

Capital Community College Senate Statement

November 20, 2017

Following President Ojakian's forum regarding the CT Community Colleges consolidation proposal, the Capital Community College Senate has significant concerns.

The CCC Senate agrees with the following proposed benefits to students cited in the consolidation proposal:

- Clear and consistent admissions processes
- Ease of registration and course completion at any College, including online
- Streamlining financial aid across Colleges

However, we believe these benefits can be realized without consolidating the individual institutions into a single accredited *Community College of Connecticut*. We also disagree that the single community college will produce an effective and efficient community college system.

The CCC Senate opposes the consolidation proposal based on the following:

Accreditation

- Currently, as an independent, individually accredited community college, Capital has the necessary autonomy to decide how to allocate its available resources to provide appropriate educational programs and services to support our stated mission. We are concerned that losing our individual accreditation will have a negative impact on the integrity of these processes and will have significant implications that are neither foreseen nor acknowledged in this proposal.

Mission

- Capital Community College's mission is unique and centered on the diverse population we serve. The proposed consolidation plan does not detail what structure and authority will remain at the campus level to ensure the uniqueness of our institution.

Curriculum

- As an individual college, we can develop curriculum and add or remove programs quickly as the needs of our community evolve. This proposal removes our ability to locally develop and modify curriculum. Since curricular decisions will be centrally managed and controlled, we are no longer a "community" college that can effectively meet the needs of our students.

Shared Governance

- Shared governance is a cornerstone of higher education that ensures faculty and staff have input in wide-ranging activities including campus planning, policies, curriculum,

and local concerns. This proposed plan does not adequately detail how faculty and staff input will address local needs and contribute to the system-wide shared governance.

Organization/Structure

- The proposal to have one Campus Vice President serve dual roles as Regional President and Campus Vice President is problematic because of the potential for bias and conflicts of interest.

Savings

- This proposal is void of a clear rationale on how the system will achieve the targeted \$28 million savings. Specifically, it lacks details about increased expenses associated with proposed increases in management positions. Furthermore, the targeted savings do not appear to be reallocated to instruction and services to students.

For the reasons stated above, the CCC Senate opposes the consolidation proposal in its present form.