

Integrated Planning Council

August 24, 2022 – 3:00 PM

Teams

AGENDA

1. Newspaper Article from System Office (continuation of discussion)
2. Fall 2022 Enrollment and Housing Occupancy Reports
3. Developments at CCSU
4. As May Arise

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Meeting Notes

Present: S. Hazan, A. Bray, E. Moore, Y. Kirby, Z. Toro, F. Latour, K. Kostelis, G. Claffey, S. Cintonino, D. Moreland, K. Byrd Danso, L. Bucher, C. Robinson

Newspaper Article from System Office (continuation of discussion)

- L. Bucher noted that the System Office has requested budget projections for the next three years and has asked for specific information on how staffing and expenses will be cut if needed. Z. Toro noted that this appears to be directly related to the newspaper article that was shared. She will be asking for a private meeting with the System CFO as CCSU's financial situation is different from that of its sister institutions.
- Z. Toro noted that it will be important for us to think strategically to determine how we are going to move CCSU forward and make our programs more attractive, innovative, and relevant to today's student population. Based on everything we know, the higher education model we have enjoyed for centuries may not be sustainable anymore. Again, we may need to do things differently from our sister institutions.
- Z. Toro asked the group for feedback on what CCSU should do in response to the article, and the instructions we received from the System Office (SO) in terms of how to implement cost control measures.
- Y. Kirby noted that we are a step ahead of our sister institutions in that we are strategic about not automatically refilling vacancies. L. Bucher agreed that this is one of CCSU's best attributes and noted that based on several conversations with sister institutions she can confirm that their finance and budget teams are not part of the decision-making process in terms of position refills.
- G. Claffey noted that we have a committee structure that helps us remain agile and flexible. There has been growth in terms of interdisciplinary interactions and silo breaking. We use our human capital efficiently.
- F. Latour noted that a faster process is needed for making changes to programs and approving new programs. K. Kostelis noted that the new program form has been finalized and is now live on the BOR website. It is much longer than the previous form and requires a lot more information. The paperwork for below threshold modifications and program modifications also looks to be more extensive. We need to look at existing programs and be smart in terms of how to deliver, how to be innovative, and how to

differentiate ourselves from the competition. Z. Toro noted that this last point is particularly important – how can we differentiate our programs from what is offered by our sister institutions?

- A discussion ensued regarding the TAP program. Y. Kirby noted that we need to counteract the information that appears on the SO website so that students can realize it is just as easy to transfer to CCSU as it is to UCONN. K. Byrd Danso suggested promoting the direct feeder programs. C. Robinson noted that the Accelerate Central framework can also be highlighted. F. Latour noted that resources should also be made available to those students wanting to transfer to CCSU who have not finished the TAP. Z. Toro noted that it is important for us to review what is being presented to students regarding our portion of the TAP program. Action Item: K. Kostelis will identify someone within her office to review what is currently in place with the TAP program to confirm that the information being shared with students is accurate.
- Z. Toro noted the need to review current programs to make sure they are still relevant and attractive to students. K. Byrd Danso suggested looking at current job market trends and identified areas of need. If the programs we have are not yielding career opportunities, students will not be interested in them.
- F. Latour noted that individual departments need to have an open line of communication with their alumni. Departments need to know what experiences our students have had in the job market, and how we can use this information to improve the experiences of future students. Action Item: Z. Toro suggested creating either an advisory board or a focus group at the departmental level to seek feedback and integrate this as part of the program review process. Y. Kirby noted that it has historically been difficult to get alumni feedback. A. Bray noted that there has also been some difficulty in establishing relationships with alumni due to resources.
- S. Hazan suggested taking an audit between core requirements and what is needed for gen ed to help determine what courses are truly needed. Z. Toro noted that course scheduling should also be done with the needs of the student in mind, not just the interests and preferences of the faculty.
- Bray noted that we need to ensure that all CCSU classes will lead students to graduation. She agrees with K. Byrd Danso that we need to look at the job market. It is up to faculty to ensure that students are marketable and not just graduating.
- S. Cintorino suggested looking at programs with extremely low enrollment.
- Z. Toro noted that she and K. Kostelis will be having conversations with different groups regarding this topic. Before implementing an approach, they will bring back the outcome of those deliberations to this group to develop a strategy and plan to respond to the SO request.

Fall 2022 Enrollment and Housing Occupancy Reports

- Y. Kirby noted that as of last Friday, we are down 1.8% in terms of total headcount and the incoming class is up 165 students compared to this time last year. The number of transfer students is also up. Continuing students are down 3.4% compared to last year. Graduate students are down 19 compared to last year. The main enrollment challenges continue to be part-time and graduate students.
- Robinson noted that the one-day enrollment event was successful. We continue to admit and enroll students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.
- Y. Kirby noted retention numbers are up – as of August 19, retention to second year is up over 4% from last year. Z. Toro expressed her appreciation to the team for their efforts in turning the retention numbers around.
- K. Kostelis indicated that 52 stop out students have indicated that they want to come back in the fall.
- S. Cintonino reported that we are up to 1,970 residential students, and we are getting closer every day to the goal of 2,000 students.

Developments at CCSU

- Z. Toro noted that it is important for divisions to carefully manage their current budget allocations as additional funding requests will not be approved and should not be elevated to L. Bucher for consideration.
- S. Hazan noted that his UPBC term is coming to an end, and as a result, his appointment to the IPC. Z. Toro thanked S. Hazan for his thoughtful observations and participation.