

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
September 17, 2008

Department of Higher Education
Hartford, CT

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

Members Absent: H. Penner, M. Villani

Members of the Public: G. Bermúdez, CSUS; S. Braverman, CCSU; S. Capasso, St. Vincent's;
D. Cassidy, COSC; K. Clark, Gibbs; D. Cotham, Gibbs; J. Ferraiolo, CSUS; J.
Howarth, CSUS; A. McCain, St. Vincent's; G. Ragosta, CCIC; J. Rozarie, Gibbs;
R. Zabek, BOTCTC

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

J. Gatling moved and R. Robins seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley noted that he spoke recently to a group of retirees who commented they had either seen or heard Commissioner Meotti in several public venues - an indication that members of the public are paying attention to higher education.

He also attended a business seminar sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of State which featured Professor Rose Bednarz of Gateway Community College. Ridley commended Bednarz for volunteering her time to coach the business leaders in communications at the session.

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5. Report of the Commissioner

M. Meotti recognized J. Ciarleglio and T. Bates for their work in renovating the lower floors of 61 Woodland Street to be used by the Alternate Route to Certification Program and for general conference space, including Board meetings.

a. Board Meeting Schedule

M. Meotti stated that he and Chairman Ridley have discussed the 2009 Board meeting schedule and have asked staff to survey Board members regarding their date and time preferences for next year's meetings.

b. Strategic Plan

M. Meotti shared a framework for strategic planning for both the system and the agency. The process has four components 1) a strategic plan for the state, 2) an implementation plan for key players, 3) a Department business plan, and 4) an annual Department work plan.

M. Meotti indicated he had reviewed strategic plans from several other states as well as the 2007 state legislation calling for a blue ribbon commission to develop a plan for Connecticut, and identified issues common to all, notably economic competitiveness, equal opportunity, K-20 education pathways, and higher education performance.

B. Flaherty commented that the framework was helpful in defining the department's role in bringing together stakeholders to move a plan forward, and made the process appear less daunting.

F. Ridley asked M. Meotti about his recent testimony to the Banking and the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committees on the effects of the subprime lending crisis on the student loan market, and noted the Commissioner and Mark French of the Department participated in a Connecticut Public Radio talk show on this issue.

M. Meotti summarized his testimony, noting that while affordability and availability of financial aid remain large issues, discussions with Connecticut financial aid officers reveal that the current financial turmoil was not hindering the ability of students who typically received loans in the past from borrowing for college at this time.

6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. Operating Fund Quarterly Reports for the Twelve-Month Period Ending June 30, 2008
- b. 2008 Annual Report of the Connecticut Higher Education Trust
- c. Department of Higher Education's 2008 Affirmative Action Plan

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- d. Appointments to the Advisory Committee on Accreditation
- e. Fairfield University – licensure of a program in Communications, leading to the Master of Arts degree
- f. Mitchell College – licensure of a program in Global Studies, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree
- g. Sacred Heart University – reaccreditation of the University
- h. Southern Connecticut State University – licensure of a program in Creative Writing, leading to the Master of Fine Arts degree
- i. Three Rivers Community College – reaccreditation of the College

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

7. Finance and Administration

Action Items

- a. Department of Higher Education – FY 2009-11 Current Services Budget

M. Johnson reported that the Department’s FY 2009-11 current services budget request calls for a total of \$113.3 million for 2010 and \$102.4 million in 2011, representing increases of \$41.6 million in 2010 and \$30.7 million in 2011 over the 2009 allotment. The budget request does not include salary increases for 2011 due to the absence of a collective bargaining contract. The statutory student aid formula increases of \$30.8 million drive the majority of the requested increase. In addition, agencies have been instructed to prepare 10 percent reduction options on their current services requests due to the Office of Policy and Management on October 14th. No requests to develop expansion options can be submitted until after the reduction options have been submitted.

On a motion made by J. Reynolds, seconded by R. Robins, the Board unanimously voted to endorse the Department of Higher Education’s FY 2009-11 Biennial General Fund Current Services Request of \$113,275,777 for 2010 and \$102,370,479 for 2011.

- b. FY 2009-11 Biennial Operating Budget Request

M. Johnson reported that the FY 2009-11 current services operating budget request for Connecticut’s system of higher education is \$2.5 billion and 2.6 billion, respectively, for each year of the biennium. The budget request includes known collective bargaining increases.

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Tuition and fee increases have not been approved by the respective boards and therefore, estimates were not provided. Tuition and fee adjustments will be presented before the Board of Governors in January or February and revenue projections will be adjusted after that time. She noted the possibility of additional budget items coming before the Board of Governors before the end of the year.

Board members requested a timeline be emailed to them pertaining to when they could expect to review budget and tuition and fees items during the year so that they can be better prepared in the future and have a strategic role.

On a motion made by J. Gatling, seconded by R. Robins, the Board unanimously voted to authorize the Commissioner to transmit the proposed FY 2009-11 Current Services Operating Budget to the Governor and the General Assembly as provided under C.G.S. Section 10a-8.

c. FY 2009-11 Biennial Capital Budget Request

M. Johnson reported that funds for the University of Connecticut and Connecticut State University are already authorized under UConn 21st Century and CSU 2020. Requests are for new general obligation bonds for the Community-Technical College System and Charter Oak State College. For the biennium, a total of \$135.7 million is requested for 25 projects. The bulk of the new requests are for renovation projects at the Community Colleges. Board members requested a look at the outstanding projects from the Higher Education Asset Protection Program study done in 2005.

On a motion made by R. Robins, seconded by J. Gatling, the Board unanimously voted to endorse the Department of Higher Education's submission of the constituent units FY 2009-11 Biennial Capital Budget Request of \$300,416,206 for 2010 and \$311,978,658 for 2011.

There was some discussion regarding the deadline of year-end constituent unit operating fund reports.

8. Academic Affairs

Action Items

a. Gibbs College – Continuation of the College's Accreditation

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report including the information item, Update on the Closing of the College. The College was represented by Don Cotham, Divisional Vice President of Compliance, and Kevin Clark, Director of Education at the Norwalk campus.

J. Reynolds inquired as to the March 31, 2009 accreditation expiration, instead of continuing the accreditation until the College closes on December 31, 2009. Commissioner Meotti indicated that the shorter accreditation period would give the Board another opportunity to review the

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status of the College and its programs prior to the closing of the College. F. Ridley asked if quarterly updates were still sufficient. J. Zdanys indicated that because the College is structured on an academic quarter basis, the quarterly updates are sufficient.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education continue the accreditation of Gibbs College, for a period of six months, until March 31, 2009. Ms. Reynolds also moved that the continuation of accreditation be granted only if Gibbs College continues to operate in Connecticut until this date; otherwise, if the College ceases operations before the end of this accreditation period, accreditation will terminate on the last day of the College's operation in Connecticut. Ms. Reynolds further moved that the College continue to provide the Department of Higher Education with quarterly progress reports that will include the faculty and administrative employment, by program; and general administrative employment; financial aid disbursements; transfer arrangements and student transfers, by institution; and program "phase outs" as students complete their studies. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Gibbs College – Accreditation of a program in Criminal Justice, leading to the Associate of Science degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Judith Rozarie, Chair of the Criminal Justice program, who represented the College.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accredit a program in Criminal Justice, leading to the Associate of Science degree, to be offered by Gibbs College, until December 31, 2009. D. Brennan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Gibbs College – Accreditation of a program in Interior Decorating, leading to an Associate in Applied Science degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Irena Simeonova, Chair of the Interior Decorating program, who represented the College.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accredit a program in Interior Decorating, leading to the Associate in Applied Science degree, to be offered by Gibbs College, until December 31, 2009. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- d. St. Vincent's College – Accreditation of a program in General Studies, leading to the Associate in Science degree

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report. The College was represented by Anita McCain, Dean of Academic Services, and Susan Capasso, Program Coordinator.

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After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accredit a program in General Studies, leading to the Associate in Science degree, to be offered by St. Vincent's College, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. Robert Robins seconded; the motion passed with J. LaVecchia abstaining.

Information Items

a. Gibbs College - Update on the Closing of the College

The Board of Governors for Higher Education reviewed this item in conjunction with the College's application for Continuation of its Accreditation.

b. Academic Affairs and Planning, *Summary of Activities 2007-2008*

J. Zdanys reviewed the summary noting that there was an increase in program approvals from 90 in the 2006-2007 academic year to 110 in 2007-2008. A total of 115 programs were terminated by public and independent colleges and universities. J. Zdanys also noted that there was a growth in the number of health programs offered but an overall decline in the sciences.

c. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys reviewed the update. D. Brennan inquired as to the status of the Applied Microbial Systems Analysis, MS program at the University of Connecticut, as the program's licensure period will expire on September 30, 2008. J. Zdanys explained that the program has not submitted an application for accreditation but that the University has expressed the possibility that it may be terminating the program.

9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee

S. Braverman reported that the most recent meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee focused on the November joint meeting with the Board of Governors which will address student preparedness. She stated that SAC members asked for clarification of their role in Board meetings. F. Ridley responded that under the statute, members of the SAC executive committee may participate in Board meetings but cannot vote. He further requested that SAC executive committee members notify staff of their plans to attend to aid logistical planning.

10. Other Business

b. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

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On a motion made by B. Flaherty, seconded by W. Aniskovich, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 11:25 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 11:44 a.m.

On a motion made by J. Reynolds, seconded by A. Vertefeuille, the Board unanimously voted to approve the compensation adjustments listed in Exhibit A and the stipend in Exhibit B. Exhibits are on file.

11. Adjournment

B. Flaherty moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary