



Student Success Committee

CCSNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting of September 19, 2019

Attending: Trustee Steve Rothenberg (Chair), Trustee John Calhoun, Trustee Stephen Freeborn, Trustee Sharon Harris, Christopher Way (BEA), CCSNH Chancellor Ross Gittel, CCSNH Executive Director of Government Affairs and Communications Shannon Reid

Regrets: NCC President Lucille Jordan, RVCC President Alfred Williams, Commissioner Frank Edelblut, CCSNH Director of DOE and College Access Programs Beth Doiron

Others Attending: CCSNH COO Charles Ansell, NHTI President Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki, MCC President Susan Huard

Committee Chair Rothenberg called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. in the Chancellor's Office Conference Room, NHTI, Concord, NH.

Approval of June 20, 2019 Minutes

VOTE: The Committee, on motion of Mr. Calhoun and seconded by Mr. Freeborn, voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2019 meeting as written. Christopher Way, who was not present at the last meeting, abstained.

Spark Academy

President Huard presented the college's proposal provided background on her experience starting a middle college during her time in Connecticut, which gave students of little means the opportunity for stronger educational experiences that better match the education that students with more resources can access. Spark Academy, a free and public charter high school that offers a technology-rich program, provides a similar high-quality, early-college experience. Currently 30 freshmen are taking classes on the Manchester CC campus, and the program is projected to grow to a capacity of up to 180 students. The college will be able to accommodate Spark Academy for the next two years, after which point they will need to move to another, larger facility. This concept has drawn concern from the state's CTE directors, and the college has been careful to bring in programs that do not overlap with current offerings from CTEs in the area. President Huard noted that there has been an extensive internal process regarding planning for Spark Academy on their campus including three all-college meetings to discuss the topic, inviting students to discuss and submit feedback, the creation of an advisory committee from the college to the charter school, and plans to create a curricular advisory group. The college has embraced this concept enthusiastically.

Discussion followed regarding the potential this model has to increase the pipeline of students from high school to college by providing high school students a direct link to a college, as the Spark Academy model provides for its students taking classes at Manchester CC. High schools on college property is not



a new concept, and there is potentially a very high value in having alignment with an entity that brings high school students to the campus.

Regarding the proposal from the college to construct an educational building of approximately 30,000 square feet on the Manchester CC campus, President Huard is asking the board if it would be permitted for another entity (Spark Academy) to build on the college's property. Manchester CC would be deeply involved in the design and construction of the building. Chair Rothenberg suggested that the college also consider constructing the building and leasing to the entity, as an alternative to the proposed plan.

The committee noted that it will be important for the Board to understand how this initiative fits into master planning, and how it will change the culture at Manchester CC. President Huard noted that the college's policies and code of conduct trump the charter school's policies. The committee noted that an RFP would likely be required, and MCC will also need to meet with the Attorney General's Office. The committee discussed the need for CCSNH to develop a co-location policy, to ensure related initiatives closely align with the mission, as well as the need to find out if an RFP process will be required and the elements that would have to be included in a lease.

There was consensus among committee members that the proposed model presents an opportunity that should be further explored, as it is a model built on pathway principles and that could serve as a pilot to solve conversion problems. Chair Rothenberg noted that while the committee supports the proposal conceptually, the committee has not analyzed Spark Academy and cannot make a recommendation on Spark Academy without doing any due diligence. Chair Rothenberg will discuss the proposal with board officers and other committee chairs at the Executive Committee meeting on September 26th.

Adult Learners

The committee will continue discussion on adult learners at the next committee meeting in December. Mr. Ansell will send more information to the committee on the upcoming CCA event on adult learners.

Other Business

No further business was stated. The meeting adjourned at 11:03 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Eckner
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees