QVCC Memorandum

From: Brian Kaufman, Academic Senate President

To: President Carlee Drummer and Academic Senate Members

Subject: Senate End of Year Report 2014-2015

Date: 14 September 2015

Summary:

The Academic Senate convened six times during the 2014-15 academic calendar year, and as its primary charge, reviewed and took action on specific programs, courses, and policies forwarded for review by the Senate's Curriculum, Instruction, and Policy Committee (CIP). The Senate also reviewed and amended Senate bylaws, establishing a Senate president and vice president, and eliminating its Executive Board committee. The Senate reviewed and took action on several statewide initiatives put forward by the Board of Regents, by the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) of the Board of Regents, and by the newly formed Community College Council of Academic Leaders (now called the Community College Governance Assembly [CCGA]) — an ad hoc group made up of the elected or appointed representatives of academic and staff governing councils of the 12 Connecticut community colleges and subsequently authorized by BOR President Gregory Gray. In addition, the Senate considered the Transform CSCU 2020 plan, and supported resolutions meant to direct the efforts of those working on developing that strategic plan.

The following report includes the following:

- Bylaws Revised
- Transform CSCU 2020 Actions
- CCGA (CCCAL) Formation and Efforts
- Curriculum and Policy—Revisions and Changes
- Share Governance Participation
- Senate Resolutions
- Items for Further Consideration

Bylaws Revised:

The Academic Senate made revisions to the bylaws of its governing structure, and thus strengthened and streamlined the Senate's operations for overseeing curriculum, programs,

courses, and academic policies, at the college, and at the state level. The bylaw changes did the following: eliminated the Executive Board committee, established a Senate President with a two-year term (and an optional elected third year); established a Senate Vice President electable to three one-year consecutive terms; and provided for a transitional year for the current chair and vice-chair of EB to remain as the leads for the 2015-2016 academic year and for other committee members to be grandfathered in as CIP members for 2015-2016 (3/30/15 Minutes). A further one-sentence change to reflect changes in administration was later made to Article II denoting Academic Senate Membership, while the Senate President's request to add a post of secretary/historian to the senate leadership was effectively tabled (5/28/15 Minutes).

Transform CSCU 2020 Actions:

Senate Chair Brian Kaufman and Academic Division Director Jo Ann Black attended a series of meetings at the BOR in November and December 2014 to discuss Transform and bring information back to the college for feedback. Senate members provided feedback on many of the plans initiatives, which were forwarded to Jon Ann Black for further review and dissemination. This work led to discussions during subsequent senate meetings, and information on Transform was later communicated to the senate body by its chair. The following measures were taken on Transform:

- The QVCC Academic Senate voted to endorse, with one abstention, the following resolution drafted by and approved on November 14, 2014 by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents (FAC). The resolution states: *"Whereas, after careful consideration of Transform CSCU 2020, the Faculty Advisory Committee finds that it lacks focus on academic excellence, consolidates our distinct missions, is so vague as to be meaningless, and removes autonomy from local institutions in a manner that has enormous and negative consequences for the educational experiences of our students. In short, it is neither transformational nor aspirational. Resolved: we cannot endorse Transform CSCU 2020 in its current form"* (2/23/15 Minutes).
- The Senate endorsed the Transform CSCU 2020 Values and Assumptions statement. The document was composed in CCCAL meetings and recursively edited through email. It fulfilled a request by Dr. Gray made to the faculty leaders from the twelve CCs to compose such a statement as a "point of departure for a collaborative approach to Transform [CSCU 2020]" (2/23/15 Minutes).
- The Senate, resolved, that during a no confidence discussion against the Board of Regents and/or BOR President Dr. Gray, that the Academic Senate would take no action at that time (5/28/15 Minutes).

