

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

10:30 AM in Room 2C of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. by Chairman, Sen. Linares A. S33.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Bye B. S05; Flexer M. S29; Linares A. S33; Somers H. S18

Representatives: Ackert T. 008; Betts W. 078; Cheeseman H. 037; Duff W. 002;
Elliott J. 088; Gentile L. 104; Haddad G. 054; LeGeyt T. 017;
Mushinsky M. 085; Sanchez R. 025; Simmons C. 144; Soto C. 039;
Stallworth C. 126; Staneski P. 119; Tweedie M. 013; Ziogas C. 079

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable motion for [H.B. No. 5032](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES. So moved by Rep. Gentile, L. 104 and seconded by Rep. Ackert, T. 8.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked for clarification that this was purely a technical bill. Sen. Linares, A. S33 confirmed that it was purely technical.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 19, voting yea 19, voting nay 0, abstain 0, absent and not voting 2.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable Substitute motion for [S.B. No. 142](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ACCEPTANCE OF INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION OF PRIVATE OCCUPATIONAL SCHOOLS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. So moved by Sen. Bye, B. S05 and seconded by Rep. Gentile, L. 104.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 pointed out that this will allow, not require, the Executive Director of the Office of Higher Education to accept third party accreditation for private

occupational schools and that it does not apply to initial school authorizations. It also places a 6 month expiration date on any initial certification application to the Office of Higher Education.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 20, voting yea 20, voting nay 0, abstain 0, absent and not voting 1.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable motion for [S.B. No. 145](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES. So moved by Rep. Haddad, G. 54 and seconded by Rep. LeGeyt, T. 17.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 explained that this bill would add the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee to the list of committees to be given a report regarding military service members and training evaluations and licensure.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 20, voting yea 20, voting nay 0, abstain 0, absent and not voting 1.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable Substitute motion for [H.B. No. 5135](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE ROBERTA B. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. So moved by Sen. Bye, B. S05 and seconded by Rep. Gentile, L. 104.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 explained that this bill changes the name of the over-arching program and renames two of the three grants awarded by program.

Rep. Soto, C. 39 asked if this was simply a way to break up the grants giving more clarity for financial aid awards. Sen. Linares, A. S33 said that is correct.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked if the goal of this was to make it clearer as to how the grants are broken down and asked for the background of how we got to this. He asked how this was making it any clearer and shared that he doesn't think it's any clearer.

Sen. Bye, B. S05 replied that this was brought to the committee by the Office of Higher Education and that office requested the committee to come up with two sub names for the two different scholarships, one being needs based and the other need merit based.

Rep. Cheeseman, H. 37 asked who [Louise Duffy](#) is. Sen. Bye, B. S05 replied that [Louise Duffy](#) was from West Hartford and she was active in the League of Women Voters. Four years after women received the right to vote Louise Duffy ran for office and lost because she supported child labor laws. She next worked to secure funding for paupers.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 said that he will not support this legislation right now because he doesn't feel it's making it any clearer. He went on to say that his "no" vote doesn't not reflect the individuals' names, but he thinks there may be another way to make it clearer.

Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked that Sen. Bye, B. S05 or her intern put something on Wikipedia so when people look up Ms. Duffy they can find information on her.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 20, voting yea 18, voting nay 2, abstain 0, absent and not voting 1.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable Substitute motion for [S.B. No. 214](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONSOLIDATION. So moved by Sen. Bye, B. S05 and seconded by Rep. Haddad, G. 54.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 explained the [substitute language](#) to committee members.

Rep. Cheeseman, H. 37 asked about lines 104 -108, if there were any qualifiers on the communications. Christopher Cordima, Senior Legislative Attorney, Legislative Commissioners' Office replied that there was no qualifying language that it has to be every communication or every specific one. He believes it was left open to avoid the "thank you for sharing" emails and indicated that the language can be tightened up.

Rep. LeGeyt, T. 17 said that he understands the impetus for the community college consolidation, that there are dollars to be saved, and that he's not so concerned about the consolidation, but he is concerned that with the consolidation that the ability to manage the process has been lost. As a result, after careful consideration he will object to this bill until and unless it has language in it that requires that Board of Regents comes to the Legislature if they want to close a community college.

Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked if in lines 26 and 27 why notice to the General Assembly was deleted because if there was a notice that a particular school was going to be closed, the representative from that area would want to know. Christopher Cordima, Senior Legislative Attorney, Legislative Commissioners' Office replied that was an old convention on how reports used to be referred to the General Assembly. He went on to say that it's the same substantive effect; it's just worded differently to conform with modern drafting standards. Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked if the General Assembly will still be notified. Christopher Cordima replied that in line 25 to 26, 27 there about. Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 said that refers to the Committee, where is the whole General Assembly getting notified. Christopher Cordima replied that it's not; the language is having the notice sent to the committee as opposed to body at large. Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked for clarification that only those on this committee will know if a school is closing. Christopher Cordima replied that the Higher Education Committee will serve almost as a mail box for where this notification will be sent to. Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked if the Chairs would accept an amendment to have everyone receive the notice.

Sen. Bye, B. S05 said that Rep. LeGeyt, T. 17 and Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 raised important questions. Certainly the Chairs are willing to consider their points.

Rep. Mushinsky, M. 85 asked if they will revise the bill to make the notice go to everyone, or should she make a motion now.

Rep. Haddad, G. 54 said they would like to engage with the members to fine tune it. He went on to say that the way the General Assembly is noticed is by submission of a report to the House and Senate Clerks' offices, not necessarily to every member and that when reports are made to committees of the General Assembly that information is shared with the Legislative Library where they are publicly accessible. Rep. Haddad indicated that to achieve Rep. Mushinsky's goal requires additional research into what the protocols are in the General Assembly for what happens when a Clerk of a committee receives a report or a notice, what happens when the House Clerk receives a notice, what happens when our leadership receives a notice. Rep. Haddad said he would be amenable to making a change after that research was done to ensure that members of the General Assembly are as widely noticed as possible as individuals.

Rep. Staneski, P. 119 commented that she would like to align herself with the Chairs that this bill was very difficult to strike a balance because this is such a large endeavor for our state and that if something does go wrong, it's not the Board of Regents and it's

not President Ojakian students and parents contact it's members of the Connecticut General Assembly. She suggested that amendments not be offered here but to look at the steps regarding a closing and how the Legislature would be involved. She also discussed the communication issue brought up by Rep. Cheeseman and wondered if that could be tightened up before the bill comes to the Floor.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 stated that he has been a supporter of the consolidation and thinks that anytime we can become more efficient and effective in government we should. He went on to say that transparency is a good thing and that members of the legislature should have information on this so they can respond to questions.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 20, voting yea 17, voting nay 3, abstain 0, absent and not voting 1.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 asked for a Joint Favorable motion for [H.B. No. 5195](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. So moved by Rep. Haddad, G. 54 and seconded by Rep. Simmons, C. 144.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 stated that this bill will add two additional members to the UConn Board of Trustees, one undergraduate elected by the student body and one graduate student appointed by the Governor. This will bring the number of student trustees to four on a board of 23 members. The bill will also allow the election of alumni trustees to be conducted using electronic ballots.

Rep. Duff, W. 2 asked if the attendance was known of the student members that are currently on the Board. Sen. Linares, A. S33 indicated that he did not know the attendance. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 commented that the Board of Trustees meets monthly and anecdotally he could share that the student trustees actively participate in those meetings.

Rep. Duff, W. 2 asked if the members who are presently on the Board are voting members. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 replied in the affirmative.

Rep. Duff, W. 2 asked what purpose the members being added would serve if they can't vote. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 replied that unless he was mistaken the two members being added would be full voting members.

Christopher Cordima, Senior Legislative Attorney, Legislative Commissioners' Office replied that the language indicates that they will be voting members.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked for confirmation that 3 of the 4 student members will be elected by students and the forth student will be appointed by the Governor. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 replied in the affirmative. Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked why they all would not be voted by the students. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 answered that the language was offered as a compromise to get the Governor's support for the language as he vetoed prior legislation on this.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked what the quorum of the voting body is. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 responded that would be outlined in their By-Laws, and not in statute.

Rep. Ackert, T. 8 asked if there was any consideration for different campuses for the student body to be the members. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 replied not above and beyond the stipulation that the graduate student be appointed from somebody from one of several different campuses.

Rep. Staneski, P. 119 asked for a clarification regarding the chance to electronic ballot, that it's just to streamline it, not to exclude anyone who doesn't have access to an electronic ballot. Rep. Haddad, G. 54 said that when he's spoken with UConn about this that they have been willing, but frustrated at the requirement that they conduct the election solely by paper ballot. The goal was to allow them to send electronic ballots when they can, with the expectation that if they do not have a valid email address on record they will mail a paper ballot.

Sen. Linares, A. S33 called for a roll call vote. The Clerk called the roll. The motion passed: total number voting 20, voting yea 17, voting nay 2, abstain 0, absent and not voting 2.

The meeting was recessed at 11:23 a.m., adjourning at 3:30 p.m.

Jeanie Phillips
Committee Clerk