



**Board of Regents for Higher Education
Student Advisory Committee (SAC)**

3/6/20

10:00am – 12:00pm

CSCU Office, Room 310

61 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT

Present

T. Cruz (NVCC), M. Cothias (WSCU), K. Parady (CCSU), D. DeBerry (MXCC), R. McConnell (MXCC), E. Rossier (MXCC), M. Maldonado (GWCC), E. Ruiz (ECSU), M. Driscoll (ECSU), E. Kean (MCC), J. Soldevila (TXCC), A. Baez (TXCC), B. Rosado (TXCC), A. Oglesla (HCC), K. Taylor (HCC), J. Hernandez (HCC), T. Wong (COSC), M. Mazloum (NCC)
A. Simoni (Executive Director for Student Relations and Compliance)

I. Call to Order: 10:00 am by M. Maldonado

II. Roll Call

- Members of the SAC introduced themselves and what college they are representing.

III. President M. Ojakian:

- M. Ojakian thanked members of the SAC who attended the appropriations committee meeting. The testimonials made by students have made an impact on the decisions of the committee.
- M. Ojakian also mentioned that the CSCU system is currently working with state legislators and the governor's office to work on the free community college.
- There are currently restrictions on who is allowed to obtain free community college. Students who do not fulfill specific criteria will not be eligible for free community college. Specific criteria include date from high school graduation and family income.
- The board currently supports the bill that was passed previously without the current limitations.

IV. Students First Update: Dr. David Levinson, Presidential Fellow, CSCU System Office

- D. Levinson thanked the SAC for the opportunity to give a Student's First update and introduced himself.
- D. Levinson discussed how the Student's First plan will help implement more advisors as we currently do not have enough to service students.
- Students First will allow the system to invest more money on wrap around services and to hire more academic advisors.
- By sharing resources such as financial aid and human resources the system will be able to free up resources to invest in student services.
- Dr. Levinson announced that the system will be hiring 25 new advisors over the summer to start in the fall.
- Dr. Levinson also discussed opening a dialogue between staff and faculty to discuss issues and concerns about the consolidation.
- An open dialogue allows staff and faculty to sit on various steering committees for the consolidation.

- D. Levinson also mentioned that the Student's First initiative will help increase graduation rates especially amongst black and Latino students.
- The BOR is also encouraging staff and faculty to remain on Student's First workgroups to increase dialogue and get different perspectives. It will also allow for more feedback on the consolidation plan.
- It was also mentioned that the BOR intends to expand the UPASS program to allow easier transportation between the 12 community colleges.
- Student's First will also introduce multiple class options, allowing for students to take more online classes and hybrid classes at different colleges.
- M. Mazloum suggested that faculty and staff opinions be highlighted on the CSCU Student's First website. He further mentioned that it is difficult to find the pros and cons of the initiative on said website.
- D. Levinson discussed that the advisors will be divided between the 12 community colleges based on need and already existing resources.
- D. Levinson also talked about the existing transfer articulation process that exists within the system and how that will help with guided pathways.
- Guided Pathways will allow students to plan out their degree up to their bachelors with the existing transfer articulation process.
- D. Levinson also stated that initiatives being implemented currently will help the 12 individually accredited colleges and not just the one Connecticut Community College.
- He further mentioned that the BOR will hire 20 – 25 advisors this summer regardless of the Guided Pathways plan.
- D. Levinson stated that the BOR is also looking at philanthropic donations to fulfill student needs as they stand.
- D. Levinson mentioned that there will be no programs being removed, but they intend to bolster existing programs and specialized programs.
- M. Maldonado suggested that the BOR create posters to post on campuses to inform students about Student's First. Posters should include all of the positive and negative aspects of the consolidation.
- A. Simoni suggested inviting M. Ojakian to college campuses to answer any new or existing questions. This will allow to clear up any misconceptions surrounding student's first.

V. Bill Gammell, CSCU SO on Computation Metric Concerning the Graduation Rate for First-Time-Full-Time Students

- M. Maldonado brought to the attention of the SAC that the current metric for measuring graduation does not reflect the actual community college.
- B. Gammell thanked the SAC for inviting him to the meeting and allowing him to speak on such a pressing matter.
- The current methods for measuring graduation rates cannot evaluate the circumstances of the modern student. The current metrics are representative of a privileged class of students from 50 years ago.
- Not every student is allowed the opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree within four – years.
- Today many groups of students previously excluded from higher education are

- now given the opportunity to attend, but do not have the same circumstances.
- The current metrics only measure students who are attending college for the first time and are full time. It does not take in to account part time students or transfer students in or out.
- The CSCU has created the Student Achievement Measure (SAM) to represent the different groups of students completing and graduating from a community college. This group includes students who transfer out as well as part time students.
- SAM can be found on the CSCU website for each college within the system.
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VI. Angelo Simoni, CSCU Exec. Dir. Remarks – Coronavirus update

- A. Simoni updated the SAC on the protective measures the CSCU system is taking against the coronavirus.
- There is currently an emergency response team for when coronavirus does travel to Connecticut.
- Students who have travelled to level 2 or 3 countries have returned and are being self – quarantined for 14 days.
- All institutions have designated rooms and dorms for those who have to be quarantined on campus.
- There are plans to host electronic classes, staff and faculty will be updated on how to do so.
- There are also contingency plans in place in case of emergency shut down.
- Please wash your hands regularly.
- If a student is feeling flu like symptoms they are encouraged to stay home and reach out to a professor for makeup work/ online work.

VII. Upcoming SAC Meetings

- The SAC will discuss by-law revisions at the next SAC meeting on April 17th, 2020
- If there are suggestions on future agendas please send them to M. Maldonado or A. Simoni.
- M. Maldonado also mentioned that there are going to be vacancies on the SAC. Those considering to run for a position should reach out to A. Simoni.

VIII. Open Discussion

- A. Simoni mentioned that SAC meetings can be hosted on another campus. However, location and distance should be considered when volunteering to host a meeting.
- K. Parady invited members of the SAC to a student leadership council. The council is an opportunity for all institutions to meet and collaborate as students.
- M. Maldonado discussed the Up to Us campaign to raise awareness about the national debt.
- D. Levinson mentioned the upcoming Governance Conference on April 3rd at WCSU. It's an opportunity for students to experience professional development.
- K. Parady mentioned that CCSU is planning to host a climate change rally and would like students from all colleges to participate.

- A. Simoni discussed that this legislative session will focus on amnesty and Good Samaritan policies. Lawmakers want to ensure that students aren't prosecuted for being under the influence when reporting sexual assault.

IX. Adjournment: 11:53am by M. Maldonado

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Tabitha Cruz