

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
May 21, 2008

UConn School of Business Graduate Learning Center
Hartford, CT

Members Present: W. Aniskovich, D. Brennan, B. Flaherty, J. LaVecchia, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, R. Robins, A. Vertefeuille, M. Villani

Members Absent: J. Gatling, H. Penner

Members of the Public: M. Affleck, CCC; G. Bermúdez, CSUS; S. Braverman, CCSU; A. Levin Becker, Hartford Courant; B. Cordial, ERAU; C. Gorlin, NCC; T. Henkel, ERAU; N. Livingston, ERAU; J. Marchessault, CCC; Y. Melendez, CSUS; J. Noonan, OPM; K. Peterson, Gibbs; R. Stewart, CSUS; P. Susen, BOTCTC; M. Thornton, CCC; Rachel Vigness, ERAU; David Weagle, ERAU

1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

J. Reynolds moved and A. Vertefeuille seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

Chairman Ridley thanked the University of Connecticut School of Business Graduate Learning Center for hosting the Board of Governors' meeting. F. Ridley recognized Dr. Roy Stewart, Senior Vice Chancellor of the Connecticut State University system, who is retiring and thanked him for his service. Dr. Stewart introduced Dr. Louise Feroe who will succeed him on July 1.

F. Ridley swore in Jean LaVecchia of Killingworth as a member of the Board of Governors. LaVecchia, vice president of Human Resources and Ethics Officer for the Northeast Utilities system, was appointed to the Board of Governors by Senate President Pro Tempore Donald Williams, Jr.

F. Ridley indicated that he, Commissioner Meotti and other Board members are continuing to visit Connecticut college campuses, the most recent being Asnuntuck Community College. He also attended the Capstone presentations at the UConn Hartford Campus, and met with President

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

May 21, 2008

Page 2

Klonoski of Charter Oak State College. He participated in commencements at Central Connecticut State University and Fairfield University, and will present the State of Connecticut 2007 Medal of Science at Yale University this evening.

He invited Board members to comment on their campus visits. A. Vertefeuille indicated he represented the Board at Eastern Connecticut State University's commencement. M. Villani described her visit and tour of Southern Connecticut State University.

5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Meotti noted staff preparation of the second monthly Facts publication for the Board's review and comment, and the creation of a new agency logo conveying the state leadership role of the Board and Department.

M. Meotti introduced Associate Commissioner Mary Johnson who summarized the May Fact publication, "The Gender Gap at Connecticut Colleges and Universities."

She stated that the gap between male and female participation in higher education is not unique to Connecticut, and has widened over time. There is no compelling reason for the gap, although at least one national study has cited the exceptionally high growth rates among female minority students as a factor. This is not the case in Connecticut where only about 36% of the gender gap can be explained by the growth in minority female students. Even when men do enroll, they are less likely to complete their degree. The gender gap poses implications for the labor force as well as pressures on medical, judicial and prison resources.

J. Reynolds asked if a similar disparity exists at Connecticut high schools; M. Johnson replied that she believes the gender representation is about 50-50 at the high school level. R. Robins stated the gap is a problem and asked whether programs exist to address the issue. M. Johnson replied early intervention programs such as "freshman experience" maybe helpful.

W. Aniskovich questioned the merit of attempting to achieve statistical balance for the sake of doing so. He suggested that more information is needed about the reasons for the imbalance, statistical and otherwise, before concluding the gap is cause for concern.

M. Meotti stated the publication is part of a communications strategy to broaden understanding about the Department's research capabilities and findings, and to spark conversation about data sets that may, or may not, justify closer analysis. Information on the gender gap originally appeared in the Department's larger annual enrollment report and may have been overlooked given the report's size. The Fact publications are an attempt to create more "user-friendly" communications pieces.

J. LaVecchia asked, from a workforce point of view, whether too much emphasis is placed on 4-year degrees compared to technical degrees. She speculated that more men may be going into the trades where they can earn a good living and satisfy a labor market need. She is troubled about

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

May 21, 2008

Page 3

the over-emphasis on college as a track for everybody versus acknowledging that the business trades are also very good ways to earn a wage.

J. Pothier noted that the gender gap is apparent at technical schools due to program growth in health fields which traditionally attract female students.

M. Villani asked about next steps. F. Ridley recommended additional research. J. Pothier noted staff would look at new federal data that is coming to the Department for more trend information.

B. Flaherty cautioned against ringing a bell unnecessarily and rushing into action, stating that he viewed the Board's discussion as an opportunity to highlight and distill staff work.

W. Aniskovich stated that as policy makers, the agency should look at statistical imbalances when there is evidence that the imbalance is the result of an action or a law that promotes the imbalance in a discriminatory fashion that contradicts public policy. He also stated that he would not favor a policy promoting more females moving into the trades merely for the sake of correcting a perceived imbalance. If more women choose college and more men choose to be plumbers, and there is no discriminatory act or policy promoting those results, it should not be a policy concern. He further stated that he does not think this should stop the review or discussion of the data, or the process of making certain that isn't something that is promoting an imbalance that is contrary to public policy. But he warned that basing actions on anecdotal evidence could impair the agency's ability to move public policy forward.

6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. Briarwood College – accreditation of a program in Nuclear Medicine, leading to the Associate of Applied Science degree or to a Certificate in Nuclear Medicine Technology
- b. Briarwood College – accreditation of a program in Dental Hygiene, leading to the Associate of Science degree
- c. Brown University – re-licensure of a program in Biology, leading to the Master of Arts degree at Pfizer Central Research, Groton
- d. Capital Community College – licensure of a program in Insurance and Financial Services, leading to the Associate of Science degree
- e. Clemens College – change of the reaccreditation timeline for the College
- f. Middlesex Community College – reaccreditation of the College

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

May 21, 2008

Page 4

- g. Norwalk Community College – licensure and accreditation of an Associate of Science in Insurance and Financial Services
- h. Saint Joseph College – reaccreditation of the College
- i. Saint Joseph College – accreditation of a program in Liberal Studies, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree
- j. Saint Joseph College – licensure and accreditation of a program in Autism Spectrum Disorders, leading to a Graduate Certificate
- k. Tunxis Community College – reaccreditation of the College
- l. Tunxis Community College – licensure of a Pathway to Teaching program, leading to an Associate of Arts degree
- m. Constituent Unit Quarterly Operating Fund Reports
- n. University of Connecticut – Endowed Chair in Mechanistic Toxicology
- o. Highlights – FY 2009 Operating and Capital Budgets and Legislative Report

On a motion made by A. Vertefeuille, seconded by B. Flaherty, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Commissioner’s Consent Calendar.

7. Academic Affairs

Action Item

- a. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida - Licensure of a program in Professional Aeronautics and Technical Management, each leading to the Bachelor of Science degree and a program in Aeronautical Science, leading to the Master of Aeronautical Science degree, to be offered by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, FL, at the Pratt & Whitney Training Facility in East Hartford

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Bernard Cordial, Dean of Academic Affairs; Thomas Henkel, Associate Dean of Academic Support; Rachel Vigness, Associate Dean of Academic Support; David Weagle, Marketing Manager; and Neil Livingston, Local Liaison & Director of Academic Support candidate, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in Professional Aeronautics and a program in Technical Management, each leading to the Bachelor of Science degree, and a program in Aeronautical Science, leading to the Master of Aeronautical Science degree, to be offered by Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, at the

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

May 21, 2008

Page 5

Pratt & Whitney Training Facility in East Hartford, Connecticut, until May 31, 2011. Reynolds also moved that the Board of Governors require Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to submit a semi-annual report to the Department of Higher Education on faculty hiring for each of the three programs, including a detailed overall faculty plan for the programs, and that the Department report on the results of that hiring and that plan to the Board of Governors. Reynolds additionally moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education affirm that an assessment of the success of the University's faculty plan should be a key element of any relicensure review of the University's educational programs in Connecticut. F. Ridley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Item

- a. Closure of Gibbs College – Presentation by Kurt Peterson, President of Gibbs College

President Peterson spoke about the closure of the College, noting that 127 students have withdrawn since the College's announcement. Peterson explained the plans for student teach-outs, and thanked Commissioner Meotti for taking proactive measures to inform students of their options. Commissioner Meotti described the Department's resources for students, including the Education & Employment Information Center and a new section on the agency's website. J. Zdanys thanked the many institutions that have offered to help students with transfers and teach-outs.

8. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

S. Braverman noted changes in SAC officers due to the recent election of new SAC representatives of the community colleges. Barbara Richards of Housatonic Community College is no longer Secretary but now serves an alternate faculty representative. S. Braverman of Central Connecticut State University will now serve as Secretary; Jim Sherrard, of Three Rivers Community College, will continue as Chair and Steve Jarvi, of the University of Connecticut, is Vice-Chair. Braverman noted SAC's fall joint meeting with the Board of Governors will focus on student preparation, including a discussion of the PreK-20 Council. SAC has created a new taskforce, "The Cost of Attending College," which will focus on the cost of textbooks, declining student financial aid and transportation costs. Articulation remains a major focus, and a SAC task force is continuing to work on this issue.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

May 21, 2008

Page 6

9. Legal Matters

- a. Hearing on Proposed Decision in the Matter of D & L Tractor Trailer Training School v. Department of Higher Education, BOG 2007-01

On a motion made B. Flaherty and seconded by R. Robins, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss legal matters, and invited C. Fraser, Board Secretary, and E. Melendez, Assistant Attorney General, to participate in the session.

The Board returned to public session at 11:50 a.m., when the hearing began with the process recorded by a court reporter. A full hearing transcript is available upon request from the Department of Higher Education.

After further discussion, on a motion made by W. Aniskovich and seconded by B. Flaherty, the Board resolved the matter pursuant to the attached Final Decision of the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The motion passed with a vote of five to four.

10. Adjournment

B. Flaherty moved and A. Vertefeuille seconded the motion to adjourn at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary