

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
Minutes of Student Advisory Committee Meeting
Friday, November 5, 2021
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

Special Informational Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Julia Noriega called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

WELCOME REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT CHENG

President Cheng welcomed each representative and alternate to the Student Advisory Committee and thanked them for their service to the Board. He provided the following comments about members of the SAC:

- Have a significant voice in the direction of the entire CSCU system.
- Should take advantage of the opportunity to discuss issues with other student leaders across the system and create solutions together.
- See issues real-time from the students' perspective. The ability to have their voice should remain independent and focused on the student experience is key. Don't be swayed by other influencers (i.e., staff, System Office, faculty)
- Are the real arbiters of whether a program/service is really working.
- Can contact the BOR, System Office leadership and the President Office with feedback on policy issues which affect behavior which in turn changes culture.

CT STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE - DR. ALISON BUCKLEY

- Guided Pathways Advising Update - Community colleges are implementing this program now in support of student success. Every community college student will have a designated person to help select classes, find options to pay for classes/college, explore clubs and student government. The initial plan is to reduce the average number of advisees per advisor from 750 to 250 students. A push is on to hire more Guided Pathways Advisors. It was planned to hire over 3 years; it has been accelerated using HEERF.
 - Guided Pathways Advisors do not replace faculty advising; they supplement the faculty's work.
 - Guided Pathways Advisor are in place at Middlesex CC, Northwestern CC, and Housatonic CC.
 - Hiring is almost complete for Gateway CC, Manchester CC, Capital CC, Tunxis CC, and Asnuntuck CC.
 - At the end of the calendar year, the remaining community colleges will be staffed.
 - New students will be assigned a Guided Pathways Advisor before they start classes.
- COVID Relief Checks - All community college students have been receiving financial grants to manage the impact of COVID. Plans are to keep sending these checks as part of the federal COVID relief. An emergency grant fund has also been established; this information is being shared widely with the colleges (<https://www.ct.edu/studentsupportprogram#grant>).
- Q/A Open Discussion:
 - The qualifications and pay ranges for a Guided Pathways Advisor
 - Success of the Guided Pathways program
 - Guided Pathways outreach to immigrant students whose first language is not English and to night students.

- When students feel that they belong (with the assistance of their advisors), they are more likely to be successful. The advisor population is being hired to reflect our student population (i.e., bilingual).
- How do we expect enrollment to change in the Spring with the new Guided Pathways Advisors in place? The SAC would like to receive data related to the success of the Guided Pathways Advisors later in the spring.
- SAC will be asked about participation avenues for the spring student satisfaction survey.
- Communication strategies to students to increase awareness of Guided Pathways Advisors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m. on a motion by Brandon Iovene, seconded by Will Herens, and after a unanimous voice vote.