



State of Connecticut

The Connecticut General Assembly

The Planning Commission for Higher Education

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 1800
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591
PHONE: (860) 240-0271 / FAX: (860) 240-8833

Judith K. Resnick, Chairperson

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

3:00 p.m. Room 1E

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m. by Judy Resnick.

The following commission members/designees/guests were present: E. Vagos Hadjimichael, Lois Schneider, John Bennett, Judy Resnick, John Schemo, Judy Goldfarb, Ted Yungclas, Lindy Lee Gold, Dennis Murphy, Aynsley Diamond, Sally Reis, Judy Greiman, Roberta, Willis, Kerry Kelley, Cynthia Lyon, and Nicholas Donofrio.

Judy Resnick congratulated UCONN's men's basketball team for their win and wished the women's team the best of luck.

Sally Reis shared that Shabazz Napier will be carrying the flag at graduation for the College of Arts and Liberal Sciences and his GPA is 3.6.

Judy Resnick welcomed all the members to the meeting.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved.

Judy Resnick turned the meeting over to Dennis Jones, President, National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS.)

Dennis Jones discussed the goals.

Lois Schneider questioned how the numbers were added up.

Aims McGuinness replied that many people receiving certificates already have an Associate's Degree or Bachelor's Degree, so they may not add up.

Dennis Jones continued the presentation.

Judy Greiman commented on the breakdown.

Dennis Jones continued the presentation.

Lindy Lee Gold discussed the need for bringing up the venture capital community with regard to the goals. She stated that tech companies go where the money comes from, and that is a major issue.

John Bennett discussed an email he sent out regarding the goals and the need for worthiness of the degrees as well as the numbers. He continued that we have to help people want to stay and want to come to Connecticut so the first goal can be met.

Aim McGuinness discussed the national strategy of Ireland and its explicate goal is related to this. He continued that the real trick is not only creating a new economy but a place where people want to live, and particularly to attract and retain highly educated people. He continued that Ireland has measures of their accountability that relate to institutions accountable for their community engagement.

Lois Schneider commented that she understands and agrees, but when she looks at that goal, she doesn't see how it relates to the Planning Commission for Higher Education with the way it is phrased. She suggested rephrasing it.

Aims McGuinness offered that is the overall theme, how higher ed contributes to education attainment.

Lois Schneider suggested that it is too global for the Planning Commission for Higher Education to do anything about.

Aims McGuinness indicated that at every conversation in every state, someone says "higher ed can't do much about that" and that it is the number one excuse not to do something to change. He continued that there are numerous non-profit institutions that do not pay taxes, in cities that are poor and that if those institutions are not engaged in creating the community they are contributing to their demise.

Lois Schneider commented on the word "engaged" and that she would like to incorporate that into the conversation that it about engaging the institutions to create this environment.

Judy Goldfarb shared that earlier in the day there was a governor's symposium on aligning birth to age eight across public school systems. She continued that when the Governor spoke he spoke not about providing opportunities, but in providing success. She felt that meant we want people to be successful in attaining a degree or certificate and a quality of life.

Dennis Jones continued with the presentation.

Vagos Hadjimichael asked if a fourth goal should be outcome assessment. He continued that there has to be a way to measure success.

Dennis Jones replied that one of the things that has been done is to lay out a set of metrics. He suggested making a set of matrixes for each goal so the Commission can know if they have reached their goal or not. Dennis continued that there will be quantitative ways to track progress. Dennis continued with the presentation.

Judy Resnick introduced Mike Gargano, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the Board of Regents.

Mike Gargano addressed the Commission members.

The Planning Commission members introduced themselves.

The presentation continued.

Dennis Murphy stated that the consultants have concluded, it seems, that rather than using the existing institutions, the Board of Regents, the Board of Trustees for UCONN, the associations for the privates, in terms of adopting and gaining their own capacity to keep the eye on the ball on these larger important issues, you concluded that we need to create a new body to do that. Dennis said he was curious as to why they their thinking was to dismiss the option of empowering or creating the capacity for that task of using the existing institutions that are there which ostensibly because of their appointments, do at theoretically have the independence or the trust from the political leadership which appointed the members of those bodies.

Response not audible.

Judy Greiman commented that a number of years ago Connecticut was struggling with educational technology and every sector was asking for different networks and they all worked against each other. She continued that the legislature sent a very clear message by funding nothing. This was the genesis for the Commission for Educational Technology. She continued that the goal was in the legislation and it was up to the Commission to oversee this getting done. That Commission worked with the relevant entities and the institutions came together saying they needed a statewide network etc.

Response not audible.

John Bennett commented that this independent group is also the one that is going to be able to look at all of the various reports which are going to come from the institutions with regard to the measurement of the metrics and to be able to look at it and maybe suggest a follow-up combined meeting or a group meeting for a chance for better cooperation.

Aims McGuinness continued the presentation.

Vagos Hadjimichael added that it is an ideal situation that is being described for an independent entity to do all of those things, and that agrees with the previous speaker in that he doesn't know who the authority will flow from. He continued that he is afraid that in finding the answer to that we may get locked in to the idea that is presented on the slide that is has to be an independent entity with all of those tasks, but where will the authority flow from and unless we can answer that question.

Response not audible.

Judy Goldfarb asked if higher education is a part of Results Based Accountability.

Roberta Willis replied that the legislature has done individual programs, for instance, one year they did Results Based Accountability on the Bridges Program at Western Connecticut State University. She continued that Charter Oak did an RBA.

Lindy Lee Gold commented that she likes the strategy because she thinks it leads to permanent employment, but that the strategy she does not see is some sort of student loan forgiveness based on residency because one of our major problems is a "brain drain."

Response not audible.

Judy Goldfarb stated that Connecticut is one of the top 3 states in the country that is working pre-school to elementary school grade 3 alignment, so when we talk about systems here, I would like to make it at least pre-K if not first through grade 12 and not just K through 12. She continued that Connecticut has birth to 5 standards which are looking at the alignment with the core standards.

Response not audible.

Kerry Kelley commented that she thinks we have some good news here in Connecticut in terms of the fiscal policy because with regard to some of the things being discussed, more autonomy has been provided to the constituent units, so compared to other states, we have a more permissive regulatory policy. She continued that there is no position control authority in the State of Connecticut.

Judy Resnick commented that the Commission has a lot of good discussions ahead of it. She asked how to build more public awareness and public will.

Aims McGuinness shared that it goes back to Dennis' point that providing an opportunity to see how UCONN and the Board of Regents how they see their work fits with this would be very helpful because they will be points of action and having an opportunity for more formal dialogue would really be helpful.

Judy Resnick said that the actual work that the Commission members do here will take place at the institutional level.

John Bennett brought up the lack of members present at the meetings. He asked if we are all members here and what faction does this represent.

Judy Resnick indicated that she will look at that.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.