

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#2000-80



RESOLUTION

REVISING

THE MISSION STATEMENT

OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

October 5, 2000

WHEREAS, Section 10a-89 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System to develop the Mission Statement of the University System, and

WHEREAS, The existing Mission Statement of the Connecticut State University System was adopted by the Board of Trustees in its Resolution No. 99-1 on February 5, 1999, and

WHEREAS, The Department of Higher Education has indicated that missions statements for the CSU System should more clearly articulate that offering doctoral degrees is part of this mission, if the CSU universities intend to seek the authority to offer Ed.D. degrees, and

WHEREAS, A proposal for an Ed.D. program at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) was approved in BR 2000-70 on July 14, 2000 and a similar proposal is expected from Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Fall 2000 and in the future from Western Connecticut State University (WCSU), therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System hereby repeals Board Resolution No. 99-1, and adopts the attached revised Mission Statement for the Connecticut State University System, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Section 10a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System is directed to submit the revised Mission Statement of the Connecticut State University System to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for its review and appropriate action.

A Certified True Copy:

Lawrence D. McHugh
Chairman

The Mission of the Connecticut State University System

The four comprehensive universities of the CSU System - Central Connecticut State University, Eastern Connecticut State University, Southern Connecticut State University and Western Connecticut State University - are Connecticut's universities of choice for students of all ages, backgrounds, races and ethnicities. CSU provides affordable and high quality active learning opportunities which are geographically and technologically accessible. A CSU education leads to baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees, *including applied doctoral degree programs consistent with its historical missions of teacher education* and career advancement. CSU graduates think critically, acquire enduring problem solving skills and meet outcome standards which embody the competencies necessary for success in the workplace and in life.

Fulfilling the Mission

CSU fulfills this mission through the focused missions of its universities.

Central Connecticut State University

- is Connecticut's premier learner centered public university with teaching as its focus
- applies knowledge to better the human condition
- provides access and quality for students to reach their full potential

Eastern Connecticut State University

- is Connecticut's public liberal arts university
- provides an intellectual ambiance which develops analytic thinkers, innovative problem solvers and creative learners

Southern Connecticut State University

- is a preeminent metropolitan university
- offers a learning community that is grounded in a liberal education
- is the lead institution for advanced study in CSU

Western Connecticut State University

- aspires to be the state's public university of choice for programs of excellence in the liberal arts and the professions
- builds all programs around a strong liberal arts foundation
- stresses critical thinking, problem solving, and communication skills for the new millennium.

Creative learning at each university transforms Connecticut into a state of minds.

ITEM

Revisions to Mission Statement for the Connecticut State University System

BACKGROUND

The statutes charge the Board of Trustees, in part, to develop the mission statement for the Connecticut State University System. (CGS Sect. 10a-89) Pursuant to this authority, the Board adopted a mission statement in 1984, amended it in 1986, and completed two substantial revisions, the first in 1992 and the second in December 1997 (Board Resolution #97-84).

As part of the strategic planning effort undertaken by the system in 1996, each of the CSU universities developed its own individual mission statement defining the universities by their distinguishing characteristics. These mission statements were completed and approved for Eastern, Southern and Western in late Fall 1998 and for Central in February 1999.

In 1998 CSU also launched its first online initiative offering ten courses over the Internet. At the same time the CSU universities were exploring and have now implemented several synchronous and asynchronous alternative methods of course delivery using new technologies. The CSU System mission statement was approved by the Board in 1997 and since it had not been formally accepted by the Board of Governors for Higher Education was revised in February 1999 in the following manner:

- The phrase "technologically accessible" was added to emphasize that courses offered by CSU are made available to learners in a variety of ways including the Internet and other new technologies.
- The CSU system mission was clarified by stating that it is realized through the "focused mission of its universities" and a summary of these missions was incorporated as part of the system mission statement.

The revised System and University mission statements were submitted to the Board of Governors for Higher Education in February 1999.

In July 2000, the Board approved a proposal put forth by Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to offer a doctorate in education (Ed.D.) and is expecting a similar proposal by Southern Connecticut State University and possibly from Western Connecticut State University in the future. The Board's action reflected its view that the Ed.D. is a logical extension of CSU's historical focus on teacher preparation.

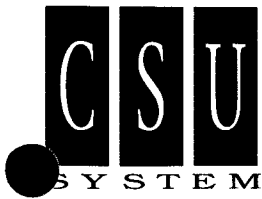
Following the Board's approval, CCSU submitted its Ed.D proposal to the Department of Higher Education (DHE). However the DHE has indicated that the mission statements originally submitted are not sufficiently specific in articulating that the granting of doctoral degrees is part of the mission of the CSU universities.

ANALYSIS

Following consultation with the universities, the System mission statement has been revised to indicate that the graduate and professional degrees offered in the CSU system may include: ". . . applied doctoral degree programs consistent with the historical mission of teacher education" and career advancement. Mission revisions at CCSU, SCSU and WCSU are under review and may come to the BOT for approval in November. If the Board of Governors approves these mission revisions, there will be clearer authority for the CSU System to grant such a doctoral degree.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revised Connecticut State University System Mission Statement.



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Academic Affairs
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October 6, 2000

Valerie Lewis, Interim Commissioner
Department of Higher Education
61 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105-2326

Dear Commissioner Lewis:

As you will recall, the CSU System submitted revised mission statements for the System and the four CSU Universities in early 1999 and Role and Scope statements in December 1999. Late last month, you indicated that the Department of Higher Education could not consider CCSU's request for licensure and accreditation for a Doctorate in Education (Ed.D), approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in its July 2000 meeting, unless the mission statements for the CSU System and its universities were revised to more clearly support the offering of applied doctoral degrees.

After consultation and deliberation, a Resolution revising the CSU System mission statement was developed and brought to the Thursday, October 5, 1000 meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees. The Resolution passed unanimously and subsequent discussion reaffirmed the Board's enthusiastic support of CCSU's request for approval for its Ed.D. The Resolution and the revised mission statement are attached.

Further consultation is underway at CCSU, SCSU and WCSU and I expect similar revisions for their mission statements to come to the CSU Board of Trustees in its November meeting. Please accept my appreciation for your advice on this vital matter. I hope that DHE will begin its deliberation on CSU's mission revision at the earliest time possible. In my judgment, the attached revision and the subsequent revisions from the CSU Universities extend the historical mission of CSU in highly appropriate ways and illustrate clearly the increasingly significant position occupied by the CSU Universities in the higher education community in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

William J. Cibes, Jr.
Chancellor