

CAPITAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE SENATE MEETING | DECEMBER 17, 2015 | DRAFT ONLY

Senators in attendance: Marie Basche, Bruce Miller, John McNamara, Wink Brown, Paul Creech, Carmen Yiamouyiannis, James Plourd, Sabrina Adams-Roberts

Guests and Governance Committee members: President Wilfredo Nieves, Mike Ligon, Guillermo Muhlmann,, Stephen Fagbemi, Lester Primus, Debbie Thomas, Daniela Ragusa

Chair Creech called meeting to order at 2:35 p.m. in the President's conference room.

1. John McNamara agreed to take the minutes.
2. November Minutes: On a motion made by Jim. Plourd and seconded by Arthur Hernandez the prior meeting minutes were approved with a clarification on wording of the CAP English Pathway offered by John Christie
3. Budget Issues

Lester Primus reported on college finances shared several charts on operating expenses and revenue sources including the general fund (state approps), tuition and fees and grants as the College anticipates lower enrollment. Current situation is stable thanks to receipt of general fund dollars for specific programs such as developmental education; in response to a question Dean Primus said the college also has documented prior authorizations for occupancy costs and parking (two expenses unique to the downtown campus).

However, if there are rescissions because of the state budget situation the College depends on general fund dollars and tuition revenue to maintain programs and services especially if funding for specific programs (PL 1240 development) will no longer be there. Since FY 2013 tuitions have dropped from \$9.4 million to \$7.9 million; enrollment decline will continue the trend.

Lower revenue and enrollment may hit part-time lecturers; if enrollment or funding improves PTLs could be reinstated.

The fiscal "break even" number for class size given the current enrollment picture was estimated between 22 and 25 students. The College budget can be impacted by retirements for accrual payments but overall it evens out with newly hired personnel starting at early salary steps. CCC's cost in participating in Achieving the Dream program has provided leverage to seek new grant funds and collaborate with others. An example is the federal NE Resilience grant in which ATD was the lead organization.

Overall the college budget has been trimmed by \$800,000 over last year; in addition to efficiencies the College has been allowed to use reserves to make up for the state-ordered reductions in funds. Budgeting continues to be "reactive" in the absence of a long-term financial plan to manage enrollments. Revenue declines can be expected in FY 17 but Dean Primus said enrollment increases are expected in FY 2018-2019.

Committees

4. Standing Committee Reports

CAP Committee

Mike Ligon and Stephen Fagbemi reported on CAP committee recommendations on two pathways – criminology and social work. CAP did not endorse the social work pathway at this time over concerns about psychology course(s) not being included in the pathway as well as multicultural issues not being addressed. CAP endorsed the criminology pathway as it was presented. On separate motions the Senate accepted the favorable recommendation for criminology (Carmen Yiamyouiannis/Marie Basche) and the unfavorable recommendation on social work (Jim Plourd/Marie Basche).

Technology Committee

Guillermo Muhlmann provided an update:

- The 621 technology classroom does not lend itself to video conferencing in its design and use. There is a need for individuals to obtain key card access to the classroom.
- A campus survey is in the works on technology and classroom use early in the spring semester.
- Professional Day planned for April 8th will include technology topics.

College Affairs Committee: The Committee did not meet. An MIT surgeon is under consideration for commencement speaker.

Diversity and Inclusion: Marie Basche reported on well attended conversation about mental health issues December 7th. The conversation with representatives from mental health advocacy organizations and agencies dealt with myths and facts and how issues impact the campus. Issue was raised about racially charged speech and how to handle on campus stemming from an incident on an elevator. Committee will address ways to promote greater civility. A forum is planned for February with Joelle Murchison from Travelers and can consider creating a safe environment.

Related to diversity and inclusion the Compassion project drew praise (Daniela Ragusa) for its meditation sessions and meetings. Guided meditation and compassion activities can lead to improved learning. Presentations planned for next semester from students sharing stories on expecting negative experience and how compassion/meditation turned into a positive experience.

Planning and Review: No report. Data on strategic plan metrics is still being collected.

5. TAP Report

Stephen Fagbemi reported on Transfer & Articulation (TAP) pathway endorsements across the CONNSCU system. Protocol is for system wide approval of TAP degrees and campuses following

local governance procedure on endorsements for each pathway. Local endorsements are advisory. He reported on 3 rounds of campus endorsements. Capital voted no on endorsing biology and English; yes on chemistry, history, political science and sociology. Norwalk joined Capital in opposing biology. The Board of Regents approved the first pathway in biology. Umbrella degree Transfer AS AA disciplined studies has received BOR approval; transfer navigation course is being embedded in courses. April 20, 2016 is due date for implementation for articulation with implementation in fall of 2016.

6. Other Business

Faculty Advising

Academic task force is reviewing status of faculty advising and developing a new model that can better serve degree seeking students. Debbie Thomas said task force – not formally connected to Senate – is examining advising activity and having academic affairs come together with student services to eliminate “silos” Contractual issues have been considered and question arose as whether advising is part of added responsibilities or required. Adjuncts are not required to have role in advising. Phone banking and similar follow ups with students has had limited value in connecting with students. Marie Basche who is participating on task force said a drop in advising center would be more visible for students to mentoring and guidance. More communication with senate will be needed before any new model is introduced.

Telephone Inquiries and Responses

Wink Brown said calls coming into college and at front desk are not answered all the time. One person may not be enough to cover all inquiries. Marie Basche suggested Roger Ferraro be invited to subsequent meeting to discuss phone system.

Jim Plourd Commendation

The meeting is Jim Plourd’s last as a senator representing classified staff on the governance body. He is retiring after 33 years of service. He became first classified staff member to become part of senate which previously only involved members of the Congress. His retirement creates a vacancy.

On a motion by John Christy and seconded by Marie Basche the commendation was approved There being no other business the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.