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Union News

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Upcoming Presentation on the Hybrid Retirement Plan with Dan Livingston

SCSU: October 12 from 3-5pm in the Student Center Theatre

CCSU: October 23 from 3-5pm in Vance 105

WCSU: October 26 from 2:30-4:30 in the Midtown Student Center Theatre

Board of Regents Considers Additional 24 Positions on Campuses

According to the agenda for the September 25, Board of Regents meeting the Academic and Student Affairs Committee unanimously approved the recommendation to redirect the savings back to the campuses to hire more full-time faculty and direct student support services last June. “The Board approved the plan to redirect a portion of this savings toward sixteen positions at the state universities and seven positions at the community colleges at its meeting on June 21, 2012 and requested that approval of the plan to redirect savings to additional positions be deferred to fall 2012.

Institutions submitted requests for additional positions to the President. Position requests were reviewed in the context of institutional needs, cross-campus collaboration, state priorities for workforce development, and ratios of students to full-time faculty and staff.

The resulting plan to redirect consolidation savings to hire full-time faculty and direct student support services staff identifies an additional twenty-one positions at the community colleges and three positions at the state universities, for a total of 24 positions in addition to the 23 positions approved in June, for a **total of 47 new positions across the campuses**. All institutions that submitted a request received approval for at least one position.

Institutions may access funding to make a “temporary or emergency hire” to fill a position in 2012-13, but it is expected that a robust search for a permanent hire will be conducted in each case.” (See [agenda](#), emphasis added).

The three additional faculty positions at CSU that were considered at the meeting are Criminology at CCSU, Health Care Informatics at ECSU, and Business Administration (Hospitality Management) at SCSU.

Strategic Planning for ConnSCU

Also at the BOR meeting on September 25, the Strategic Planning Committee presented a document outlining the vision and mission for ConnSCU.

“Vision for ConnSCU: Connecticut State Colleges and Universities will continually increase the number of students completing personally and professionally rewarding academic programs.

ConnSCU’s Mission: Connecticut State Colleges and Universities provide affordable, innovative and rigorous programs in settings that permit an ever increasing number of students to achieve their personal and career goals as well as contribute to the economic growth of the state of Connecticut.”

From this vision and mission, there were also five goals listed for ConnSCU:

- “1. A Successful First Year—Increase the number of students who successfully complete a first year of college.
2. Student Success—Graduate more students with the knowledge and skills to achieve their life and career goals.
3. Affordability and Sustainability—Maximize access to higher education by making attendance affordable and our institutions financially sustainable.
4. Innovation and Economic Growth—Create educational environments that cultivate innovation and prepare students for successful careers in a fast changing world.
5. Equity—Eliminate achievement disparities among different ethnic/racial, economic, and gender groups.”

An article in the *Journal Inquirer*, also published in the *New Britain Herald*, states that “Disciplinary records for any professor in the Connecticut State University system are private because of a major loophole in the state’s freedom-of-information laws...Any part of the personnel file is totally private — even though they’re public employees. A provision in the professors’ contract makes the file off-limits. And a little-known law says that provisions in state employees’ contracts can trump state statute. The Freedom of Information Act otherwise says access to personnel files can be denied only if it would be an invasion of personal privacy.”

The article went on to say that “the Connecticut Coalition on Freedom of Information, an open-government group led by newspapers...said the group plans to make closing the loophole a priority in the coming legislative session, which starts in January.”

Read the full article [here](#).

CSU-AAUP Contract Protects Faculty Personnel Records -- Coalition Makes Changing that a Priority