

FAC report to CCSU faculty Senate Sept 9, 2024

1. June Meeting cancelled, was supposed to be a joint meeting with BOR
 - a. Miscommunication in regard to process of arranging joint meeting (new FAC chair, lack of SOP)
 - b. The BOR seems to have changed procedures and raised the bar on what is required to arrange a joint meeting. They want all kinds of advanced notice, detailed agenda with time per item, speaker and rationale for each agenda item, and similar information. The FAC chairs initially agreed with this approach but then That structure is not required of management when BOR meetings are arranged, which means we are treated unequally.
2. July Meeting: attended by BOR Chair Martin Guay, First time any BOR chair has attended. Chair Guay agreed to meet after considering some of the points we raised regarding scheduling joint meetings with the BOR. He also just began as the BOR Chair so this is a "get to know" opportunity. Works at Stanley Decker, in area of innovation and startup. Wants to make the BOR more assertive with legislature.
 - a. ARPA Funds discussion
 - The legislature allocated \$80-100M in additional ARPA funds to CSCU.
 - The record shows that management only requested \$46M from the General Assembly.
 - Management requested far less than what the legislature thought we needed. Ex-post, management claims they requested \$80M. (rewriting of history?)
 - OPM has a fund which was set aside to pay for the cost of living increases which the Governor chose for all state employees. That fund had ample money to back the roughly \$30M CSCU needed to pay the Governor's cost of living increases to our employees. But, all appearances seem to suggest that OPM refused to allocate the cost of living set-aside money to our campuses. They treated us unequally relative to other agencies like parks and the DMV. In short, OPM's behavior, and that of the Governor, reveal that they think our students are less important than license plates and state parks. Our students are not less important. We all know that. I urge you to think about this as we go through another political cycle culminating in November and we urge you to talk to your bargain unit leadership about this matter.
 - CSCU management has indicated they want to use the ARPA funds allocated to us by the legislature to fill the hole created by the OPM / Governor. The supplementary ARPA funds were meant to restore services for our students.
3. Aug Meeting. Cancelled. No pressing concerns and several members ill.
4. Next meeting this Friday, Sept 13. Public higher ed has many fantastic advocates in the General Assembly, SEBAC and CT For All and I think those are the best places to exert ourselves in order to advance our case (as well as FAC). There will be A LOT of work to do in this regard in the coming legislative session.