CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
QUINEBAUG VALLEY

Academic Senate
February 16, 2024

Members Present:

J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice-President), B. Alves, B. Army, J. Carey, B. Clinton, E. Dubovsky-Porter, M. Hall, L. Kelley, J. Knapp, P. Lemieux, J. Lewis, E. Espitia-Loaiza, M. Lowe, B. Lynch, E. Michalski, J. Oliver, E. Pagano, M. Philion, J. Porzuczek, D. Rimkus, C. Shirshac, S. Van Orden, D. Walsh, K. Zvoma

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes (motion by J. Spjut and seconded by S. Van Orden with one abstention)
   a. Welcome back, John Lewis.
2. Feedback on DRAFT CT State Senate Resolution on Board of Regents and CSCU Budget Remediation
   a. There was no feedback.
3. 2023 Faculty Advisory Committee Report to the Legislative Committees related to Higher Education – it proposes using a "system of systems" with each of 4 universities and 2 colleges as the constituent systems inside of the wider system.
   a. J. Spjut summarized the report as saying the governance structure isn't working or doing what it said it was in terms of students first.
   b. Feedback:
      i. We need to collect data on what's working (beyond saying the system isn't working). Is it 12 colleges vs campuses? 1 university vs 4 universities?
      ii. The NECHE Report for CT State is due in one year.
      iii. Governance is so disjointed without a sense of the whole (e.g., busy on 4 committees doing a lot, also doing very little to change things)
      iv. There is a CT State system level focused on big governance issues with very little focus on students' learning or teaching.
         1. There was an article about two "overpaid" CSCU staff.
      v. How do we move forward and push against the current system?
4. Academic Planning Committee -E. Dubovsky Porter
   a. Committee
      i. Met for the first time on 1/30 and next meeting will be on 2/27
      ii. Committee members are one faculty member from each campus, Joe Cullen, and other CT state administrators. There were representatives missing from three campuses at the first meeting.
   b. Committee Charge:

i. This is a short-term committee to create rubrics for program review (e.g., enrollment, graduation, employment data/labor market) that are due every 5-7 years.
ii. These reviews are only for non-accredited programs (e.g., not nursing, lab tech, medical assisting)
   1. There are currently 315 programs at CT State (the system treats disciplines as programs because of the pathway system)
      a. Reviews are required by NECHE to see how learning is happening .CT State is behind in preparing for the 2025 NECHE review.
         i. A requirement is to track job placement, which is not being done effectively (it's part of standard 8 in the review).
      b. Currently, each program needs a review. Will programs be cut? Consolidated?
iii. Questions for Beth and the committee:
   1. Who would do the reviews?
      a. In the past, each campus did a review. Would all the engineering faculty do it together? Would the Area Dean facilitate that process and charge people?
      b. Would the SDCs do program reviews? Comments that the SDCs are often big (many programs) and not good at reviewing (they pass things differently).
5. ECSU No Confidence in Chancellor Cheng (see https://ctmirror.org/2024/01/16/ecsu-eastern-ct-university-terrence-cheng-cscu/)
   a. Conversation about the ECSU Vote:
      i. This is a Connecticut State Colleges and University issue that covers CT State.
      ii. The vote mentions CT State but is highly focused on ECSU issues.
      iii. This reads like a laundry list of complaints without data supporting it.
      iv. There was a CSCU faculty Vote of No Confidence on the Consolidation Plan (Students First) in 2019.
         1. The plan went through, but the dissent was on the record: https://ctmirror.org/2019/05/15/faculty-vote-no-confidence-in-cscu-leaders-and-their-college-consolidation-plan/
   b. Motion to table the issue until the next motion (Motion by E. Pagano, seconded by B.D. Lynch, with one opposed and one abstention).
6. Resolution on CT State Course Search by Home Campus – J. Spjut will write up a resolution for the next meeting based on the following:

   a. CT State merger combined course search for all campuses
   b. Current Banner programming puts certain campuses on top of the search (highly placed) regardless of home campus (e.g., Manchester).
   c. The current system has contributed to priority enrollment in online courses for highly placed campuses at the top of searches)
   d. Having students take online courses at their home or local campus (when available) is important for a variety of reasons
   e. Students benefit from connecting with faculty and staff on campus local to them (e.g., library, tutoring, student services)

- Students benefit from local faculty & continuity that will help with recommendation letters, field placements, and office hours.

7. Discipline-specific scheduling issues (avoiding cross-campus competition) – Tabled until the next meeting
8. Scheduling for Fall 2024 – Not Open
   a. The options were prefilled from fall 2023, and you will use the same process to keep the same add, edit, or delete class.
   b. Send to department chairs, who will send to Mac by February 27th

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 pm (Motion by J. Spjut and seconded by S. Buchbinder).