



Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#06-51



RESOLUTION

establishing a

SCHOOL OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

at

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

June 9, 2006

WHEREAS, Western Connecticut State University has a long history of providing quality programs in the Visual and Performing Arts, and

WHEREAS, Western Connecticut State University's mission statement indicates that the university serves as an accessible, responsive, and creative intellectual resource for the people and institutions of Connecticut, and

WHEREAS, Competence in the arts has been repeatedly identified in the 2004-05 "Values and Vision" as an important contribution and Western has been cited for providing leadership in the region's fine arts scene, and

WHEREAS, Western Connecticut has identified the arts as one of the areas of competitive advantage that will feature prominently in the university's strategic plan, and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the School is compatible with the mission of Western Connecticut State University and the Connecticut State University System, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System hereby authorizes the establishment of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the President of Western Connecticut State University is directed to periodically evaluate the functioning of the School of Visual and Performing Arts in terms of its effectiveness.

A Certified True Copy:

David G. Carter, Sr.

David G. Carter, Sr. Chancellor

ITEM

Establishing a School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University.

BACKGROUND

At present, the Art, Theater, and Music Departments are housed in different schools. There is a need to create an administrative structure that will support a stronger symbiotic relationship between these disciplines.

ANALYSIS

The arts have long been recognized as an area of special competence at Western Connecticut State University. The university has long been a school of choice among those seeking to pursue careers in music, music education, theater arts and fine arts. At the present time, nearly 50% of Connecticut's music educators received their Bachelors/or Masters degrees in Music Education from Western. Music, K-12 is currently designated as a teacher shortage area by the State of Connecticut. Western is the only public university in Connecticut offering a Bachelor of Music degree with the Jazz Studies Option. Western also has a long history of providing Connecticut with artists and graphic designers both in the major design studios and in private art studios.

The creation of the School of Visual and Performing Arts will provide a structure fostering collaboration between the arts that would enable the programs to strengthen their offerings and service to the community. During the first few years the school will be supported through reassignment of personnel. This will diminish the need for new financial resources to accomplish the restructuring of the Art, Theater, and Music into the School of Visual and Performing Arts. Western is also anticipating that the school's opening will provide incentives for increased private funding to the venture. The current Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs will serve as interim founding dean of the school for a three-year term appointment. Administrative support will also be supplied by reallocation.

Existing space in Higgins Hall, former home of the science departments, will be used as additional space to meet the needs of these departments while a new building is constructed. This space is also needed to serve increased enrollments and accreditation requirements for gallery space for the Art Department.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the establishment of the School of Visual and Performing Arts at Western Connecticut State University.