

MINUTES OF THIS MEETING NOT YET
APPROVED BY THE BOARD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY-TECHNICAL COLLEGES

61 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT

March 16, 2009

Chairman Berry called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT	Timothy Ackert, Murali Atluru, Hilary Barhydt, Louise Berry, David Blackwell, Fr. David Cannon, Darcy Clifford, Hugh Cox, Jules Lang, William McGurk, Ababkre Mounir, Laurie Roy, Marie Spivey, Virginia Zawoy
TRUSTEES ABSENT	Carolyn McKenna, Win Oppel, Kenneth Wilson, Jr.
SYSTEM OFFICE	Kenneth Armstrong, Gayle Barrett, Philip Cocchiola, Pamela Coleman, Meghan Collins, Corby Coperthwaite, Mary Anne Cox, Vicky Greene, Marc Herzog, Lenell Kittlitz, Marjorie London, Maureen McClay, Gail O'Keefe, Linda Perfetto, Coreen Sumple, Paul Susen
PRESIDENTS	Daisy Cocco DeFilippis, Barbara Douglass, Anita Gliniecki, Grace Jones, Dorsey Kendrick, David Levinson, Wilfredo Nieves, Dianne Williams
COLLEGES	Joe Bleicher – Asnuntuck CC; Mary Ann Affleck – Capital CC; Tom Bavier – Manchester CC; Patricia Bouffard – Naugatuck Valley CC
OTHERS	Shirley Adams, Ed Klonowski – Charter Oak State College; Scott Ciecko – Department of Higher Education; Patricia Fennessy – SDE/CTHSS

Formal action taken by the Board of Trustees, unless otherwise noted, is by unanimous vote of all members.

B. Adoption of Agenda

On motion of Mrs. Spivey, seconded by Dr. Atluru, it was VOTED to adopt the agenda.

C. Approval of Minutes of February 23, 2009

On motion of Mrs. Spivey, seconded by Fr. Cannon, it was VOTED to adopt the public session minutes of February 23, 2009.

D. Communications

1. LPN to RN Articulation Agreement

Dr. Paul Susen, Chief Academic Officer, commented on the process of developing the LPN to RN articulation agreement between the Connecticut Community Colleges, Charter Oak State College and the Connecticut Technical High School System. Ed Klonowski, President of Charter Oak State College, thanked the Board for the Community Colleges' participation in the program before signing the Memorandum of Understanding. Patricia Fennessey of the Connecticut Technical High School System and Linda Perfetto, Nurse Administrator in the System Office, elaborated on the partnership between the three systems that will allow the graduates of the Technical High School LPN program expanded career and educational opportunities in Allied Health and Nursing Programs at the Community Colleges.

2. Chairman's Report

Mrs. Berry announced that President Dorsey Kendrick, Gateway Community College, was selected by her colleagues of the Chair Academy to receive The Exemplary Leaders Award for 2009.

Congratulations were extended to Norwalk Community College alumnus, Rodolfo Rodriguez, for being selected to receive the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award. A Norwalk student, Maria Gomez, will be honored at the AACC Convention as a New Century Scholar for her exemplary academic achievements and service to the college and her community.

Mrs. Berry summarized the letter from Chancellor Herzog to all colleagues in the Community College System addressing the critical issues facing the System and the State's budget. The letter outlined the efforts of the Board, college presidents, and institutional leaders in meeting the challenges associated with the proposed budget cuts and plans that may affect our System. The State's fiscal crisis was acknowledged, but there are grave concerns about the Governor's proposals and the reduction of educational opportunities and services necessitated by the budget.

Mrs. Berry announced the decision of the System Management Committee to voluntarily freeze wage increases for 2010 given the current financial situation of the State and expressed the Board's appreciation for this "selfless action."

3. Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Herzog thanked the managers and confidential employees of the System for taking the initiative of freezing their salaries for the upcoming fiscal year in order to help the State's budget crisis and to preserve educational opportunities for students. He also thanked all of those involved in working on the nursing articulation agreement and bringing it to fruition.

Congressman Himes hosted a round-table discussion with students at Norwalk Community College. He commented on the federal government's efforts to improve educational opportunities and an increase in the federal Pell Grant program as well as expanded tax credits for education. The students shared their challenges and concerns about juggling jobs while attending college and the high cost of pursuing a college education.

E. Consent Agenda

F. Personnel

Trustee Lang reported that the Personnel Committee discussed the concerns outlined in a memo issued by the Governor regarding the rehiring of retired State employees by State agencies. The Community Colleges hire individuals each semester into durational assignments, including adjunct faculty, student workers, and non-faculty educational assistants who provide critical academic and student support services. These durational assignments provide the flexible workforce that allows timely response to changing enrollment demand, and provides workers for grant-funded and self-supporting extension programs. The rehiring of community college retirees into durational adjunct faculty and educational assistant positions provides a cost-effective and flexible solution to the changing employment needs and budget limitations.

