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Union News

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Faculty Advisory Committee Makes Recommendations to the Board of Regents & the Search Committee for Next President of the BOR

On November 15, the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) presented several recommendations to the Board of Regents at its meeting held at SCSU. The full FAC agenda and supporting material can be found [here](#) (FAC materials begin on page 46). Among its recommendations are:

- The Faculty Advisory Committee recommends that each ConnSCU institution vote to ratify the Transfer and Articulation Process framework, competencies, and learning outcomes using established curriculum governance procedures.
- FAC recommends that the TAP Steering Committee become a standing committee of ConnSCU.
- FAC recommends developing distinct strategic plans for Connecticut's Community College System, for Connecticut State University System, and for Charter Oak State College using a process that is described and endorsed in the BOR minutes from December 2011.
- The FAC recommends that the Board adopt the following three priorities that can be used as guidelines and objectives in crafting strategies to address the requirements of PA 12-40, which will require significant changes in the offerings that all 17 institutions can provide for students that are not college ready:
 - Revision of all developmental programs should aim to increase both the percentage of students and the absolute number of students who successfully complete the entry-level, credit-bearing courses in composition, reading, and mathematics.
 - In a state with the largest achievement gap, the public higher education system in Connecticut must strive to maintain opportunities for all students seeking to cross the divide. As such, Connecticut's Community Colleges must maintain their long-standing commitment to open access.
 - Whenever possible, efforts and plans to reform developmental education should be guided by accurate data and sound research.

**Faculty Advisory
Committee & the
Search Committee
for Next President
of the BOR...
Continued**

Search for the Next President of the BOR

The Faculty Advisory's Committee also stated that **“as the representative group for the thousands of faculty across the ConnSCU system, the Faculty Advisory Committee requests that it be able to participate meaningfully in the selection of a new President of the Board of Regents.** Specifically, the FAC requests that a community college member of the FAC (or a FAC designee) and a state university member of the FAC (or a FAC designee) be appointed to the search committee. In addition, the FAC would like the opportunity to review the credentials and interview the finalists, so that the FAC can make a recommendation to its designated members on the search committee.”

The request for some members of the FAC to serve on the search committee was sent to Chairman Robinson several weeks prior to the BOR meeting. In addition, CSU-AAUP President Vijay Nair sent a separate letter to Chairman Robinson endorsing the FAC's proposal. Neither the FAC or CSU-AAUP received a response to their request.

At the same meeting, the BOR authorized Chairman Robinson to appoint the search committee for a new president, which consists of Mr. Robinson as Chair, along with Board members Michael Fraser, Richard Balducci, Rene Lerer, Matt Fleury, Nick Donofrio, Naomi Cohen, Yvette Melendez and Merle Harris. The Advisory Committee to the Search Committee will be appointed at a later date and will consist of faculty, administrators, students, staff and others according to the Connecticut Post.

CSU-AAUP is currently working on a memorandum to provide additional information about some of the recommendations made by the Faculty Advisory Committee.

**AAUP Advisory
Statement on
Accreditation and
Academic
Freedom**

In early 2012, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) and AAUP agreed to work together to address the issue of academic freedom and the role of accreditation. CHEA and AAUP brought together a group of accrediting organizations, members of the AAUP Committee on Accreditation and others to develop an advisory statement.

The advisory statement has been approved both by the CHEA Board of Directors and the AAUP Committee on Accreditation. The statement provides guidance to CHEA institutional members, recognized accrediting organizations and AAUP members.

**Help with Fight
Against
"Pathways" at
CUNY: A Special
Message from
AAUP President
Rudy
Fichtenbaum**

Please sign this [national petition](#) calling for a moratorium on the implementation of Pathways at CUNY. And please consider forwarding the petition to your professional networks throughout the nation and the world.

This is a watershed moment for higher education. The “reform” agenda that brought relentless testing and widespread privatization to K-12 schools has surfaced in higher education. Forty years of public policy focused on access to college is being replaced by a single-minded demand for increased graduation rates—whatever the cost in academic quality.

The battle for educational quality is being fought hard by faculty and staff at The City University of New York (CUNY), long a focal point in struggles for educational justice.

CUNY’s educational mission is under attack. Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and the CUNY Board of Trustees, led by Benno Schmidt, Jr., are trying to impose a diluted system of general education, “Pathways,” that seeks to save money at the expense of students’ learning. Facing intense faculty resistance, the CUNY administration has resorted to threats and intimidation. Under the pretext of easing student transfer and increasing graduation rates, Pathways will deliver a minimal curriculum for CUNY’s working-class students: it removes science lab requirements, limits foreign language requirements, and cuts back on faculty time with students in English classes. Pathways is an attempt to move students through the system more quickly even as budgets are cut—by reducing academic requirements. Pathways is austerity education for an austerity economy.

With your help, we can defeat Pathways and achieve a victory for educational quality that could have national implications. Please [add your voice to ours](#) and take a stand for the integrity of higher education.