

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
March 18, 2009

Department of Higher Education
Hartford, CT

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

Members Absent: B. Flaherty, J. Gatling

Executive Committee, SAC: G. Bermúdez, CSUS; D. Cassidy, COSC; G. Ragosta, CCIC;
J. Sherrard, TRCC; R. Zabek, BOTCTC

Members of the Public: K. Clark, Gibbs; P. Cocchiola, BOTCTC; D. Cotham, Gibbs;
P. Kedderis, CSUS; G. Merritt, Hartford Courant; K. Peterson, Gibbs;
T. Thorington, CSUS

1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

M. Villani moved and A. Vertefeuille seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley reported that the State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO) organization has created several Peer Consultation Networks and has selected Commissioner Meotti to co-chair the Teacher Education P-16 Network. Christine Thatcher, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, is providing staff support. Meotti is serving on two similar Networks addressing funding approaches and state data systems.

F. Ridley announced he has appointed Albert Vertefeuille to chair the Board's Nominating Committee. Other members are Dorothea Brennan and Robert Robins. The committee is schedule to report back to the Board at its April meeting, and the Board is planning to vote for officers at its May meeting.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

March 18, 2009

Page 2

5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Meotti summarized the Weisman Scholarship Program and introduced the program's funders, Fred and Joan Weisman; and Sara Feshazion, a Weisman Scholarship recipient and a senior at the University of Connecticut who is completing her student teaching.

Mark French, Associate Director for Student Financial Aid, provided details on the Weisman program which was created in 2005 and provides \$5,000 annual scholarships and loan reimbursement stipends for minority students who plan to teach math or science in a Connecticut middle or high school.

Sara Feshazion expressed her appreciation for the Weisman Scholarship which provides much-needed help with college costs. She described her joy in teaching science to junior and senior students at Bulkeley High School in Hartford.

Joan Weisman noted her family's emphasis on education and desire to help others, and delight in having the opportunity to meet a scholarship recipient.

F. Ridley presented the Weismans with a Board Certificate of Appreciation. F. Weisman thanked the Board and stated he hopes the program can expand to serve more students.

6. Finance and Administration

a. Endorsement of the 2009 Accountability Report for Higher Education

M. Johnson, Associate Commissioner for Finance, distributed the report summary and indicated that the full report is available online. She discussed the following highlights:

- Degrees conferred have increased 21% since 2002, although Connecticut is still slightly below the national average in terms of degrees per 1,000 of the student population.
- More Connecticut public high school graduates are staying in-state to attend college.
- Connecticut public colleges do well in graduating students who pass licensure exams, especially in nursing.
- Seventy percent of 2007 public college graduates were employed in Connecticut in the 3rd quarter after graduation.
- Connecticut's research intensity rank has improved from 31 in 2001 to 28 in 2006, however the growth rate is lower than northeast average by 9 percentage points.
- In 2007 Connecticut ranked 4th in the United States in educational attainment.

Discussion occurred regarding student attainment and preparation; Board members asked about the availability of similar studies to gauge performance. Commissioner Meotti noted the challenge of using information in a positive way to affect change and build partnerships to measure progress. R. Robins asked if there was a report on gender participation and M. Johnson stated this information will be in next month's enrollment report. On a motion made by J.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

March 18, 2009

Page 3

Reynolds and seconded by W. Aniskovich, the 2009 Accountability Report for Higher Education was accepted unanimously.

b. 2009 Annual Report: Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Higher Education

A. Poole, Director of Educational Opportunity and Gear UP, distributed draft copies of the report and summarized its major findings. The report documents increases in minority undergraduate enrollment and graduates; however minority representation in college still lags behind their representation in the state's general population. Minority students are overrepresented at community colleges. Results from the 2008 ACT college admission test show that only 35% of white students are prepared for college with lower rates for Hispanics and African Americans.

F. Ridley commented that the results from the 2008 ACT test were appalling, and heighten pressures on colleges to provide more remediation.

A. Poole commented on the report's findings regarding the role of the state's ConnCAS (Connecticut College Access and Success) and ConnCAP (Connecticut Collegiate Awareness and Preparation) programs in increasing the preparation and success of minority students.

On a motion made by J. Reynolds and seconded by W. Aniskovich, the 2009 Annual Report: Strategic Plan to Ensure Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Connecticut Higher Education was approved unanimously.

7. Academic Affairs

Action Items

- a. Gibbs College – Quarterly progress report and the continuation of the College's accreditation

J. Zdanys, Associate Commissioner for Academic Affairs, reviewed the staff report and introduced Kurtis Peterson, President, Donald Cotham, Vice President for Compliance, and Kevin Clarke, Director of Education, who represented the College.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education continue the accreditation of Gibbs College, and the accreditation of the programs it offers, for a period of nine months, until December 31, 2009. Ms. Reynolds also moved that this 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 following information: student enrollments and progress toward degree, by program; faculty and administrative employment, by

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

March 18, 2009

Page 4

program; and general administrative employment; financial aid disbursements; transfer arrangements and student transfers, by institution; and program “phase outs” as students complete their studies. W. Aniskovich seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Information Items

a. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys summarized the monthly update.

8. Commissioner’s Consent Calendar

- a. Quinnipiac University – accreditation of a program in Cardiovascular Perfusion, leading to the Master of Health Science degree
- b. Quinnipiac University – accreditation of a program in Biomedical Marketing, leading to the Bachelor of Science degree
- c. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL – licensure of a program of studies leading to a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Development, offered at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton
- d. University of Massachusetts, Boston – authorization to place students in programs of Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, School Psychology, and School Counseling for the required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools

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

9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

J. Sherrard noted that members of the Standing Advisory Committee are looking forward to their joint meeting in April with the Board of Governors.

10. Other Business

a. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

On a motion made by M. Villani, seconded by J. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 2:40 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 3:10 p.m.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

March 18, 2009

Page 5

11. Adjournment

A. Vertefeuille moved and D. Brennan seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary