

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
December 20, 2006

Manchester Community College
Manchester, CT

Members

Present: D. Brennan, B. Flaherty, W. Bevacqua, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley

Members

Absent: W. Aniskovich, J. Gatling, R. Hollander, H. Penner, A. Vertefeuille

Members of the Public: J. Daube, MCC; D. Dauwalder, UNH; M. Herzog, BOTCTC; D. Nee, Graustein Memorial Fund; G. Ragosta, CCIC; J. Rathgeber, CBIA; C. Schechter, DHE; P. Susen, BOTCTC

1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and thanked Jonathan Daube, President of Manchester Community College, for graciously hosting the Board of Governors for Higher Education this month. President Daube welcomed Board members to the campus.

2. Approval of the Board Minutes of the November 15, 2006 Meeting and 2007 Meeting Schedule

W. Bevacqua moved, and B. Flaherty seconded the motion, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2006 meeting. The motion passed with one abstention from D. Brennan. F. Ridley moved, and J. Reynolds seconded the motion, to approve the 2007 Meeting Schedule for the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of Board Chairman

None.

5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Lewis noted that Chancellor Marc Herzog and representatives from the community colleges have agreed to join the "Next Steps" study. This report is a continuation of the original study released last January titled, "First Steps," which tracked Connecticut students who took CAPT exams in their sophomore year of high school in 1996 and followed their progress in college.

She congratulated the community college system on its receipt of a \$2.17 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to address the critical shortage of workers in the nursing and allied health fields.

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6. Workforce Related Issues

V. Lewis stated that she is pleased to serve as one of three co-chairs of the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. She introduced the Council's two other co-chairs, David Nee, Executive Director of the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund; and John Rathgeber, President and CEO of the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. She also introduced Carlotta Schechter of Saint Joseph College who is working part-time on this project at the Department of Higher Education.

The group presented a brief history of the Council which was established by Executive Order in February 2006 to develop an investment plan for early childhood. The Council's plan proposes to expand the State's School Readiness Program over the next five years to serve 13,000 more children. This would intensify demand for public school teachers certified in early childhood. The plan also calls for strengthening the qualifications of staff in community programs.

Following a brief discussion, Board members thanked the presenters for their summary. It was suggested that the Board consider the plan more fully at a future meeting.

7. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

On a motion made by J. Reynolds, seconded by B. Flaherty, the Board unanimously voted to approve the following items:

- a. Albertus Magnus College – accreditation of a program in Leadership, leading to the Master of Arts degree
- b. Fairfield University – accreditation of a program in Accounting, leading to a Master of Science degree
- c. Endowed Chair Investment Fund Annual Expenditure Reports

8. Academic Affairs and Planning Items

Action Items

- a. Reading Survey Report

J. Zdanys presented the report and reviewed the responses submitted by the colleges and universities. Commissioner Lewis indicated that the research presented in this report is a result of discussions with the Legislature regarding reading and how it is taught.

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After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept this summary report and endorse efforts by the Department of Higher Education to continue to work with institutional partners to strengthen teaching of reading and literacy in Connecticut. Ms. Reynolds also moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education charge the Department of Higher Education to work with the Deans and Directors of Connecticut's public and independent teacher preparation programs, and with all appropriate Education faculty, to develop a set of Best Practices for the teaching of reading so as to ensure that all Connecticut teachers, especially those in certification fields that support early reading, are most appropriately prepared to teach reading and literacy. Additionally, Ms. Reynolds moved that the Department of Higher Education convene appropriate statewide Roundtables, Workshops, or Colloquiums early in FY 2007 to bring the best thinking, from all practical and theoretical perspectives, in Connecticut to the development and implementation of those Best Practices and that the Board of Governors require a final report on these efforts by May 30, 2007. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

a. Gateway Community College – Reaccreditation of the College

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced President Dorsey Kendrick, who represented the College.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the NEASC assessment and grant accreditation to Gateway Community College until April 30, 2011, and that the College submit to the Department of Higher Education (1) a copy of the Fall 2007 report on its success in securing funding for its new campus and (2) a copy of its fifth-year Interim Report as well as the letter of notification from NEASC in response to that submission. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

c. University of New Haven – Reaccreditation of the University

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced David Dauwalder, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accept the NEASC assessment and grant accreditation to the University of New Haven, until December 31, 2010, and that the Board of Governors require the University submit to the Department of Higher Education a copy of the Fall 2007 report as well as a copy of the letter of notification from NEASC in response to that submission. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

d. Providence College, Providence, RI – Authorization to place students enrolled in the Counselor Graduate Program for required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Thomas Flaherty, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Alexander Freda, Director of the Counseling Program, who represented the College.

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After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education grant approval to Providence College to place students enrolled in its Graduate Counseling program for the required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools, for a period of five years, until December 31, 2011. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Progress Report

a. University of Phoenix – Semiannual Progress Report

J. Zdanys reviewed the progress report and noted that the University has restructured its undergraduate curriculum based on Connecticut standards for use at its campuses across the country. Dr. Zdanys also noted the University's library budget and the hiring of full-time faculty.

Information Items

a. New England College of Finance – The College's Decision to Close Its Operations in Connecticut

J. Zdanys noted that due to mergers and consolidations enrollments at the College have fallen significantly. The College has notified the Department of Higher Education that it will not be seeking renewal of its license to offer the Associate of Science degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Banking Foundations, in Connecticut, which expires on April 30, 2007.

b. Field Experience and Clinical Practice Placements by Out-of-State Educator Preparation Programs (2005-2006)

J. Zdanys reviewed the report and noted that there are a total of 68 identified field experience and clinical practice placements in Connecticut schools by out-of-state educator preparation programs. Among the placements 64 came from six of the programs authorized by the Board of Governors for Higher Education and 4 were approved by the Commissioner of Higher Education due to special circumstances.

c. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys reviewed the monthly update.

9. Finance and Administration

Action Item

a. FY 2007-09 Biennial Operating Budget Request

M. Johnson presented the FY 2007-09 operating budget request for Connecticut's system of higher education which calls for \$1.9 billion and \$2.0 billion, respectively, for each year of the biennium. The consolidated budget request is somewhat tentative as most collective bargaining

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contracts and tuition and fee increases remain unsettled, but provides basic inflationary adjustments of collective bargaining contracts, full funding of student financial aid formulas and an array of expansion options centering on the need for full-time faculty. The required student financial aid request represents nearly three-quarters of the current services increase and the requested expansion options represent an additional eight percent increase.

The Governor and the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) asked the Department to formally submit systemwide budget expansion proposals above current services funding levels. Following this initial request, OPM agreed to further consideration of financial aid, minority advancement and workforce-related options for the Department, the Community Colleges and Charter Oak State College, as well as the UConn Health Center's academic gap option. In addition, the Department was encouraged to submit systemwide options for energy cost relief and increased operations and maintenance funding.

There was a brief discussion concerning when the Department should receive the opinion from the Attorney General regarding the Department's request to collect unit record data from the constituent units of higher education and Connecticut's independent colleges and universities that participate in the state's student financial aid programs. Commissioner Lewis will pass on the strong interest in having this opinion from the Attorney General.

On a motion made by B. Flaherty, seconded by F. Ridley, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Commissioner to transmit the proposed FY 2007-09 Biennial Operating Budget to the Governor and the General Assembly as provided under C.G.S. Section 10a-8.

Information Items

b. 2006 Degrees Conferred by Connecticut Institutions of Higher Education

J. Pothier reported that Connecticut colleges and universities awarded 35,694 degrees and certificates in 2005-06, up 3.2 percent over 2004-05 for the fifth consecutive year of growth. He reviewed degree production in industry clusters, health and nursing professions and teacher preparation. He further reviewed the number of degrees awarded to minority students and women.

c. Update on Minority Teacher Incentive Program

M. Johnson reported that the Minority Incentive Program (MTIP) began in 1999 to encourage more minority students to become teachers in Connecticut. The program targets about 50 students a year. It provides a grant of \$5,000 per year for two years while the student is completing their studies and then offers loan reimbursements up to \$2,500 per year for four years for a total potential benefit of \$20,000. Last year, the Department was fortunate to expand the program funding through a generous donation of \$75,000 from the Weisman family to establish the Weisman Scholarship component specifically geared to students becoming math and/or science teachers.

S. Schilling reported that the state appropriation for the MTIP program totaled \$481,374 for grant and stipend payments not including the \$75,000 donation made from the Weisman family. She further reviewed the number of nominations received and gave a recipient overview.

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d. Legislative Proposals

J. Ciarleglio reviewed the following two agency legislative proposals for the 2007 session:

- An Act Concerning Refund of Tuition
- An Act Concerning Enhanced Enforcement Authority by the Department of Higher Education

She will keep Board members apprised of any action taken on these proposals.

10. Report on the Standing Advisory Committee

G. Ragosta indicated that the articulation subcommittee of the Standing Advisory Committee is making progress. The next joint meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee with the Board is scheduled for the spring of 2007 and will likely continue to focus on student access.

11. Other Business

12. Adjournment

B. Flaherty moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary