

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting  
September 19, 2007

Department of Higher Education  
Hartford, CT

Members Present: W. Aniskovich, W. Bevacqua, B. Flaherty, J. Gatling, R. Hollander, J. Reynolds, R. Robins, F. Ridley, A. Vertefeuille

Members Absent: D. Brennan, H. Penner

Members of the Public: B. Auclair, St. Joseph; M. Bencivengo, TxCC; G. Bermudez, CSU; A. Branchini, TRCC; P. Cocchiolla, BOTCTC; C. Coperthwaite, BOTCTC; D. Dean, St. Joseph; M. Delcourt, WCSU; E. Durnin, WCSU; B. Frahm, Hartford Courant; C. Keyes, TxCC; N. Mardretti, NCCC; J. Noonan, OPM; B. Rale, WCSU; T. Rigazio-DiGilio, CCSU; F. Samuels, MxCC; P. Susan, BOTCTC; M. Swede, MxCC; T. Thorington, CSU; M. Villani; J. Wihbey, NCCC

## 1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

## 2. Approval of the Board Minutes of the June 20, 2007 Meeting

J. Gatling moved and R. Hollander seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Public Participation

None.

## 4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley introduced Margaret Villani who was recently named to the Board in place of William Bevacqua whose term expired. Ridley noted that Bevacqua was the Board's longest serving member and has agreed to continue to represent the Board of Governors on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Student Loan Foundation.

Ridley asked R. Robins to comment on the statewide nanotechnology initiative. Robins stated the Board will soon be asked to grant a certificate for a minor in this field, and announced that the Department of Higher Education is co-sponsoring a statewide nanotechnology workshop to be held on October 10.

Ridley noted that he received a letter of resignation from Commissioner Valerie Lewis and commended her service both within the state as well as at the national level through SHEEO.

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Without objection, he accepted her letter of resignation effective February 1, 2008, and named a Search Committee for the Commissioner's replacement consisting of: A. Vertefeuille, chair; J. Reynolds; J. Gatling; B. Flaherty; and himself. He welcomed input from all Board members as the process moves forward and indicated that legislators, members of the academic community and others will be asked for their counsel and suggestions. He expressed his hope to appoint a new commissioner in January 2008 and noted that Connie Fraser will serve as the Department's liaison to the Search Committee.

Ridley updated the Board on the status of the Blue Ribbon Commission for a Master Plan on Higher Education, and informed them that he has been appointed to the Commission by Governor Rell.

### 5. Report of the Commissioner

V. Lewis stated it has been an enormous privilege to serve as Commissioner, and is gratifying to retire in a year of historic gains in state funds for student financial aid. She extended her thanks to the Governor and legislative leaders as well as staff at the Department of Higher Education.

V. Lewis introduced new members of the Department's staff: Toby Bates, Director of Internal Administration; Robert Ficeto, a durational Senior Associate; and Mark French, Associate Director for Student Financial Aid.

M. French summarized the College Cost Reduction Act which, when signed by the President, will provide significant benefits to Connecticut college students. The bill represents the largest increase in federal student aid since the GI Bill. Needy students, teachers, members of the Armed Forces and those serving in public service jobs will benefit most. He reviewed the bill's key.

V. Lewis reported that the Department is one of five partners in a grant-funded project to encourage more high school students, particularly those from urban areas, to enroll in advanced placement and colleges courses.

V. Lewis indicated that upcoming Board meetings will focus on several issues. The October Board meeting, at the Legislative Office Building, will include a discussion with the Standing Advisory Committee on transfer and articulation. The November and December Board meetings will address the continuation of the Next Steps study.

She reported on campus-based military recruitment practices following a presentation to the Board by students concerned about this issue earlier in the year. Commissioner Lewis said she has asked the constituent units for updates on these practices.

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6. Finance and Administration

a. Personnel Matters

On a motion made by B. Bevacqua seconded by B. Flaherty, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 9:39 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 10:15 a.m.

On a motion made by B. Bevacqua and seconded by J. Reynolds, the Board of Governors, subject to its responsibilities as contained in Section 10a-5 of the Connecticut General Statutes, approved the promotions of the professional staff members in Exhibit A, effective with the pay period of September 27 and the reorganization of the Department's academic affairs division.

b. Operating Quarterly Reports for the Twelve Month Period Ending June 30, 2007

M. Johnson reported that with the exception of the UConn Health Center, the constituent units ended the year on a better than planned financial note. The University of Connecticut posted an operating fund gain of \$7.0 million. Similarly, the Connecticut State University experienced an operating fund gain of over \$11.3 million. The Community Colleges also ended positively with a yield of almost \$7.9 million, and Charter Oak State College had a net gain of almost \$430,000. The common factors across the units that helped fuel these positive results were lower than expected energy costs and higher than expected investment income. M. Johnson reviewed other more unique factors.

Despite significantly reduced expenditures and increased volumes, the UConn Health Center experienced unplanned losses due to changes in patient and case mixes. The receipt of a deficiency appropriation of \$22.1 million reduced a \$23.7 million shortfall to a final deficit of \$1.6 million. Consultants are being brought in to make recommendations on how to improve performance and forecasting methods.

On a motion made by B. Bevacqua and seconded by J. Gatling, the Board approved the operating fund quarterly reports for the twelve-month period ending June 30, 2007, for the University of Connecticut, University of Connecticut Health Center, Connecticut State University, Community-Technical College System and Board for State Academic Awards for submission to the Office of Policy and Management and the Appropriations and Education Committees.

c. Endorsement of New Peer Institutions for the Connecticut Community Colleges

M. Johnson reported that the Community Colleges have requested a modification to their list of peers for their small and medium urban community college groups. These peer groups are used for comparison purposes in the Department's annual accountability reports. The changes are requested to reflect the fact that four of the old peers are no longer comparable because of changes in enrollment and in some cases mix.

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On a motion made by B. Bevacqua and seconded by J. Gatling, the Board endorsed the new set of peer institutions for the Connecticut Community Colleges. In addition, for consistency, transparency and continuity in message, it is important that the constituent units accept and use these endorsed peer groups when speaking to internal and external audiences to avoid unnecessary confusion created by introducing other variations of these peer groups.

#### d. Department of Higher Education 2007 Affirmative Action Plan

T. Bates reported that the Department's 2006 plan submitted to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) last year was approved and the Department remains on an annual filing status. There were four hires at the Department during this reporting period. The achievement rate was 25 percent for the short-term hiring goals. Minority representation over the last nine year has increased nine percentage points from 19 to 28 percent. He further reviewed workforce utilization by race/ethnic/gender groupings and the hiring goals set for July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 to address underutilization at the Department.

J. Gatling asked for further clarification in the definition of underutilization and how goals are set. T. Bates responded with explanations of both.

For the 2006-07 fiscal year, the Department exceeded its small business purchasing and contracting goals and achieved over 50 percent of its minority business purchasing/contracts goals.

On a motion made by B. Bevacqua and seconded by J. Gatling, the Board approved the draft of the 2007 Affirmative Action Plan and authorized the Commissioner to approve the final draft of the 2007 report for submission to the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities on or before October 15, 2007.

#### 7. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. 2007 Annual Report of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust (CHET)
- b. Goodwin College – accreditation of a program in Health Sciences, leading to the Associate in Science degree
- c. Mitchell College – licensure of a program in Homeland Security, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree
- d. Tunxis Community College – modification of a program in Dental Hygiene, leading to an Associate of Science degree
- e. University of Connecticut, Tri-Campus – accreditation of a program in Human Development and Family Studies, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree

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On a motion made by B. Flaherty, seconded by J. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Commissioner's Consent Calendar.

8. Academic Affairs and Planning Items

Action Items

a. Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Accreditation, 2007-2008

J. Zdanys reviewed the appointments to the Advisory Committee on Accreditation for the 2007-2008 academic year. It was noted that the Chairman of the Committee will be Roger Brooks, Elie Wiesel Professor of Judaic Studies and Dean of the Faculty at Connecticut College. Judith Resnick, Director of Workforce Development and Training at the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, will serve as the Vice Chairperson of the Committee.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education appoint to the Advisory Committee on Accreditation the members and alternates identified in the staff report for a term until August 31, 2010, and authorize the Commissioner to make interim appointments to fill vacancies that may occur during the coming year. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

b. Middlesex Community College – Licensure and Accreditation of a program in Biotechnology with Forensic Science option, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. Middlesex Community College was represented by Dean Frank Samuels and Professor Marci Swede.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license and accredit a program in Biotechnology with Forensic Science option, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, offered by Middlesex Community College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

c. Northwestern Connecticut Community College – Licensure and Accreditation of a program in Veterinary Assistant, leading to a Certificate

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Dean Jean Wihbey and Nancy Marchetti, Program Director, who represented the College.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license and accredit a program in Veterinary Assistant, leading to a Certificate, offered by Northwestern Connecticut Community College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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- d. St. Joseph College – Licensure of a program in online Biochemistry, leading to the Master of Science degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Billye Auclair, Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Professor Diane Dean, who represented the College.

In response to questions raised by the Board of Governors at the June meeting, Billye Auclair and Professor Dean presented information about other online Biochemistry programs and their requirements. After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in Biochemistry offered on-line, leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree, to be offered by the St. Joseph College until June 2010. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- e. Three Rivers Community College – Licensure and Accreditation of a program in Business Information Systems, leading to the Associate of Science degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. The College was represented by Dean Ann Branchini.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license and accredit a program in Business Information Systems, leading to the Associate of Science (A.S.) degree, offered by Three Rivers Community College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- f. Western Connecticut State University – Approval to offer a program in Administration and Supervision, leading to the 092 Certification.

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Ellen Durnin, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Professor Marcia Delcourt, who represented the University. Professor Anthony Rigazio-Digilio, of Central Connecticut State University, also represented the program.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education approve a program in Administration and Supervision, leading to the 092 Certification, to be offered by Western Connecticut State University in partnership with Central Connecticut State University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. W. Bevacqua seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

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Progress Report

- a. University of Phoenix – Semi-annual progress report

J. Zdanys presented the report and noted that the University has made progress implementing the campus library plan and hiring full-time faculty.

Information Items

Monthly Update

J. Zdanys presented the monthly update and noted information on the Cease and Desist Orders and Program Terminations for 2006-2007.

9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

On behalf of the Standing Advisory Committee, G. Ragosta congratulated Commissioner Lewis and thanked her for all she has done for the committee. She also thanked B. Bevacqua for his work on behalf of Connecticut higher education. She noted the upcoming joint meeting of the Board and the Standing Advisory Committee will address transfer and articulation, and that SAC has created a new subcommittee on teacher preparation.

10. Other Business

Chairman Ridley swore in Margaret Villani of Monroe as a member of the Board. Villani, an active volunteer and community member from Monroe, was appointed to the Board by House Republican Leader Larry Cafero.

11. Adjournment

J. Reynolds moved and J. Gatling seconded the motion to adjourn at 11:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser  
Secretary