

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting  
February 21, 2007

Department of Higher Education  
Hartford, CT

Members Present: D. Brennan, B. Flaherty, J. Gatling, R. Hollander, H. Penner, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, A. Vertefeuille

Members Absent: W. Aniskovich, W. Bevacqua

Members of the Public: P. Cocchiola, BOTCTC; C. Emmerson-Pace, Gibbs College; W. Gammell, CSU; S. Kernhel, CREC; J. Leary, Roger Williams University; M. MacDonald, CREC; K. Peterson, Gibbs College; G. Ragosta, CCIC; T. Thorington, CSU; V. Wilczynski, American Council on Education

## 1. Call to Order

H. Penner called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

## 2. Approval of the Board Minutes of the January 17, 2007 Meeting

A. Vertefeuille moved and B. Flaherty seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Public Participation

Vince Wilczynski of the American Council on Education (ACE) informed the Board about ACE's Fellows Program which provides an opportunity for 30 administrators and faculty from ACROSS the country to spend a year with college presidents to learn first-hand about academic administration. This year, Connecticut colleges are hosting three ACE Fellows. Wilczynski, formerly an administrator at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, currently is an ACE Fellow in the President's office at the University of Rhode Island.

## 4. Report of Board Chairman

H. Penner noted that he has asked the Commissioner to review the Board's responsibilities with respect to the University of Connecticut's consideration of a creating a branch campus in Dubai.

## 5. Report of the Commissioner

V. Lewis responded to Chairman Penner's request by noting that staff will update the Board on its regulatory and statutory responsibilities in this arena as well as the history of this endeavor.

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V. Lewis informed the Board that she attended the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) with other State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEOs) to discuss the report, *Transforming Higher Education* which is a parallel report to the September 2006 report by the Commission on the Future of Higher Education led by U.S. Department of Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

V. Lewis updated Board members on legislative progress. She noted the agency is conferring on several bills with members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, and will testify in the afternoon before the Appropriations Committee.

6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

Academic Affairs and Planning

- a. University of Connecticut, Tri-Campus – accreditation of a program in Psychology, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree
- b. University of Connecticut – accreditation of a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health Sciences
- c. Western Connecticut State University – accreditation of the program in Professional Writing, leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree

Finance and Administration

- d. Operating Fund Quarterly Reports for the Six-Month Period Ending December 31, 2006

On a motion made by A. Vertefeulle, seconded by J. Gatling, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Commissioner's Consent Calendar.

7. Finance and Administration

Action Items

- a. 2007 Annual Report of the Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Public Higher Education

A. Poole presented the *2007 Annual Report of the Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Public Higher Education*. The report highlights the degree to which the state's diversity's goals have been achieved and activities undertaken over the course of the previous year.

In the fall of 2006, for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year, the state's public colleges and universities collectively experienced an increase in the proportion of underrepresented minority students

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enrolled in their undergraduate programs. Last fall, the number of minority students reached 24,278. For the ninth consecutive year, the proportion of minority students collectively enrolled in the public institutions exceeded their aggregated proportion in the general population. Of the students receiving associate's and bachelor's degree during the 2005-06 academic year from the state's public institutions of higher education, 18.9 percent were from underrepresented minority degree recipients, a significant increase of 12.4 percent from the previous year. He further reviewed progress still needed and student diversity goals.

On a motion made by B. Flaherty, seconded by D. Brennan, the Board unanimously voted to direct the Department of Higher Education to request of the Governor and state legislature a doubling of the state's allocation for the Minority Advancement Program for the 2008-09 biennium and restructure and/or expand the scope of the ConnCAP and ConnCAS programs to increase the number of targeted students prepared to enter and succeed in acquiring an undergraduate degree and approve the 2007 Annual Report on the Board's Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Public Higher Education for submission to the Governor, the Connecticut General Assembly and interested parties.

### b. Endorsement of the 2007 Accountability Report for Higher Education

M. Johnson presented *Higher Education Counts: Achieving Results*, an annual report on Connecticut's state system of higher education containing accountability measures developed through the Performance Measures Task Force and approved by the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The measures reported are intended to provide external parties with answers to basic questions about institutional performance and return on investments in Connecticut's higher education system. She reviewed goals achieved and progress made under the six statutorily-defined goals. To bolster performance improvement, the state needs to set more specific, strategic priorities for its higher education system. Principle among those priorities should be to:

- Increase need-based financial aid so all students can afford to attend & succeed in college
- Reach consensus on "college-ready" curriculum with preK-12
- Increase degree production in critical workforce areas
- Improve student success along education continuum
- Develop a coordinated state response to increase academic research capacity across system
- Ensure stable state funding, resource efficiencies and reallocations

On a motion made by B. Flaherty, seconded by D. Brennan, the Board unanimously endorsed Connecticut's 2007 accountability report for higher education to transmit it to both the Joint Standing Committee on Education and the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee.

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Information Items

c. Highlights – FY 2007-09 Biennial Operating and Capital Budget for Higher Education

M. Johnson reported that the Governor's recommended General Fund budget calls for \$1,378.1 million for the FY 2007-09 biennium, including \$683.9 million in FY 2008 and \$694.1 million in FY 2009 and results in a 4.6 percent increase from FY 2007 to FY 2008 and a 6.2 percent increase between FY 2007 and FY 2009. It boosts student financial aid programs by \$25 million or 77 percent and proposes a nearly \$250 million investment in Early Childhood Education.

On the capital side, the Governor recommended \$155.0 million for the biennium in general obligation bonds for the higher education system.

d. Higher Education: Building Connecticut's Workforce – Joint DOL/DHE Report

M. Johnson presented a new comprehensive report on employment outcomes for graduates of public colleges by the Department of Labor and the Department of Higher Education entitled, *Higher Education: Building Connecticut's Workforce*. The report builds upon the Department of Labor's successful work on the Connecticut Employment and Training Commission's annual report of employment outcomes for the state's education and training programs and the Department of Higher Education's recent efforts to assess the employment success of its graduates through its annual accountability report. It is hoped that this becomes an annual report. She highlighted some of the system level results.

e. Fall 2006 College and University Enrollment in Connecticut – Comprehensive Report

J. Pothier reported that enrollment at Connecticut's 47 colleges and universities reached an all-time record of 176,560 in fall 2006 representing a fifth consecutive year of record enrollment. He noted that the growth in enrollment is continuing, but the increases are tepid and will likely see enrollment decreases at the start of the next decade.

There was a brief discussion concerning the projected decline in enrollment in 2008. Commissioner Lewis spoke to the issue of the pipeline and the work that needs to be done to change the success factors. Board members agreed that a forum needs to be created to bring focus to the matters at hand. It was requested that a similar chart to 6A be developed to track incoming freshmen.

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8. Academic Affairs and Planning Items

Action Items

- a. Capital Region Education Council (CREC) – Approval to offer an Advanced Alternate Route to Certification program, leading to a cross-endorsement in Special Education

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Peg McDonald, Director of Special Services Support Team, and Sonia Kunkel, Educational Consultant, who represented the Council.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve an Alternate Route to Certification program, leading to a cross-endorsement in Special Education, to be offered by the Capital Region Education Council, until January 31, 2010. Ms. Reynolds additionally recommended that the Board of Governors for Higher Education affirm that the Director of the Alternate Route to Certification program, which is offered under the auspices of the Department of Higher Education, serve on the committee that will provide oversight for the CREC cross endorsement program. R. Hollander seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Gibbs College – Licensure of a program in Criminal Justice, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. The College was represented by President Kurt Peterson and Chris Emmerson-Pace, Director of Education.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in Criminal Justice, as modified, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, to be offered by Gibbs College, for a period of three years, until February 1, 2010. R. Hollander seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- c. National Graduate School of Quality Management, Falmouth, Massachusetts – Licensure of a Master of Science degree program in Quality Systems Management, to be offered both in Farmington and New London, Connecticut

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Virginia Petisce, Vice President of Enrollment Management, who represented the School.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license The National Graduate School of Quality Management, to offer its Master of Science program in Quality Systems Management at the United Technologies Training Center in Farmington, CT and the Coast Guard Academy in New London, CT, until February, 2010. R. Hollander seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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- d. Roger Williams University – Authorization to place students enrolled in the University’s teacher preparation program for required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Joe Leary, Program Director, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education grant approval to Roger Williams University to place students enrolled in the University’s teacher preparation program for the required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools, for a period of five years, from December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2011. R. Hollander seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Progress Reports

- a. The Graduate Institute – Annual Report

J. Zdanys reviewed the report and noted that the Institute has had an increase in enrollments and is planning for regional accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

- b. The International College of Hospitality Management – Annual Report to the Department of Higher Education, December 2006.

J. Zdanys reviewed the report submitted by the College.

Information Items

- a. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys reviewed the monthly update.

9. Report on the Standing Advisory Committee

None.

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10. Other Business

H. Penner noted that this is the time to establish a nominating committee for a new Board chair and vice-chair. The 2007 nominating committee is comprised of H. Penner, D. Brennan and A. Vertefeuille.

11. Adjournment

J. Reynolds moved and R. Hollander seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser  
Secretary