

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
January 16, 2008

Department of Higher Education
Hartford, CT

Members Present: D. Brennan, R. Hollander, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, R. Robins,
M. Villani

Members Absent: W. Aniskovich, B. Flaherty, J. Gatling, H. Penner, A. Vertefeuille

Members of the Public: G. Alger, Quinnipiac; S. Allen, Post; D. Evanovich, UConn; R. Hanley, Quinnipiac; M. Harris, Charter Oak; E. Hastings, Post; P. Kedderis, CSUS; D. Kowalsky, Quinnipiac; A. Levin Becker, Hartford Courant; J. Noonan, OPM; P. Sanders, Post; M. Statmore, Post; R. Stewart, CSUS; T. Thorington, CSUS; D. Warren, Post; C. Williams, Charter Oak

1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2. Executive Session

a. Personnel Matters

On a motion made by J. Reynolds by R. Hollander, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 10:03 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 10:47 a.m.

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

R. Hollander moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2007, and January 2, 2008 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley noted that Michael Meotti will begin serving as Commissioner of Higher Education on March 1, 2008. F. Ridley stated that he had met with him and M. Meotti expressed his interest to meet individually with Board members.

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F. Ridley thanked all those involved in the Commissioner's search process. Many individuals from the higher education community met with the Committee and contributed valuable thoughts and suggestions. F. Ridley also thanked Department staff, including the Associate Commissioners who met with Search Committee representatives. He specifically thanked Connie Fraser who served as the Department's liaison to the Committee, noting her work exceeded their expectations. He also thanked members of the Search Committee including Brian Flaherty, James Gatling, Jean Reynolds and Albert Vertefeulle who chaired the group, as well as other Board members. He discharged the Search Committee of their work.

F. Ridley noted that Dorsey Kendrick, President of Gateway Community College, was featured in a cover story in the New Haven Business Times which will be distributed to Board members.

He indicated that Board members had received a copy of CGS Sections 10a-1 through 10a-60 pertaining to the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Governors for Higher Education per the request of the Governor.

F. Ridley reminded Board members that invitations for commencement exercises would be arriving and urged Board members to participate as their schedules permit.

Finally, F. Ridley thanked Commissioner Valerie Lewis for her years of service to the Board and the Department. She has broadened the scope of the agency's activities to encompass workforce and early childhood development issues, as well as built stronger partnerships with the K-12 system, particularly through the PK-16 Council.

He cited several accomplishments under her leadership including greater attention to accountability and the need to control tuition and textbook costs. On the national level, she has served as a past president for the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO). Board members acknowledged Commissioner Valerie Lewis and thanked her.

5. Report of the Commissioner

V. Lewis thanked the Board and staff for their tremendous support.

She indicated that the Board packets contain a nomination form for the 2008 Medal of Technology. State statute requires the Board of Governors to award the state Medals of Science and Technology in alternate years with the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering.

She noted that the Transfer and Articulation Report was sent to the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee as required under Special Act 07-7, An Act Concerning Public Institutions of Higher Education System Transfer and Articulation Process.

Commissioner Lewis introduced new staff member, Jason Stevens, who will serve as a Senior Consultant in Academic Affairs working in the veterans' program approval unit. Prior to entering the workforce, Stevens was in the Air Force for six years.

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V. Lewis invited Patricia Sanders, President of Post University, to speak to the Board regarding the CICS Grant Program audit of Post recently conducted by the Department. President Sanders introduced members of her staff: David Warren, Vice President for Operations; Scott Allen, Vice President for Finance and Administration; Mike Statmore, Director of Information and Communication Technology; and Ed Hastings, Director of Audit and Compliance. President Sanders indicated that she is grateful for the guidance from the Department of Higher Education, particularly from Mark French, Associate Director, Student Financial Aid.

President Sanders indicated that 40% of Post's student body is made up of minority group members or members of protected groups and another 30% are first-generation college students or children of immigrants. Many of these are Connecticut residents who do benefit from the CICS Grant Program. Most issues raised in the audit related to internal controls and procedures. Post has responded by strengthening its management, storage and retrieval of enrollment data, hiring two financial aid specialists, and making technology improvements. All reports are now automated and will be fully accessible to university staff for use in decision-making, as well as transparent to various external constituents and stakeholders.

The Board and Commissioner thanked President Sanders and Post staff for taking the time to discuss its response to the audit with the Board.

6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. Fairfield University – Modification of the accredited program in International Studies, leading to a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree

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

7. Finance and Administration

On a motion made by J. Reynolds, seconded by D. Brennan, the Board, subject to its responsibilities as contained in Section 10a-5 of the Connecticut General Statutes to select and employ a commissioner of higher education, to fix terms and conditions of employment, and to fix compensation for the position, unanimously voted to elect Michael P. Meotti as Commissioner according to the terms of the employment contract covering the period March 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010 and signed on January 4, 2008.

On a motion made by M. Villani, seconded by R. Hollander, the Board subject to its responsibilities contained in Section 10a-5 of the Connecticut General Statutes, unanimously voted to approve a merit award to the Board's secretary as listed in Exhibit A, effective with the next pay period. Exhibit is on file.

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- a. Tuition and Fee Schedules for Connecticut Public Colleges and Universities for the 2008-09 Academic Year

M. Johnson summarized the rate increases for tuition and fees at Connecticut's public colleges and universities for the 2008-09 academic year and reviewed the major drivers associated with the higher rates. The increases are above both the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) rate for last year which ran 3.4 percent and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate of 2.6 percent. She noted that the Department is asking to undertake a discussion with the Connecticut State University (CSU) regarding the unbundling of the University General Fee (UGF) and move tuition-related costs to tuition retaining only those costs considered self-supporting auxiliary items to the UGF fee in accordance with the Board of Governors' Tuition Policy.

Chairman Ridley reported that he received a letter from Chancellor Charter, CSU System, apologizing that he could not be present at the Board of Governors meeting, but willing to enter into dialogue regarding tuition and fees at CSU.

There was considerable discussion concerning the differentiation between full and part-time fees at CSU, the need for information on net costs of attendance and the need for better cost management among the constituent units.

On a motion made by D. Brennan, seconded by R. Robins, the Board, guided by the state's goals to ensure affordable access, encourage college attendance and support workforce development in Connecticut and the responsibilities contained under Section 10a-15 of the Connecticut General Statutes, unanimously voted to receive the 2008-09 tuition and fee adjustments as presented. It directs Department staff to undertake discussions with the Connecticut State University regarding the unbundling of the University General Fee and addressing the differentiation between full and part-time students with a report back to the Board by April 1st. In addition, the Board makes the following recommendations:

- The constituent units should explore ways to improve process management and streamline costs to drive efficiency, and the Governor and the General Assembly should consider formal incentives to encourage these cost reduction/containment efforts.
- The constituent units should make substantial progress in submitting the data necessary for the Department to assess and report on net costs of attendance.

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8. Academic Affairs and Planning Items

Action Items

- a. Post University – Extension of licensure for the Master of Science in Human Services program

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced President Pat Sanders, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education extend the licensure of the Master of Science in Human Services program, offered by Post University, until May 31, 2008. M. Villani seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Quinnipiac University – Accreditation of a program in Physical Therapy, leading to the Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Physical Therapy (BS/DPT) degrees

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Donald Kowalsky, Program Director, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accredit a program in Physical Therapy, leading to the Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Physical Therapy (BS/DPT) degrees, to be offered by Quinnipiac University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. F. Ridley seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Quinnipiac University – Licensure and accreditation of a program in Interactive Communications, offered on-line, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. The University was represented by Richard Hanley, Program Director.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license and accredit a program in Interactive Communications, to be offered on-line by Quinnipiac University, leading to a Master of Science (M.S.) degree, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. M. Villani seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- d. Quinnipiac University – Approval to offer a Sixth-Year Certificate in Educational Leadership, leading the 092 Certification

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. The University was represented by Gary Alger, Program Director.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that Board of Governors for Higher Education approve a Sixth-Year Certificate in Educational Leadership, leading to the 092 Certification, to be offered

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by Quinnipiac University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. R. Robins seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Progress Reports

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

J. Zdanys presented the progress report and noted program enrollments, student competencies, and faculty qualifications. D. Brennan recommended that future progress reports include projected and actual enrollment figures.

Information Items

- a. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys presented the monthly update.

9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

G. Ragosta stated that the Committee stands ready to meet with Commissioner-Elect Mike Meotti and Board members to discuss how the committee can be helpful to higher education and the Board of Governors. She also indicated that the committee would like to hold its next joint meeting with the Board in April 2008.

10. Other Business

None.

11. Adjournment

J. Reynolds moved and D. Brennan seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary