

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Student Advisory Committee (SAC)

Friday, 4/24/2020 at 10AM

President Ojakian Remarks

- M. Ojakian thanked the SAC for the invitation to speak and give a comprehensive update. M. Ojakian discussed the challenges that the system has faced transitioning online.
- The system will be moving to a pass/fail system at the colleges and universities.
- The universities have been supporting hospitals, military and first responders by providing overflow space and housing
- M. Ojakian discussed the CARES act and mentioned that the system received 54 million dollars to be split between the college and universities. 50 percent of the funding will go directly to students.
- The department of education guidelines restrict specific students from receiving the funding. With the guidelines in place 47 percent of community college students will be ineligible. M. Ojakian is drafting a letter to the department of education in hopes of the guidelines being changed.
- The distribution of the aid will be determined based on FAFSA eligibility. Students will know more in the coming weeks.
- M. Ojakian also discussed the part he has played in the Reopen CT Response Team. Depending on the trajectory of the virus there is a plan being developed for the possibility of reopening the universities in the fall. M. Ojakian will be looking for SAC participation in the future.
- M. Ojakian mentioned that the universities were significantly impacted by the room and board refunds. It is possible that there may be a continued revenue decline in the fall. Many universities will have to go into their reserves in order to mitigate some of the cost.
- M. Ojakian discussed graduation plans, mentioning that the celebration of graduation will be up to the individual colleges.
- Colleges will not be giving tuition back. If a class has been cancelled, students will be notified and will be entitled to a refund. There is a case by case exemption that will be handled at the campus level.

- M. Ojakian is working with each campus to discuss how they plan to reopen. The BOR will be looking for student input on what a safe reopening might look like. Safety is the most important thing for students and the CSCU system will eventually return to normalcy.
- The Governor is looking to take a phased approach when opening the state back up including the colleges and universities. If students return in the fall it will be with Personal Protective Equipment and social distancing.

- The system is looking at how to schedule classes in a way that doesn't have many students on a campus at once.

Schedule for SAC moving forward/Elections for upcoming year/ Open Discussion

- S. Paquette discussed the continued problems with the internet and other technology. Students are not able to succeed because they don't have access to the technology.
- M Maldonado shared the fact that the SAC needs to have elections for the next academic year. The SAC would like to have interim selection made so that training can begin and that person is abreast of all the issue. Any member interested should send letters of intent to Angelo or Monica.
- A. Simoni mentioned that the chair needs to be someone from a university this year. The vice chair needs to be from a community college. The local SGAs will elect someone to be the SAC representative. The SAC representative can be anyone the SGA votes for.
- M. Maldonado would like to use the last SAC meeting to revise and look over the bylaws.

E. Ruiz Motioned to Adjourn at 10:52