

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting  
January 22, 2009

Department of Higher Education  
Hartford, CT

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

Members Absent: J. Gatling

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

Members of the Public: S. Adams, COSC; P. Cocchiola, BOTCTC; A. Gates, CCUS;  
N. Hoffman, CCSU; Z. Kremens, CCSU; N. Masoud, CCSU;  
G. Merritt, Hartford Courant; M. Sakofs, CCSU

### 1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., and he requested a moment of silence in honor of United States Senator Pell, who had a lot to do with the creation and funding of what we now know as the Pell Grant.

### 2. Approval of the Board Minutes

J. Reynolds moved and B. Flaherty seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Public Participation

None.

### 4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley noted that on December 18, 2008 several members of the Board visited Western Connecticut State University. Some Board members and Commissioner throughout the year have been visiting campuses across the state to learn more about their programs and facilities. The feedback from these visits continues to be positive.

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

January 22, 2009

Page 2

F. Ridley informed Board members that invitations for college commencements are starting to arrive. He indicated that he will be participating in Eastern Connecticut State University's commencement and D. Brennan has offered to participate in the commencement exercises at

Fairfield University. Mr. Ridley encouraged other Board members to participate in these events when possible.

## 5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Meotti noted that he has been doing a number of public speaking engagements over the last few months. He also is speaking with the constituent units about the development of a strategic plan which addresses population level issues facing the state.

M. Meotti gave a brief presentation regarding the concern over the projected decline in the educational attainment level of the state's population over the next few decades. There is a significant amount of evidence between the level of educational attainment and the economic success of the region in which that population lives. He noted that back in 1960, of the top five states in the income level and the top five states in the education level, only one state was represented in both; that was California. By 2000, the top five states in income were also the top five in educational attainment. They include Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and Colorado.

M. Meotti stated that in 1990 Connecticut was tied for first place with Massachusetts for the percentage of adults with a baccalaureate degree, which was 27.2%. By the 2000 census, Connecticut had dropped to 4<sup>th</sup> even though the percentage continued to grow to 31.4%. A report, *New England 2020*, which was headed by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation, predicts that Connecticut will see a decline in the percentage of the population with a baccalaureate degree by 2020. This means that Connecticut, a state that has profited economically, and whose families have profited from a tremendous growth in the educational attainment level of population in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century now, along with states in New England in a position where we may see the education level of the population begin to decline. This is the message of the challenge that Connecticut faces.

A long-term goal would be to strive to make *post-secondary* education universal. Post-secondary does not necessarily mean a 4-year degree or the traditional concept of what higher education may be; this is not strictly colleges and universities.

Finally, M. Meotti stated that when talking about issues such as this, it does not necessarily mean there is a need to spend more money. Resources do play a role in this type of agenda, but it may be a change in how those existing resources are used.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

January 22, 2009

Page 3

### 6. Academic Affairs

Commissioner Meotti requested that the Board of Governors add Charter Oak State College to the Academic Affairs action agenda to consider its proposal of a change in mission and degree level. A. Vertefeuille moved to suspend the rules and add Charter Oak State College to the action agenda as item c. R. Robins seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ridley inquired as to whether any member of the Board would like to remove any items from the Commissioner's Consent Calendar for review on the action agenda. M. Villani requested that the application from the University of New Haven be reviewed as an action item. Mr. Ridley indicated that the item would be reviewed as item d.

#### Action Items

- a. Albertus Magnus College – licensure of a program in Education, leading to the Master of Science in Education degree

J. Zdanys respectfully requested that consideration of the program be postponed until the February meeting, as a representative from the College was unable to attend the meeting.

- b. Central Connecticut State University – accreditation of a Master of Arts in Teaching program, leading to Certification in Mathematics, Science, Spanish, English, and Technology Education

J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Dean Mitchell Sakofs and Professor Nancy Hoffman, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education accredit a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program, leading to Certification in Mathematics, Science, Spanish, English, and Technology Education, to be offered by Central Connecticut State University, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. R. Robins seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- c. Charter Oak State College

Commissioner Meotti reviewed the current charter and mission of the College and indicated that the College came to the Department with its plans to pursue a change in the charter of the College to expand its program offerings to graduate level education in an online environment. Commissioner Meotti explained that the Department would be supportive of this legislation and noted that nationally the student demand for online education is at the graduate level, very few Connecticut Colleges offer online graduate programs, and that historically Charter Oak State College has been successful with the programs it offers. Shirley Adams, Provost, represented the College on behalf of President Edward Klonoski.

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

January 22, 2009

Page 4

After discussion, A. Vertefeuille moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education authorize the Commissioner of Higher Education to express the support of the Board of Governors for Higher Education to the Connecticut General Assembly for the change of mission and degree level to the Master's degree level for Charter Oak State College. J. Reynolds seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- d. University of New Haven – approval to offer the accredited program in Labor Relations, leading to the Master of Science degree, at an off-site location in Waterbury, Connecticut

M. Villani commended the program and indicated her request that the program be removed from the Commissioner's Consent Calendar was due to a personal conflict. After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education authorize the University of New Haven to offer the accredited program in Labor Relations, leading to the Master of Science (M.S.) degree, at an off-site location in Waterbury, Connecticut. F. Ridley seconded; the motion passed with M. Villani abstaining.

### Information Items

In the interest of time, J. Zdanys briefly reviewed the progress reports noting that both progress reports were submitted on time and in response to expectations and stipulations requested by the Board of Governors at the time of program licensure. J. Zdanys briefly summarized the monthly update.

- a. Central Connecticut State University – Progress Report for the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- b. Talmudic Institute of Connecticut (Yeshiva Gedola of Bridgeport) – a report in response to requirements stipulated by the Board of Governors for Higher Education at the time of institutional licensure
- c. Monthly Update

### 7. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

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

- a. Goodwin College – licensure of a program in Health Sciences, leading to the Bachelor of Science degree
- b. Grand Canyon University – authorization to place students in educator preparation programs for the required field experience and clinical practice in Connecticut schools

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting

January 22, 2009

Page 5

- c. University of Massachusetts, Amherst – authorization to place students enrolled in the University’s School Psychology program into required internship experiences in Connecticut

8. Other Business

None.

9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

J. Sherrard noted that subcommittees of the Standing Advisory Committee continue to meet and work on their subject matter. He indicated that he plans on meeting with the Board Chair and Commissioner to select the appropriate topic for the spring joint meeting, which is tentatively scheduled for April.

10. Adjournment

A. Vertefeuille moved and B. Flaherty seconded the motion to adjourn at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser  
Secretary