

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#01-52



RESOLUTION

concerning

ELECTION OF STUDENTS

to the

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

July 6, 2001

WHEREAS, Section 10a-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes has been amended to further define the criteria for students elected to the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees shall continue to determine the manner in which students are elected and set criteria for eligibility, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That, having reviewed the amended statutory requirements for student trustees and the Board of Trustees' rules and procedures for implementing those requirements, the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System hereby adopts the following revised rules and procedures for the election of student trustees:

- (1) The Student Government of each university shall propose nominating and election procedures for candidates for student trustee who meet the requirements as specified herein. To be effective the nominating and election procedures must be approved by the university president or the president's designee.
- (2) In order to be eligible, a candidate must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Be a full-time student who has completed at least one semester in residence at a Connecticut State University institution and at least forty-five semester hours toward a bachelor's degree;
 - b. Expect to be enrolled as a matriculating student in good standing, either as a full-time undergraduate or full-time or part-time graduate for the full two-year term.
 - c. Have a 2.67 grade point average or better on the traditional four point scale at the time of election.

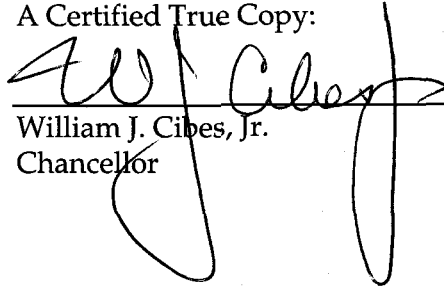
- (3) Elections shall be conducted under the supervision of the university president or president's designee and in conjunction with the Student Government Association.
 - a. Elections must be on a university-wide basis; only matriculated full-time undergraduate and full-time graduate students shall be eligible to vote;
 - b. Elections shall be by secret ballot.
- (4) Elections shall be held according to the following schedule:
 - a. Elections shall be held biennially in the Spring semester at Central Connecticut State University and Eastern Connecticut State University in *even-numbered years*;
 - b. Elections shall be held biennially in the Spring semester at Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University in *odd-numbered years*.
- (5) The university president shall furnish the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System with the name of the student elected to Board membership immediately following each election.
- (6) After election in the Spring semester, a student trustee-elect shall be encouraged to attend Board and committee meetings in a non-voting capacity until officially taking office.
- (7) A student member of the Board shall take office at the first regularly scheduled Board meeting after November 1 following his/her election, shall have full voting rights as any other trustee, and shall serve for a term of two-years.
- (8) The term of any student member of the board elected on or after November 1, 2001, shall terminate if such student member ceases to be a matriculating student in good standing, either as a full-time undergraduate student or as a full-time or part-time graduate student at the university from which such student member was elected.
- (9) In the event a student trustee resigns from the Board or relinquishes membership for any reason, a new student trustee shall be elected to fill the unexpired term; such an election shall be conducted on the university from which the former student trustee was elected and shall conform to these rules and procedures except that the election shall occur as soon as reasonably possible after the vacancy arises.

and be it further

RESOLVED, That Board Resolution 97-60 is rescinded, and be it further

RESOLVED, That this policy is effective with elections taking place after November 1, 2001.

A Certified True Copy:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Cipes, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William J. Cipes, Jr.
Chancellor

ITEM

Policy on Election of Students to the Board of Trustees

BACKGROUND

The policy for the election of students to the CSU Board of Trustees originated in 1975. At that time Section 10a-88 of the Connecticut General Statutes was amended to increase the membership of the Board from twelve to fourteen, the two additional members to be elected from among full-time students enrolled at the institutions under the jurisdiction of the Board of Trustees, "in such manner as the Board of Trustees shall determine."

Revisions to the policy were made in 1992 to more clearly define the eligibility criteria and in 1997 in response to statutory change increasing the number of students serving on the Board from two to four, one from each university in the CSU System.

ANALYSIS

In recent years there has been a growing concern regarding the lack of interest and attendance when an upperclassman is elected to the Board for a two-year term, sometimes serving one or both years after graduation.

Generally, the Board has been very fortunate that many such students continued to participate in Board activities after leaving the university. However, there have been a number of instances whereby a student member fails to attend meetings of the Board for the entire second year of his or her term because of other commitments. This is perceived as a disservice to those students of the university from which the trustee was elected and also creates some difficulty achieving a quorum at the committee to which they have been appointed. More importantly, their absence prevents other members of the Board from receiving the benefit of a student's perspective on major issues impacting the universities.

To address this concern, the trustees requested a change in the statutes that would require a student to be a matriculated student in good standing, either as a full-time undergraduate or a full-time or part-time graduate student, in order to remain a member of the Board of Trustees. The proposal was reviewed by the Council of Presidents and the Student Advisory Board. The statutory change was submitted, accepted and approved by the House of Representatives and the Senate during the 2001 session.

The Board policy has been revised to reflect this criteria. The requirement that a student candidate for election to the Board of Trustees must be a full-time undergraduate student at the time of his or her election remains unchanged.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revised policy on the election of student members to the Board of Trustees.