



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

**Student Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2012**

11 VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Abigail Cobb (TRCC), Shaun Bingham (QVCC), Krysten Gilbert (MxCC), Daniel Mallory (NWCC), John C. Thomas (COSC), Symphany Joseph (GWCC), Olga Anastos (NCC), Matthew Wilkinson (TxCC), Michael Fraser (WCSU), Nicolas Alaimo (CCSU), Alex Tettey, Jr. (MCC)

GUESTS: Alex Cross (ECSU), Samantha Heltke (GWCC), Kai Estes (QVCC), Michelle Delaney (ESCU), T. J. Barber (MCC), Kathy Chapman (NWCC), Linda Larkin (COSC), Roberta Prior (GWCC)

RECORDER: Abigail Cobb

I. Call to Order

Meeting began at 4:19 pm. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to table approval of minutes to February 10th meeting pending submission of minutes. (GWCC, TxCC) Approved (unanimous).

III. Opening Remarks (Alex Tettey Jr., Chairman)

- Importance of attendance was stressed, to make decisions the council must have quorum.
- As a Student Advisory Council representative, their goals are to
 - Advocate for students
 - Be vocal
 - Understand the issues being addressed.
 - Be an active participant in CT policy-making.
 - Understand “micro issues” versus “macro issues”. To be as productive as possible, students should address system-wide issues during the meeting, while seeking answers to localized questions during post-meeting forum.
- A contact list including phone numbers will be considered for distribution via email.

IV. Transfer and Articulation Policy (Michael Fraser, Vice Chair)

- Policy was passed by Board of Regents during March 15th meeting.
 - Policy was generally agreed upon, some have concerns regarding the 9/30/12 deadline for general education competency outcomes, as most

contracts end in May and there is yet to be a plan in place to arrange the committee's work during the summer. Policy will be fully implemented during 2013/2014 AY. However, deadlines may encourage a speedy resolution.

- Important to note that policy only addresses *competency* of students entering CSU, and will help students with same/similar major as their acquired CCU degree. Proper advising will help ensure a student's success with the program.
- SAC will stay apprised of the situation as it develops.

V. By-Laws Committee (Co-Chairs Shaun Bingham & John C. Thomas)

- Committee meeting minutes available at <http://ctregents.org/regents/meetings>. Details of by-law development in minutes.
- Nothing to present, final drafts of articles to be submitted for vote on April 13th SAC meeting. Final approval by Board of Regents at May 17th BoR/SAC meeting.
- Members of the committee have each been assigned an article. Drafts of documents will be available online for editing on March 17th. Access will be granted to all SAC members. The goal is to make the laws as simple and flexible as possible to encourage progress and assist in the evolution of the Council.
- In attempt to address the issue of terms and the act of turnover, a six-month apprenticeship is being considered for new council members.

VI. Board of Regents, Academic and Student Affairs Committee

- The issue of inconsistency in the Academic calendars for the state was addressed.
 - Both students and faculty encounter difficulties when working with multiple facilities that close on different days (ie: Spring Break, etc)
 - Aligning academic calendars has been historically problematic, as some areas are obligated to observe holidays that other schools are not (ie: Veterans Day). Other problems include graduation dates and planning, and negotiations with multiple unions.
 - Issue will be tabled indefinitely until more research can be made.
- The policies regarding rank and tenure when hiring outside of state system were discussed. A suggestion was made to adjust the policy to include tenure when recruiting out-of-state Deans or Directors, with the hope that the quality and quantity of potential candidates will increase with a better promise of job security. Issue will be revisited at next meeting, representatives were encouraged to discuss with school students, faculty and staff.

VII. Information/Review Items

- Meeting schedule was reviewed.
 - Cancellations will be made in a timely manner. To be as effective as possible, scheduling of meeting times are to align with Board of Regents meetings. Rescheduling of any meeting times will be as close to Board of Regents meetings as possible.
- Listening Tour of CT State Universities and Colleges
 - The Chair and Vice Chair will continue their "listening tour" through the 17 institutions. They hope to address concerns from both the administration and student body. Following a high turnout at ESCU, representatives are

encouraged to raise awareness of the meetings and have as many students as possible attend.

- Student Technology Advisory Committee [see attachment “STAC.pdf”]
 - Chairman Alex Tettey, Jr. and Vice Chair Michael Fraser will also be serving as Chair and Vice Chair for STAC. College representatives on SAC will also sit on STAC.
 - An issue of system-wide software and technology distribution was addressed, and will be discussed at the next STAC meeting.
- Legislative Update [see attachment “LU3-15.pdf”]
 - Updates and full text of proposed bills available at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/>
 - Bills #5060 and #5028 were discussed.
 - Students and faculty expressed strong concerns regarding Senate Bill 40, otherwise known as the “right to fail” bill. Concerns included
 - The possible rise in dropout rate of students due to low performance in a level 100 class and/or loss of financial aid.
 - The inability of advisors to properly guide their students on a path to success as there would be no way to enforce a remedial requirement.
 - The inability for instructors to teach at current pace/level in 100 classes.
 - With the addition of “embedded tutors” to remedial students in level 100, budgets may not allow for remedial classes, or may force institutions to cut other critical staffing.
 - No research has yet emerged to support the outcome SB 40 predicts.
 - A problem some students encounter when incorrectly placed in a remedial setting was addressed, and should be dealt with at an institution level by working with advising staff,
 - **A motion was made for the Student Advisory Council to formerly voice opposition to Senate Bill 40 was made and seconded (GWCC, MxCC). Motion passes (9 in favor, 2 abstentions).** A formal statement will be released pending final approval via email by committee members.
 - More legislative information will be available via email, and representatives were encouraged to discuss the issue with their institutions.

VIII. Action Items

- Approval of Meeting dates/locations for calendar year 2012 was made during February Meeting. [see attachment “SACsched.pdf”]
- Approval of Meeting dates and discussion topics for joint meeting with the Board of Regents, *proposed date May 17th*. Discussion will be continued on April 13th meeting.

IX. Old Business

- Student leadership Retreat discussion was moved to April 13th meeting's agenda.

X. New Business

- Campus Security, Arming Sworn Officers
 - Some campuses have faced issues enforcing security issues and feel the officers may feel safer and more free to enforce the rules being armed. A

discussion followed, and the issue was tabled pending more research into system-wide security staffing and enforcement assessment.

- Bias Related Incidents on ConnSCU campuses
 - Several acts of “hate speech” have occurred at both WSCU and CCSU. Both campuses have mounted protests and staged rallies against said events. Representatives are encouraged to speak with their SGA students and consult with their GSA members to form their own program. A suggestion was made to add a “hate crime” section to all student's handbooks.
 - Drs. Feroe and Levinson will be doing campus “assessments”, dates TBD.

XI. Adjournment

As there was no further business, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Abigail Cobb 3/21/2012