

**Board of Regents for Higher Education  
Student Advisory Committee  
July 28th, 2017  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Board Room, Ground Floor  
61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT**

Agenda – Regular Meeting

1. Call to order 10:05
2. Roll call
  - CCC
  - NWCC
  - COSC
  - NVCC
  - ECSU
  - SCSU
  - TXCC
  - ACC
  - TRCC
  - GWCC
  - CCSU
3. Adoption of Agenda – unanimous
4. Approval of previous minutes (June) – approved and unanimous
5. Remarks from the Past Chair – This is an important committee. Let's communicate and do our best this year.

6. Election of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary for 2017-2018 – Hector Navarro Chair – unanimous, Holly Palmer – Vice Chair, unanimous. No candidate for Secretary

7. Remarks from the New Chair – Excited to have this role and to serve the students

8. President Ojakian - Update on Student's First

- The committee is very important, and your voice is heard

- The budget is still an issue

- Student first – 2 strategies, The planning committees are hard at work. Some teams are reaching recommendations. Others have a lot of work to do. We hope to present the board in September. Need to make sure that we continue to understand that the financial model is not going to improve. We need to get to a sustainable future. We are also working on how we leverage the organization of the community colleges.

- 60% of the community college budget comes from the state. As the state contribution goes down, so do student services. We need to look at a different way. Eliminating a community college would be a mistake. We are working to combine the administration of the community colleges, and that is in the early days.

- Streamlining processes, better class selection, etc are the goals. We will continue to seek out student feedback and suggestions. Regarding closing a community college, President Ojakian reiterated that he is not interested in closing a community college campus. He cannot make promises, but it is not his intention to pursue that strategy.

- Regarding the proportionality of the cuts, the community colleges are in a much more dire circumstance than the Universities. We don't get a single chunk of money. We get block grants for each segment. We can only use that money for the area that it was allocated for.

9. Dr. Jane Gates – Provost, update on current projects underway

My responsibility is to work with the Academic and Student Affairs Committee and SAC committees as well as the Vice Presidents of student affairs. Want to update you on three initiatives we are currently working on.

We are working on career readiness. One of the things we haven't done well is ensure students understand that technical learning is just not enough today. We need to make sure when students leave the institutions; they need competencies. This is a system wide project between student affairs and academic affairs. This is integrated all throughout your school career.

Critical thinking

Oral communication

Teamwork

Digital technology

Leadership/Professionalism

Career management

Intercultural fluency

This focuses highly on liberal arts. The next steps include comprehensive plan to look at how we system wide implement career readiness. This is ongoing throughout all our institutions.

The other initiative is guided pathways. This is a clearly defined educationally coherent pathway to a degree. When you meet with your admission counselor or academic advisor, this will be a clear path to completing the degree. This reduces the number of credit hours and therefore the costs. This gives you a map to get through your education. This is perceived positively by students. However, some students get overwhelmed by getting the entire map at the beginning of the education. Some students see it as a lack of choice. However, what we have found is that students who declare a major are more successful. We want you to graduate in an affordable, and efficient time frame. Another area focuses on mathematics. How do we align math classes with majors? As an example, we don't feel that all

students, regardless of major, NEED college algebra. STEM majors would still be required, but not necessarily all other majors. We are working with the professors to work through this process.

Regarding guided pathways – it works, and it does what it’s supposed to do. What about expanding the options for some of the pathways? There should always be an option for outside electives, but it’s dependent on the curriculum committees. The intent of guided pathways is to provide fewer options, so it’s easier to finish the degree. If the courses are part of TAP (competency based), then it’s not likely to change soon. Over the course of the next couple of years, there may be

OER, the person who has been directing that, is now working under Dr. Gates. We are looking for ways to include more campuses in providing access to OER materials. We continue to focus on it as we know it’s important to students.

Regarding college algebra, what if students need that math background before they can take stats. We have two professors leading this initiative, and they are looking at revamping the stats course to ensure the competencies are included. We expect a report any day from the faculty studying in.

Central has been working extensively to engage faculty interest in OER. The student association is purchasing OER materials to keep in the library for reference.

Regarding pathways, students agree with the structure of the program, it does simple things, but we also need to keep the timeframes flexible. We try to push 2 or 4 years completions, but we have a lot more students that cannot complete their degrees in that short a timeframe. It might be keeping students out of the pathways. It’s more of a roadmap and less of a mandate. We want to see progress, not necessarily on a specific time frame.

#### 10. Erika Steiner – CFO, Financial update

As the CFO, my office is to manage the money. Budgets and documentation of the funds and institutional spending plans. We are also responsible for contracts. We just negotiated a new contract

for the community college book stores which will help with OER. Our team is also responsible for all the audits and accounting.

Overview of what the finances look like:

The state funds the universities, CC, and Charter Oak separately. We cannot share funds between constituencies. State law prohibits it. The monies are distributed formulaically. It's primarily driven by the enrollment at the institutions. There are also considerations to campus maintenance. Each institution keeps the tuition and fees at their own school.

We are expected to balance our budget and honor our commitments. Our goal is to keep tuition and fees at a minimal level. It's also important that we provide tuition and fees that are predictable. That's why we issued a 2 year fees schedule for 18 and 19 so it's more predictable.

State funding is decreasing and enrollment is decreasing at the same time. So we need to minimize the costs of running the institutions (which is how we got to students first). About 80% of what we spend is people related costs. 95% of all full time employees are union represented. They are likely to have job security for the next 4 years because of the new contract. There are some real advantages to students to making it one community college because the borders become invisible. It's a positive initiative. As one college, we are the 5<sup>th</sup> largest college in the country. That impacts our ability to purchase at lower rates, it's a good thing.

Work study hours, why can we only work 15 hours during the fall and spring but can work 25 in the summer. We'd like to see it raised to 20 hours during the fall and spring because it's the only job some of these students have. Erika will take it back to the group to consider.

11. Committee Reports – Assign Committees for the 2017-2018 year

- a. (Typical committees include By-laws, and Legislative Affairs)
- b. Recommendation from the Ad Hoc committee about writing an open letter to the legislature – Holly Palmer

- c. Looking to study this issue further. Chair suggests we meet on August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am to discuss. Also, TXCC will work on getting in touch with the prior leader of this initiative.
- 12. Open Discussion around concerns on campus
  - a. None at this time.
- 13. Adjourn 11:46