



## **State of Connecticut**

### **The Connecticut General Assembly**

#### **The Planning Commission for Higher Education Student Financial Aid Working Group**

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 1800  
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#### **James Maroney, Chairman**

##### **Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday December 16, 2015

10:30 a.m. - Room 1E

The meeting was called to order by James Maroney at 10:39 a.m.

The following commission members/designees/guests were present: James Maroney, Jen Widness, Michelle Cochran, Julie Savino, Mark French, Kerry Kelley, Judy Resnick, Rich Bishop, Heather Hamilton, Mona Lucas, Greg DeSantis, Jeanette Weldon, Gregg Haddad, Steve McDowell and Jan Ciarleglio.

Minutes from the October 29 meeting were approved.

Members introduced themselves.

Kerry Kelley delivered an update that legislation during the special session will not directly affect the Governor's Scholarship Program.

Representatives from community colleges, independent colleges, and Central Connecticut State University were invited to speak on how they craft financial aid packages and how the Governor's Scholarship factors into those packages.

Greg DeSantis and Steve McDowell presented on how the community colleges form their aid packages.

The community colleges seek to cover direct costs through the use of grants rather than loans.

Following the presentation, there were questions and clarifications made, especially in the areas of academic advising and student enrollment fluctuations.

Representatives from independent colleges presented their financial aid packages.

The institutions represented were Albertus Magnus College, Trinity College, and Quinnipiac University.

These institutions base their aid packages on the FAFSA, as well as other considerations towards the students' expected contributions towards tuition. They also allotted financial aid from the Governor's Scholarship Program after federal and institutional aid was applied.

Rich Bishop spoke on behalf of Central Connecticut State University on their financial aid process. The FAFSA is their main consideration and they strive to provide access and affordability to their students.

There was a discussion on in state versus out of state competition as relates to financial aid.

James Maroney set goals for future meetings, including for the University of Connecticut to similarly present their financial aid package details.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.