G. Finance, Budget and Facilities

1. Legislative Budget Process

Mr. Herzog provided a status report on the legislative budget process. As part of the process, we were invited to review the Governor's Budget Recommendations with the legislature's Appropriations Committee and the Bonding Subcommittee. Both committees now have a full understanding of the System's financial operations and of the potential impact of budget reductions proposed in the Governor's recommendation for Community College students and educational services. The funds that were previously authorized three years ago for a center for urban programs at Housatonic Community College to house a baccalaureate program offered by Southern Connecticut State University are no longer included in the Capital funds. At the recommendation of the engineering firm working with Northwestern CT Community College, it was suggested that the Joyner Building be raised rather than renovated to remediate problems and comply with code requirements with additional funding sought in the years ahead.

2. Budget Reduction Planning

Vicky Greene, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, reviewed the current appropriation, the adjusted current services request for FY2010, and the Governor's budget recommendations.

Chancellor Herzog outlined the scenario of a 5% budget reduction as well as additional Current Services reductions and the impact it will have on the Community College System. A 5% reduction will entail capping of credit enrollment at Fall 2008 levels; reductions in the full-time to part-time faculty ratio; reductions in academic and student services; reduction of maintenance and public safety services; reduction in student and public access to college facilities and services. The reductions will severely impact student success in retention, completion, transfer, graduation and entrance into the workforce.

Additional Current Services reductions would reduce the number of class sections offered per semester; headcount enrollments, full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollments, and threaten academic program licensure and college accreditation. These reductions would result in additional reductions in the Operating Fund due to tuition and revenue loss. Reductions will severely limit student access to affordable higher education and will limit the availability of academic programming critical to meeting state workforce needs.

H. Academic Policies and Student Affairs

1. Transfer Compact Agreement between the Connecticut State University System and the Connecticut Community College System

President Douglass provided an overview of the Transfer Compact Agreement between the Connecticut State University System and the Connecticut Community College System. The process was initiated in 1973 with program-to-program agreements. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Chancellors of the two systems, the 12 Community College presidents and the 4 Connecticut State University presidents on March 29, 2007.

The Memorandum of Understanding provides guidelines for the seamless transfer of Community College students, earning an Associate Degree, to continue with junior standing to one of the Connecticut State Universities. Participation in the Transfer Compact allows for early identification of students interested in pursuing bachelor degrees. Admission to the CSUS is guaranteed upon successful completion of the associate degree with a 2.0 GPA. A minimum of 60 credits are accepted. It is anticipated that the system-to-system Transfer Compact will be in place for Fall 2009 with a signing ceremony by June.

2. Approval of an Exercise Science and Wellness, Associate in Science Degree Program – Gateway CC

Mrs. Spivey moved, seconded by Fr. Cannon, that exhibit H-2 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

3. Approval of a Marketing Option to the Business Administration, Associate in Science Degree Program – Gateway CC

Mrs. Spivey moved, seconded by Ms. Clifford, that exhibit H-3 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

4. Approval of a Computer Gaming Option to the Multimedia Studies, Associate in Arts Degree Program – Manchester CC

Mrs. Spivey moved, seconded by Fr. Cannon, that exhibit H-4 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

5. Approval of an Advanced English Proficiency Stand-alone Certificate Program – Naugatuck Valley CC

Mrs. Spivey moved, seconded by Mr. Ackert, that exhibit H-5 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

6. Termination of the Banking Associate in Science Degree Program – Naugatuck Valley CC

7. Termination of the Advanced Wastewater Certificate Program – Naugatuck Valley CC

8. Termination of the Plastics and Rubber Engineering Technology Associate in Science Degree Program and Termination of the Plastics Specialization Certificate – Naugatuck Valley CC

9. Termination of the Electrical Option in the Technology Studies Associate in Science Degree Program and Termination of the Electrical Certificate Program – Naugatuck Valley CC

10. Termination of the Wastewater Option in the Environmental Science Technology Degree Program and Termination of the Wastewater Option in the Technology Associate in Science Degree Program – Naugatuck Valley CC

Mrs. Spivey moved, seconded by Mr. McGurk, that exhibits H-6 through H-10 be adopted.

The Resolutions were VOTED.

I. Old Business

J. New Business

1. 2009 Board of Trustees Merit Awards – Asnuntuck, Capital, Naugatuck Valley and Norwalk Community Colleges

Mr. Lang moved, seconded by Mr. Ackert, that exhibit J-1 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

2. Confirmation of 2009 Honorary Degree Award – Gateway and Manchester Community Colleges

Mrs. Zawoy moved, seconded by Mr. McGurk, that exhibit J-2 be adopted.

The Resolution was VOTED.

K. Addendum

L. Staff Reports

1. Legislative Update

Meghan Collins, Director of Government Relations, provided an update on proposed bills in the legislature that would impact the Community Colleges. It was noted that any bills that are not on the agenda by the Joint Favorable report deadline will not move beyond the committee. The substitute language in HB 6370, An Act Concerning a Middle College System was commented on as were SB 246, An Act Creating a Commission on Federal Stimulus Distribution; SB 901 concerning waivers for members of the Connecticut National Guard for non-tuition fees is on the Higher Education Committee’s agenda; HB 6090 An Act Concerning the Registration Period for Senior Citizens at Institutions of Higher Education; HB 5975, An Act Concerning Training for Green Industries; and HB 5837, An Act Concerning Cooperation Between Vocational-Technical Schools and Regional Community-Technical Colleges were all highlighted.

M. Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Recorded by _____

Approved by _____