CCGA (CCCAL) Formation and Efforts:

Senate Chair Brian Kaufman met with academic governance leaders from the 12 community colleges on eight occasions beginning in December 2014 to discuss a collective response to the Transform CSCU 2020 plan and to form a collaborative relationship with each other and with BOR President Dr. Gray and his staff. The group adopted, as its group name, the title, Community College Council of Academic Leaders. Senate Chair Kaufman reported back on the group's activities during QVCC Academic Senate Meetings and through e-mailed communications. To authorize this work, the Senate Chair was granted the "Right and Responsibility" to "Represent QVCC's Senate Membership Statewide" (2/23/15 Minutes) and was later confirmed as QVCC's representative to the group when the QVCC Academic Senate Bylaws were amended (3/30/15 Minutes). As part of the Transform initiative, CCCAL voted to endorse a FAC resolution noting that it could not endorse the Transform plan (4Cs and other

unions also publicly endorsed the resolution). CCCAL then endorsed an Academic Imperative Statement, and a Transform CSCU 2020 Values and Assumptions statement (the latter also endorsed by QVCC's senate on 2/23/15). CCCAL was authorized to represent CSCU community college governance organizations by Dr. Gray in meetings in February and March 2015. Subsequently, and after Dr. Gray formed (in March 2015) and then quickly disbanded a statewide Transform Steering Committee, and after several state university governance organizations and one community college voted no confidence in the BOR president and the Transform plan, CCCAL thus voted to recommend that governance groups at the other colleges hold votes of no confidence discussions. CCCAL formally changed its name to Community College Governance Assembly (CCGA) in June 2015. The group met over the summer of 2015 to compose bylaws and have since sent those bylaws on for endorsement from each community college's academic governing group.

Curriculum and Policy— Changes and Revisions:
- Revisions made to Human Services Program (see Academic Affairs 10/27/14 Minutes)
- Wording change made to Basic Skill Assessments Policy (3/30/15 Minutes)
- Changes to Computer Networking degree (3/30/15 Minutes)
- Changes to Senior Network Specialist certificate (3/30/15 Minutes)
- New Calculator Policy (3/30/15 Minutes)
- Change to MFG 278 Rapid Prototyping certificate (3/30/15 Minutes)
- Adopted documents to inform instructors on Distance Learning Policies (4/27/15 Minutes)
- Revised Curriculum Sheets for Liberal Arts and Sciences (4/27/15 Minutes)
- Revised Curriculum Sheets for General Studies (4/27/15 Minutes)
- Revised Curriculum Sheet for Early Childhood Education (4/27/15 Minutes)
- Updated List of TAP core courses for Liberal Arts & Sciences (4/27/15 Minutes)
- Elected Heath Hightower, Marilyn Hines, and Mark Lowe to serve two-year terms on CIP (4/27/15 Minutes)

Share Governance Participation:

Academic Senate Chair (President) Brian Kaufman was invited to participate in the extended cabinet meetings beginning in March 2015 by QVCC President Carlee Drummer. The Academic Senate President currently sits on the bi-monthly president's advisory group.

Special Senate Resolutions:

The Academic Senate resolved to officially welcome President Carlee Drummer on the president's inauguration day and to affirm the Senate's commitment to working with her office (4/27/15 Minutes).

Items for Further Consideration:
To follow up on last year, the 2015-2016 CIP and Senate leadership should consider the following items and take actions necessary to insure Senate participation and oversight in these areas:

- **Transfer and Articulation Policy (TAP) Core Courses:** Further work will be needed to develop a list of courses for transfer articulation. This is an ongoing process. The Senate (and its CIP Committee) might consider a more regular and systematic approach to identify TAP Core Courses, and implement regular assessment in those courses (including those taught by adjunct instructors). This work will also help fulfill academic goals on assessment to report to NEASC for accreditation.
- **Transform CSCU 2020:** Although the current work of Transform has been delegated to the community college presidents, and to their teams, and while the future of Transform remains in question with a change in BOR leadership, CIP and the Senate will need to continue an active role in developing action plans and goals to fulfill initiatives identified by QVCC's Strategic Planning committee.
- **Dual Enrollment & Partnerships:** Consider whether the current curriculum and organization of all QVCC partnership programs are appropriately monitored and administered. Develop greater CIP and Academic Senate oversight in this area.
- **Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (AMTC)**: Consider whether the current curriculum and organization of AMTC is appropriately monitored and administered.
- **NEASC:** Participate in an active and advisory role working towards securing accreditation of the college.
- **Reporting:** Develop better processes to record and archive Senate and CIP agendas, minutes, and reports on QVCC's website, to promote greater transparency.