

# BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Minutes of the Meeting  
April 28, 2010  
Tunxis Community College  
Farmington, CT

Members Present: D. Brennan, P. Christiana, J. LaVecchia, J. Reynolds, F. Ridley, R. Robins, A. Vertefeuille, M. Villani, M. Werle

Members Absent: W. Aniskovich, B. Flaherty

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

Members of the Public: D. England, TCC; A. Halpin, CCC; J. Howarth, CSUS; K. Lundquist, NVCC; C. Paulsen, Life Support and Sustainable Living; J. Roberts, NVCC; I. Venegas, NVCC; J. Wilson, NVCC; K. Wosczyzna-Birch, CT College of Technology

## 1. Call to Order

Chairman Ridley called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

## 2. Approval of the Board Minutes

R. Robins moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Public Participation

None.

## 4. Report of the Board Chairman

F. Ridley swore in Patricia Christiana of Manchester as a member of the Board of Governors. Ms. Christiana, who serves as the treasurer for the Synergy PAC, was appointed in March to the Board of Governors by Governor M. Jodi Rell.

F. Ridley noted that he will be presenting the 2010 Medal of Technology to Dr. Jonathan Rothberg at the annual meeting of the Connecticut Academy of Science and Engineering on May 20 at the Connecticut Science Center.

F. Ridley attended Connecticut's PK-20 Council signing of the *Declaration of Cooperation* which was held on April 12, 2010 at the Legislative Office Building. The keynote speaker was Dr. Cecilia Rouse who is a member of the White House Council of Economic Advisors. He also noted that Wilfredo Nieves, President of Middlesex Community College has been named the new President of Capital Community College.

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## 5. Report of the Commissioner

Commissioner Meotti attended the 2010 Connecticut Community Service Awards which were held on April 27, 2010 at the Department of Higher Education. The awards recognize volunteer service in the higher education community. There are three award categories – individual students; student groups; and special award. The special award honors a faculty or college staff member who is recognized for their personal contributions and commitment to their institution.

He introduced Cathryn Addy, President of Tunxis Community College. President Addy welcomed the Board members and members of the audience to the campus. President Addy noted that Tunxis Community College has a very effective outcomes assessment accountability project. This is an abilities based education project which was initially funded with a Title III grant. Students are measured on their abilities in every single course that is offered at Tunxis and the students receive an abilities grade. She noted that the college is good at checking, through placement tests, what a student knows coming in the door; but rarely do colleges check what a student knows or has learned as they go out the door – this project gives the college the mechanism to measure that.

M. Meotti introduced DHE Director Nancy Brady, Senior Associate Scott Ciecko and Associate Director Christine Thatcher. The staff members presented information on various engineering program in Connecticut. C. Thatcher explained that engineers and engineer technologist work together, noting that the engineers work more on the design side and their academic programs are going to be different than the technologist. The engineers' academic program is more mathematically vigorous. The technologists' academic program is going to be more applications based. The technologist would be able to go out in the field and use the information that the engineer would create. It was also noted that the accrediting body has two different commissions and they each have their own accreditation standards.

N. Brady stated that 1,547 engineering degrees were awarded in 2009, which is an increase of 15% over 2008. There are 19 engineering programs offered in 24 institutions. Also, there are 27 technology programs offered across 17 institutions with half of the degrees awarded at the community colleges. It was noted that the three fastest growing engineering programs in 2009 were electrical, mechanical and civil.

S. Ciecko demonstrated the occupational supply demand website at [www.occsupplydemand.org](http://www.occsupplydemand.org). This website contains information supplied by both the U.S. Departments of Labor and Education. He noted that the website can helpful for a variety of users including employers, job seekers, educators and students seeking career paths.

S. Ciecko introduced Karen Wosczyzna-Birch who is the Executive Director of the Connecticut College of Technology and also a faculty member at Tunxis Community College. The College of Technology is a virtual college which was conceptualized by former Commissioner of Higher Education, Andrew DeRocco, in 1990 with the merger of the community and technical colleges. In 1995, the idea was formed and implemented in the community colleges and is funded in part through the National Science Foundation Advanced Technology Education Grant. The college of technology includes the twelve community colleges along with the six colleges and

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universities that offer engineering degrees – University of Connecticut, Fairfield University, Central Connecticut State University, University of Hartford, University of New Haven, or Charter Oak State College. She noted that there are two associate degrees which are identified as college of technology degrees – the first being engineering of science and the second is technology studies. The goal is to have the student achieve a 4-year baccalaureate degree in engineering or technology from one of the noted six institutions. K. Birch indicated that most of the students who go through the college of technology stay in Connecticut to work in the industry.

K. Birch introduced Chuck Paulsen of Life Support and Sustainable Living. He described one of the projects currently being worked on – the patient mover. This is a wheelchair which will lift the patient and deposit them into a bed. The team of students that engineered the project, started from conception to the first prototype, made of wood, in about 10 weeks. C. Paulsen introduced Kyle Lundquist, Joe Wilson, Josiah Roberts and Italo Venegas as some of the team members working on the patient mover. The team members provided a demonstration of how the patient mover works. The next step for the team will be to evaluate the model to decide what works well and what does not. Eventually, the team will fabricate a metal prototype.

### 6. Commissioner's Consent Calendar

D. Brennan requested that items c. Worcester Polytechnic Institute be removed from the Commissioner's Consent Calendar and be reviewed as an action item.

- a. The National Graduate School of Quality Management, Falmouth, MA – relicensure of Master of Science degree program in Quality Systems Management, to be offered in Farmington, CT
- b. University Rhode Island – relicensure of a Chemistry program, leading to a Master of Science degree, offered at Pfizer Research Center in Groton, CT
- c. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA – licensure of programs in Business Administration, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Systems Engineering, each leading to a Master's degree. Licensure of a program in Power Systems Management, leading to a Graduate Certificate
- d. University of Bridgeport – accreditation of a program in Global Development and Peace, leading to the Master of Arts degree to be offered online and on campus
- e. University of Connecticut – accreditation of a program in Public Health with a concentration in Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree
- f. Quinnipiac University – progress report

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On a motion made by A. Vertefeuille, seconded by J. Reynolds, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Commissioner's Consent Calendar with the exception of item c.

## 7. Academic Affairs

### Action Items

- a. Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, MA – Licensure of programs in Business Administration, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Systems Engineering, each leading to a Master's degree. Licensure of a program in Power Systems Management, leading to a Graduate Certificate

There being no discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license programs in Business Administration, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Materials Process Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Systems Engineering, each leading to a Master's degree with the stipulation that within Connecticut, the Master's level programs conform to State regulations by requiring either a comprehensive examination, a thesis based on independent research, or completing an appropriate special project. Ms. Reynolds also moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license a program in Power Systems Management, leading to a Graduate Certificate, to be offered by Worcester Polytechnic Institute, for a period of three years, until April 30, 2013. M. Villani seconded; the motion passed with D. Brennan and J. LaVecchia abstaining.

- b. University of New Haven - Licensure and Accreditation of a program in Engineering and Operations Management, leading to the Master of Science in Engineering and Operations Management (M.S.E.O.M.) degree

DHE Associate Director Christine Thatcher reviewed the staff report and introduced Dean Barry Farbrother and Ali Montazer, Associate Dean, of the Tagliatela College of Engineering. Dean Farbrother outlined this program and provided a detailed overview of the engineering programs offered by the University.

After discussion, J. Reynolds moved that the Board of Governors for Higher Education license and accredit a program in Engineering and Operations Management, leading to the Master of Science in Engineering and Operations Management (M.S.E.O.M.) degree, to be offered by the University of New Haven, for a period of time concurrent with institutional accreditation. D. Brennan seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

## 8. Other Business

None.

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9. Report of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC)

J. Sherrard noted that the Standing Advisory Committee is looking forward to the May joint meeting of the Board and the Standing Advisory Committee which will focus on remediation. He also noted that the community college system has elected new members and alternates to the Committee representing both the technical and non-technical faculty and administration.

10. Adjournment

A. Vertefeuille moved and J. Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Constance Fraser  
Secretary