



742 UPPER MAPLE STREET  
DANIELSON, CT 06239  
CTSTATE.EDU

Academic Senate  
March 18, 2024

**Members Present:** J. Spjut (President), S. Buchbinder (Vice-President); B. Alves; J. Andersen; J. Battye; L.C. Chu; P. Clifford; B. Clinton; E. Espitia-Loaiza; T. Greer; D. Hernandez; M. Hall; J. Knapp; P. Lemieux; M. Lowe; E. Michalski; C. Parden; D. Rimkus; C. Shirshac; T. Shizume; S. Van Orden; K. Zvoma.

### Agenda

1. Approval of February Minutes. **The motion was made by S. Buchbinder and seconded by E. Espitia-Loaiza (passes with two abstentions).**

2. Resolution on CT State Course Search by Home Campus drafted by J. Spjut.

- a. CT State students have access to a large offering of course sections through courses at their own home campus, as well as via seamless cross-campus enrollment at other campuses. Enrollment at other campuses is usually through an online course modality, though students can sometimes make the trip for in-person classes at other campuses as well. This allows students with busy schedules more options to fit classes they need at times that work for them.

However, there are still benefits to prioritizing enrollment at a home campus, such as the ability to build relationships with other nearby students, staff, and faculty. These connections with faculty enable faculty to better advise students, to place them in relevant internships, and to write strong letters of recommendation for students applying for scholarships and transfer. This is true even of online courses, where sometimes the ability to meet in person for office hours to resolve concerns or misunderstandings can be helpful. The home campus tutoring services are also better equipped to assist students with courses offered at that home campus.

The current online course search system will sort courses by various parameters but does not currently default to showing sections offered at the home campus first. This leads some students with no preference on which online section they prefer to enroll in a section at another campus, depriving them of the benefits of taking that course on their home campus. By changing the priority on how courses are displayed in course search, we can make it easier for students to enroll in home campus sections that work for them.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that student course search should sort **by home campus of the student conducting the search** first before any other considerations.

- Discussion:

- Suggest adding language on the importance of maintaining home campus connections as core to community colleges. This should be upheld to avoid the dissolution of the local community college.
- **The motion was made by J. Spjut and seconded by S. Buchbinder (passes)**
  - Jakob will send this resolution to the CT State Academic Senate, QV Staff Senate, and CEO
- 3. Discipline-specific scheduling issues (avoiding cross-campus competition)
  1. Discussion of concerns.
    1. The SDC structure leaves some disciplines out, and Discipline-Specific Councils could add more functions, such as program review and scheduling.
    2. The SACCs sometimes act as rubber stamps, so many people have no discipline knowledge of the proposals they are reviewing and are pressured to pass things.
    3. Remaking the SDCs isn't advisable since governance takes so long and SDCs can work well on a discipline level, such as computer science and criminal justice. The number of SDCs could be expanded.
  2. **Jakob will send the following to the CT State College Senate.**
    1. Request for the CT State Academic Senate to look into the governance:
      1. **Increase the number of SDCs:** Some disciplines and programs (e.g., Human Services) do not have SDCs and have no formal process for reviewing and voting on curriculum. Some members of those programs or disciplines sometimes meet informally to propose and review curriculum changes, but not everyone can or does have or attend meetings.
      2. **Increase SDC tasks:** Under the one college system, disciplines and programs need coordination, including scheduling and program review. The SDCs could include this function.
      3. **Reconsider the SACCs:** The SACCs have many disciplines and cannot always effectively review curriculum (e.g., they can act as rubber stamps). This level of governance may not be necessary.
- 4. ECSU No Confidence in Chancellor Cheng (see <https://ctmirror.org/2024/01/16/ecs-u-eastern-ct-university-terrence-cheng-cscu/>) - tabled from previously.
  1. Feedback:
    1. The vote was ECSU-specific and done quickly.
    2. It's late in the semester, and no other campuses have voted on it. We can "wait and see."
  2. **No action will be taken.**

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm (Motion by S. Buchbinder and seconded by J. Battye).