



THIS WEEK'S FACEBOOK QUESTION: Do you think faculty offices should continue to be segregated by departments?

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Higher Education Consolidation Committee

The Higher Education Consolidation Committee met on January 24, 2012. Dr. Kennedy, President of the Board of Regents, reported on the progress that has taken place since the Committee's last meeting on November 10.

- The Board of Regents is now fully constituted and has officially taken over the responsibility of overseeing CSU, the Community-Technical Colleges, and Charter Oak State College as of January 1.

- Due to this realignment, twenty-four administrative positions were identified as redundant and the BOR has notified the individuals who hold those positions that they will be eliminated, but the notice requirement is up to twelve months for some jobs.

- The savings from the elimination of these positions will be redirected back to the campuses to hire additional full-time faculty.

- The Board of Regents has enacted an administrative hiring freeze. The campuses will be allowed to hire faculty and student service positions.

The legislators on the Committee questioned Kennedy about the need for additional faculty, tuition increases, remediation, and efficiencies. There was also discussion surrounding a "general education common core" between the three systems and articulation.

At its next meeting, the Committee will revisit remediation, faculty/student ratios in the three systems, faculty reassigned time, and the functions performed previously by the Department of Higher Education, which has been absorbed into the BOR.

The Higher Ed Consolidation Committee, consisting of legislators from the Higher Education and Appropriations Committees, is charged with overseeing the consolidation of CSU, the Community-Technical Colleges, and Charter Oak State College.

New Faculty Majority Holds Its First Summit

At its first summit on January 28, 2012, participants were invited to discuss the goals and principles of the New Faculty Majority (NFM) and help develop concrete ideas on the organization's next steps. Many ideas were shared during the breakout sessions and a task force is being formed to implement some of the ideas that emerged at the summit.

The NFM is a non-profit organization supporting adjunct and contingent faculty in all disciplines and at any public or private university, college or community college in the US. It was established in 2009. The organization's mission "is dedicated to improving the quality of higher education by advancing professional equity and securing academic freedom for all adjunct and contingent faculty. For this purpose, NFM engages in education and advocacy to provide economic justice and academic equity for all college faculty. NFM is committed to creating stable, equitable, sustainable, non-exploitative academic environments that promote more effective teaching, learning, and research" (<http://www.newfacultymajority.info/national/about-new-faculty-majority>).

Read more about the summit at *Inside Higher Education* [here](#) or *The Chronicle of Higher Education* [here](#).

CSU-AAUP January Meeting

At its January 19 meeting, the CSU-AAUP Council discussed:

- The upcoming legislative session, which the Governor has repeatedly declared will focus on education,
- Two upcoming conferences: the Collective Bargaining Congress East Coast Regional Meeting in February and the Annual Conference of the NCSCBHEP in April on *Academic Collective Bargaining Under Siege: Implications for a Public Good*,
- The Faculty Advisory Committee of the Board of Regents,
- The report from the Distance Learning Standing Study Committee,
- Continued issues with the implementation of the hybrid retirement plan.