

BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting
March 17, 2010

Department of Higher Education
Hartford, CT

Members Present: D. Brennan, B. Flaherty, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, A. Vertefeuille, M. Villani, M. Werle

Members Absent: W. Aniskovich, J. LaVecchia, R. Robins

Executive Committee SAC: G. Bermudez, CSUS; G. Ragosta, CCIC; M. Rooke, TCC; J. Sherrard, TRCC

Members of the Public: K. Clark, Gibbs; P. Cocchiolo, BOTCTC; L. Feroe, CSUS; J. Ferraiolo, CSUS; J. Howarth, CSUS; P. Kedderis, CSUS; B. McDonald, Post; F. Mulgrew, Post; J. Nardozzi, Post; K. Peterson, Gibbs; T. Samph, Post; V. Toomey, Gibbs; K. Zirkle, Post

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Board Minutes

J. Reynolds moved and M. Werle seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Participation

None.

4. Report of the Board Chairman

None.

5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Michael Meotti introduced three new staff members who have joined the Department of Higher Education. All are supported with federal or grant funds. Malia Sieve will serve as an Associate Director working with the P20 Council and on the agency's longitudinal data grant. Jan Kiehne is a Senior Consultant who will work with M. Sieve. Michael Criscuolo is a Consultant who will work with veterans' programs as part of the Department's federal Approving Agency responsibilities.

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M. Meotti introduced DHE Associate Director Mark French who demonstrated the newly-created on-line financial literacy game, *Who Wants to Be Financially Responsible?* M. French reported that the website (flip.ctdhe.org) is supported by funds from a settlement between the Connecticut Department of Banking and UBS PaineWebber, and is a collaborative effort by the Department of Higher Education, Connecticut Public Broadcasting, the University of Connecticut and other colleges. The interactive course is designed to help young adults become more confident in managing financial matters. It resembles a 1970s game show and features seven episodes in which real-life college students give financial advice. The Department will promote the program to colleges and urge its inclusion into first-year experience classes.

Board members discussed options for tracking student usage and satisfaction, adding information on student loans, and promotion to the general public.

M. Meotti introduced DHE Senior Associate Scott Ciecko who summarized the annual accountability report, *Higher Education Counts: Achieving Results 2010*. S. Ciecko noted that this year's streamlined report focuses on core indicators and builds on features from similar reports issued by other states. He reported on the conclusions of several key measures.

Board members discussed the report's findings on educational attainment, teachers in critical shortage areas, bachelor's degrees in priority workforce areas and peer institutions. M. Meotti noted that work on the report's new format evolved over several months, and that staff would continue making refinements in preparation for next year's edition.

6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

- a. Sacred Heart University – licensure and accreditation of a Nursing Education Track, within the accredited Master of Science in Nursing degree program, to be offered online
- b. Quinnipiac University – licensure of a program in Teacher Leadership, leading to a Master of Science degree delivered online
- c. Capital Community College - accreditation of a program in Insurance and Financial Services, leading to an Associate of Science degree
- d. Goodwin College - accreditation of a program in General Studies, leading to an Associate of Science degree
- e. Central Connecticut State University – accreditation of a program in Journalism, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree
- f. Quinnipiac University – accreditation of a program in Theater, leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree

On a motion made by A. Vertefeuille, and seconded by D. Brennan, the Board of Governors voted unanimously to approve the Commissioner's Consent Calendar.

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7. Academic Affairs

Action Items

- a. Gibbs College - Licensure of a Certificate program in Medical Billing and Coding, leading to a Certificate

DHE Director Patricia Santoro reviewed the staff report and introduced Kurtis Peterson, President; Kevin Clark, Director of Education; and Venusa Toomey, Program Director. K. Clark reviewed the program structure and faculty hiring, and V. Toomey outlined the curriculum.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a Certificate in Medical Billing and Coding, to be offered by Gibbs College, for a period of one year, until February 10, 2011. M. Villani seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

- b. Post University - Licensure of a program in Public Administration, leading to the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree, to be offered online and on campus

DHE Associate Director Christine Thatcher reviewed the staff report and introduced Thomas Samph, Board Chairman; Kenneth Zirkle, President; Frank Mulgrew, President of Post University Online; and James Nardozi, Program Manager. J. Nardozi reviewed the curriculum and F. Mulgrew outlined Post University's online learning and student verification process. T. Samph provided an overview of the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in Public Administration, leading to the Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.) degree, to be offered by Post University, for a period of three years until March 31, 2013. B. Flaherty seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

8. Other Business

M. Meotti discussed the principles developed by the P20 Council. The P20 Council was formed by an Executive Order of the Governor and is co-chaired by M. Meotti and State Education Commissioner Mark McQuillan. The Council is addressing crossover issues spanning early childhood education, K-12 and postsecondary education, among other matters. The Council's set of principles will be presented publically at a signing ceremony scheduled for April 12 at the Legislative Office Building which will feature Dr. Cecilia Rouse, a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors, as the keynote speaker. M. Meotti asked for the Board's endorsement of the principles. There being no further discussion, a motion was made by J. Reynolds and seconded by A. Vertefeuille that the Board of Governors for Higher Education endorse the principles of the P20 Council. The motion passed unanimously.

M. Villani requested that Board members who serve on the P20 Council update the Board on the Council's activities.

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9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

J. Sherrard noted that details are being finalized for the May joint meeting of the Board and the Standing Advisory Committee which will focus on remediation.

10. Executive Session

a. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

On a motion made by B. Flaherty seconded by D. Brennan, the Board voted unanimously to enter into Executive Session at 3:15 p.m. to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to public session at 3:44 p.m.

On a motion made by M. Villani, seconded by A. Vertefeuille, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revised evaluation form for the Commissioner.

11. Adjournment

A. Vertefeuille moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser
Secretary