

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
December 17, 2008

Department of Higher Education
Hartford, CT

Members Present: J. Gatling, J. LaVecchia, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, R. Robins, M. Villani

Members Absent: W. Aniskovich, D. Brennan, B. Flaherty, A. Vertefeuille

Executive Committee, SAC: G. Bermúdez, CSUS; S. Braverman, CCSU; D. Cassiday, COSC; G. Ragosta, CCIC; R. Zabek, BOTCTC

Members of the Public: L. Brooks, Briarwood; P. Cocchiola, BOTCTC; D. Evanovich, UConn; K. Farrish, Hartford Courant; L. Feroe, CSUS; A. Froning, CSUS; D. Goldsmith, CDLC; V. Greene, BOTCTC; P. Kedderis, CSUS; G. MacLeod, UConn; M. Rooke, MCC; A. Savage, MCC; T. Shea, UConn; P. Susen, BOTCTC; D. Trainor, CSUS; R. Weynn, UConn; C. Williams COSC

1. Call to Order

F. Ridley called the meeting to order at 9:41 a.m.

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

J. Gatling moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley stated that he met with Dr. Elsa Nuñez, President of Eastern Connecticut State University, and plans to continue similar meetings with Connecticut college and university presidents and chancellors.

5. Report of the Commissioner

None.

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6. Finance and Administration

Information Item

a. Constituent Unit Budget Discussion

Peter J. Nicholls, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Connecticut (UConn) gave a brief overview of UConn's budget. He reported on the level of state support as a percent of total revenues, the impact of a 10 percent - or \$47.2 million – rescission, and a comparison of UConn's FY 2009 tuition and mandatory fees to other public and private research universities in the Northeast.

David G. Carter, Chancellor, Connecticut State University System (CSUS), presented a broad overview of CSUS's FY 2009 budget and the impact of a reduction in state support. He explained that approximately 95 percent of the General Fund appropriation pays for salaries. Funding for fringe benefits is reimbursed to CSUS by the Comptroller's Office. He further noted that replacing the real impact of a 10 percent rescission on a dollar-for-dollar basis would require a tuition increase of 34.5 percent.

Marc Herzog, Chancellor, Community Colleges of Connecticut, (CCC) reported on the CCC's strategic priorities, operating budget revenue sources, operating budget expenditures, the greater demands of the changing student population, and critical financial issues.

Edward Klonoski, Executive Director, Board for State Academic Awards, reported on the FY 2010-11 biennial budget submission, FY 2009 challenges and the impact of the biennial budget request rescission for Charter Oak State College (COSC) and the Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC). He emphasized that the lack of capital equipment purchase funding threatens the delivery of programming for both COSC and the CTDLC.

There was a brief discussion concerning the challenges presented by the state's budget deficit. Chancellor Carter suggested that the annual 15 percent cap on tuition increases be reexamined. Chairman Ridley suggested that the constituent units of public higher education present as a whole during the legislative session. He further asked the constituent units to consider the overall cost structure of faculty as a future discussion item.

7. Academic Affairs

Action Items

- a. University of Connecticut, Tri-Campus – licensure of a program in English, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree

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J. Zdanys reviewed the staff report and introduced Nancy Bull, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Administration, who represented the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in English, leading to the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree, to be offered by the University of Connecticut Tri-Campus, for a period of three years, until December 31, 2011. J. Gatling seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Information Item

- a. Gibbs Quarterly Report

J. Zdanys briefly updated the Board on the closure of Gibbs College.

- b. Monthly Update

J. Zdanys summarized the monthly update.

8. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. Briarwood College – Extension of institutional accreditation
- b. University of Bridgeport – Accreditation of a program in Dental Hygiene, leading to the Master of Science degree, and licensure and accreditation of the program on-line
- c. University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois – Licensure of a program in Financial Mathematics, leading to the Master of Science degree, at UBS Headquarters in Stamford, CT
- d. Fairfield University – Licensure and accreditation of a program in Biochemistry, leading to the Bachelor of Science degree
- e. Goodwin College – Licensure of a program in Environmental Studies, leading to the Associate of Science degree
- f. LymeAcademy College of Fine Arts – Licensure of a program in Drawing with concentrations in Sculpture and Painting, leading to the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree
- g. Manchester Community College – Licensure and accreditation of a program in Environmental Science, leading to the Associate of Science degree
- h. Mitchell College – Reaccreditation of the College

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- i. Sacred Heart University – Approval of an Off-Campus location for the University’s RN to BSN program
- j. St. John’s University, Jamaica, New York - Extension of licensure of a program in Philosophical-Theological Studies, offered at St. John Fisher Seminary Residency, Stamford
- k. Endowed Chair Investment Fund Annual Expenditure Reports

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

9. Other Business

- a. Proposed 2009 Meeting Schedule for Board of Governors for Higher Education

Commissioner Meotti reviewed the proposed 2009 meeting schedule for the Board of Governors for Higher Education and noted that the dates listed fall on Thursdays.

After discussion, J. LaVecchia moved and R. Robins seconded the motion that the Board approve and accept the 2009 meeting schedule for the Board of Governors for Higher Education. The motion passed with one member voting against the motion.

- b. 2009 Proposed Legislation for the Department of Higher Education

Deputy Commissioner Ciarleglio reviewed the agency’s 2009 legislative proposals which mostly concern private occupational school issues; one pertains to financing institutional compliance audits for the Connecticut Aid to Independent College Student Program.

10. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

S. Braverman noted that four new students have been appointed to the committee and have attended meetings.

She informed the Board of the new subcommittees and their chairs as follows: Cost of Attending College, Bob Zabek, Chair; Transfer and Articulation, Sharon Braverman, Chair; Student Preparation, German Bermudez, Chair; Teacher Preparation, Barbara Richards and Candace Barrington, Chairs.

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11. Executive Session

On a motion made by J. Gatling, seconded by J. LaVecchia, the Board unanimously voted to enter into Executive Session at 11:29 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 12:05 p.m.

On a motion made by J. Reynolds, seconded by R. Robins, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the draft form for the annual evaluation of the Commissioner.

12. Adjournment

M. Villani moved and J. Gatling seconded the motion to adjourn at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary