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Norwalk Community College Senate Votes No Confidence in President Gray and Transform CSU 2020

Norwalk, CT – On Wednesday, April 22, the Norwalk Community College Senate Voted No Confidence in Transform CSU 2020 and the leadership of President Gregory Gray and demands that Transform be abandoned in its entirety. The resolution was approved by a vote of 23 yes, 3 no, and 2 abstentions.

The resolution reads:

“The faculty and staff of the Connecticut Community Colleges believe that the vision and mission statements created when the CT Board of Regents came into being are statements that reflect our commitment to ensure that as many students as possible have access to the highest quality education at an affordable rate. Therefore, we have confidence in the fact that, properly managed, the concept of a CT Board of Regents might be a positive influence in the education of the students served by the Connecticut Community Colleges and the State Universities.

We believe that what is currently occurring at the Board of Regents does not reflect the true intent of what the CT Board of Regents was created to accomplish. As we understand it, the primary focus in combining the CSU system with the CCC system was to be able to re-direct resources to the individual campuses to support more fully student success through more funding for faculty, staff and programs. The merger would also help create a more cohesive bond between the institutions to allow students to move more easily between the CCCs and the CSUs.

The current members of the Board of Regents have neglected to act in a manner that would advance these vision and mission statements. They have not been an effective governing body for the constituent colleges and universities of the BOR, consequently, none of the above has occurred. What has occurred is the exact opposite.

The Board of Regents managerial staff, under the guidance of Dr. Gregory W. Gray, has increased. In addition, the top-down approach in the implementation process for Transform, along with the decisions made outside of Transform, has led to turmoil and misinformation with no positive headway in any one area.

Therefore, the Connecticut Community Colleges submit the following:

WHEREAS the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities exist to provide excellent, affordable and accessible education;

WHEREAS the responsibility of the faculty and staff of the CCCs is to maintain high standards of academic excellence in all phases of instruction, creative activity and service;

WHEREAS the President of the BOR for Higher Education of Connecticut State Colleges and Universities has not respected either the distinct missions of the 12 CCCs or the differences between the CSUs and the CCCs;

WHEREAS the principles of shared governance require authentic opportunities for faculty and staff participation;

WHEREAS the President has not engaged in meaningful discussions of academic and pedagogical policy with faculty and staff;

WHEREAS policy decisions made by the President have not been based on sound academic and pedagogical principles;

WHEREAS the President has promoted educational practices not in the best interest of our students;

WHEREAS the President has not made any substantive changes in Transform CSCU 2020 based on feedback from the faculty and staff of the 12 community colleges, despite assurances that such feedback would be incorporated;

WHEREAS the President has not produced evidence that the \$1.97 million paid to BCG has resulted in a Strategic Plan or any part thereof;

WHEREAS the President has asked the faculty, staff, and students of CSCU to shoulder an additional financial burden that could have been partially offset by dollars paid to consultants or allocated to administrative costs;

WHEREAS the President has failed to complete a reasonable Strategic Plan for CSCU that could be supported by faculty, staff, and students, despite attempting to do so for almost 2 years;

WHEREAS the President has not provided any persuasive rationale or evidence that Transform CSCU 2020 will contribute to academic excellence;

BE IT RESOLVED that the College Senate of Norwalk Community College has no confidence in Transform CSCU 2020 and the leadership of President Gregory Gray and demands that Transform be abandoned in its entirety.

Resolution adopted by Norwalk Community College Senate, April 22, 2015”

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