writing campaigns

1. There should be a constant barrage of letters to the legislatures. We could rotate by campus per week.
2. We should also consider staging it by important dates.
3. We need new members who are in tune with the deadlines and committee schedules.
- ii. Coordinated/uniform messaging/advertising of training sessions
 1. Begin with the training earlier than January so we are ready for the legislative sessions (this fall). Every campus or regional training sessions.
- iii. Timeline for approach
 1. Ties into all these approaches. Getting students ready for all the events and letter writing campaigns.
- iv. Getting legislators on every campus to visit/meet students
 1. Work to get the legislators onto the campuses, facilitated through the SAC reps (in the fall).
 2. This is a critical idea to get them involved and to hear from the students and for us to hear from them.
- v. Tour the Legislative Office Building (SAC and SGA reps)
 1. This would get new SAC reps ready to be comfortable with the process.
- vi. Coordinating actual reception (campus administrators, Regents, System Officials, legislators)
 1. This would be join effort with the BOR to make sure this is planned and it's going to be an opportunity to get together and network.
- vii. We should definitely pre-game everything out. We should all be prepared to discuss our subjects fluently.
 1. If we are meeting with legislatures, it's ok to invite students that aren't members of the committee. Sometimes we need to hear fresh voices.
 2. Great ideas to have open assembly meetings on campus.
- viii. We need to have support from the BOR and legislative side of the problem.
 1. We only have one lobbyist. That's part of the issue. That's why it is so important to get students involved earlier with Kyle.
 2. It's also important to connect with the President's on these issues. That might help the students as well because they are very focused on advocating for their campuses.
 3. We should go beyond the schools to the local city and chamber of commerce to get support for school funding legislation.
 4. Let's not lose the student voice too.
 5. We should hook into the Alumni Associations too.

- VIII. Update: Transform Steering Committee
 - a. Sarah was sitting on the committee

- b. It was dissolved
- c. Faculty were frustrated and they did not feel their voices were heard
- d. Ultimately it was turned over to the campus Presidents.
- e. It would be helpful if we could 'advise' the board on Dr. Grey's tenure (his contract is up in a year).
- f. Not a formal vote of confidence, but perhaps some feedback
- g. 50% of transform is either done or will be done regardless of our feedback. We need to focus on affordability.
- h. We need to endorse initiatives that will save the system money to make us more efficient. The quality of education is as important as the cost.
- i. So what would we say to the BOR about what we need to see from our leaders and the BOR?
 - i. We need to interact with board members more
 - ii. The interactions we had with the previous Provost were positive. We need more interactions with the new Provost.
 - iii. This is a business and we are running it more and more like a business
 - iv. In addition to planning for the future, we also need to be concerned with the here and now.
 - v. What if we do an introductory session when we bring in the new SAC committee.

IX. Announcements and Concerns

- a. Presidential Search Committees (WCSU, NWCC)
 - i. WCSU Presidential search should be imminent.
 - ii. NWCC will be commencing very soon.
- b. Final thoughts:
 - i. I know that it feels like we aren't getting much traction, but we have made an incredible difference than we ever have been before.
 - ii. We'll be facing lots of new challenges in the future, but remember, we speak for the students, especially the students that don't speak for themselves.
 - iii. Thanks for the opportunity to work with everyone.
 - iv. The June meeting will be less formal.

X. Adjournment – 11:39 am