

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
 CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)  
 BOR TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
 MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
 WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024  
 CONDUCTED VIA WEBEX; LIVESTREAMED ON  
[https://www.youtube.com/live/X\\_V3qmCXVxk](https://www.youtube.com/live/X_V3qmCXVxk)**

<b>REGENTS – PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)</b>	
Ted Yang, Chair	Y
Marty Guay	Y
Sophia Jappinen	Y
Ari Santiago	Y

**CSCU/BOR STAFF:**

Pam Heleen, Secretary of the Board of Regents (recorder)  
 Dr. Lloyd Blanchard, CSCU Interim Vice President for Administration and CFO  
 Jim Vasquez, Chief Information Officer  
 Pete Carey, CSCU Information Security Officer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair Yang called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and, following roll call, declared a quorum present.

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Committee Chair Yang called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. *On a motion by Regent Santiago, seconded by Regent Jappinen, the Agenda was unanimously adopted.*

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Committee Chair Yang called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2024. *On a motion by Regent Santiago, seconded by Regent Jappinen, the April 24, 2024 minutes were unanimously adopted.*

**4. CYBERSECURITY ANNOUNCEMENT**

Committee Chair provided the following announcement:

“I want to use this opportunity to announce a request from the Technology Committee to create and implement an accelerated process to address major issues in cybersecurity, starting with CT State.

We face significant risks from security threats in the digital environment. We rely heavily on technology for both our academic and administrative systems, and we simply cannot afford disruptions. Additionally, we are entrusted with sensitive and personal information, including student records, financial data, and research information that we must protect under law and regulation.

It is for this reason that we asked our Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) to present a plan that accelerates addressing our largest cybersecurity issues following a least privileged access approach, starting with CT State. I'm asking that all administrators, faculty and staff have patience with the implementation of this plan, which should begin this summer. This implementation will involve hard choices and by design, not everyone will have the same access as they do today. There will be issues and there will be inconveniences and slowdowns. However, this Committee and the Board are clear that the threats represented by our current cyber readiness must be addressed with the highest priority.

Also note that while we are a public institution, much of this work by necessity must happen in executive session due to its security nature. This Committee is asking for metrics to measure our progress here that can be shared publicly. This is also so that we are not simply implementing policy for policy's sake but instead can measurably improve.

Finally, cybersecurity is not just a technology priority; it is an enterprise-wide priority, and executives and managers must take ownership of the protection of their own systems and data. It is critical that non-IT executives and managers adhere to our policies, and the Board and this Committee are tasking everyone in our organization to be part of this effort.

#### **5. ESTABLISHING FUTURE COMMITTEE WORK**

Committee Chair Yang identified the following four priorities and led a discussion concerning each. He indicated that it was not the intent of this meeting to have an impromptu review of any of the items, but to have the CFO, CIO, and CISO prepared to discuss them at future meetings.

- Review of largest vendor relationships in the System – The Technology Committee's charter provides for good stewardship of the budget and technology guidance of the System. Committee Chair Yang proposed a risk review of the ten largest "spends" or expand it to be "spends" above a certain value. Committee members agreed. He asked that the CFO and his team put this together for discussion at the next Technology Committee meeting.
- Reviewing large/systemic issues – Though the Technology Committee is focusing on cybersecurity, members have received feedback concerning technology issues within the System. This is the proper forum for escalation, but not the first escalation. However, the Committee is tasked with oversight of those issues. Committee Chair Yang charged the CIO with creating a list of the large non-cyber technology issues. His hope is that the Committee does not spend time "solutioning" the issues, but double checking that issues are being escalated, worked on, and the Committee agrees with the prioritization. Committee members agreed. Committee Chair Yang hoped that by the next meeting, there would be something distributed for discussion.

Regent Santiago requested that members receive the information at least 48 hours before a meeting to ensure proper time to review prior to the meeting. Board Secretary Pam Heleen indicated that the next meeting of the Technology Committee is June 12 with a target to have materials distributed by Friday, June 7 and posted publicly on Monday, June 10.

- Developing a Board-approved AI policy – Committee Chair Yang reminded the Committee that there were AI policies that were attempted to be passed by the legislature in this last session. There was a round of policies passed previously that applied to state agencies; though we are not a state agency, we were asked to comply. He stated that this Committee is being tasked with leading the thinking on this and it is paramount that we are ensuring the protection of our students, as well as faculty rights and intellectual property. He proposed an analysis by staff of whatever policies currently exist and a subsequent synthesis of the major components. A draft is not expected, but several bullet points can be identified that can be put into a potential policy for discussion in a Committee meeting. Whatever is developed will need to be circulated for review so that buy-in can be achieved with the system CIOs and other important stakeholders.

CFO Blanchard noted one of the items to be considered when developing AI policy is that there will be an administrative aspect to AI, as well as an academic side, and the academic aspect is going to have to be driven by the faculty. Committee Chair Yang reinforced that the Committee will be dealing with cybersecurity and not issues in the faculty's control.

Regent Santiago concurred and continued by stating that wherever CSCU can have academic research, education, and experimentation relative to AI, he would endorse it. Any experimentation must be fully segmented from the administrative network of the campus.

- Update to BOR Policy IT-004 and others – The data protection aspect work of the Committee is a top priority. The IT policies are out of date. Committee Chair Yang proposed that the staff look to revise IT policies with particular focus on BOR Policy IT-004 which is quite technical and detailed in nature and in his view, not compliant. He continued by stating that we need to be very concerned about compliance with these policies. These materials are in training materials for employees.

Regent Santiago expressed some concern that with all the activities identified here that we are prioritizing and are not overburdening staff. Committee Chair Yang indicated that this is the work for many meetings. Regent Santiago suggested that as the work for cybersecurity continues, there may be policies that are affected by that work and as such, should be addressed concurrently.

Committee Chair Yang invited the institution CIOs to attend an upcoming meeting of this committee, perhaps in the fall, to begin to get to know them. CSCU CIO Vasquez noted that both the SCSU and ECSU CIOs are retiring.

## **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 12:26 p.m. on a motion by Regent Jappinen, seconded by Regent Santiago, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing security matters. Committee Chair Yang announced that no votes would be taken in Executive Session. Committee Chair Yang asked that CFO Blanchard, CIO Vasquez, and CSIO Carey join the Regents in executive session.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

With the conclusion of the Executive Session, Committee Chair Yang declared the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Submitted,

Pamela Heleen  
Secretary of the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education