

Chapter 2: History of CCSU & CSUS

A Brief History of CCSU¹

As explained in *Images of America: Central Connecticut State University* by Emeritus Professor George R. Muirhead, CCSU started as the Connecticut Normal School, whose mission was primarily to educate teachers. At that time, the Normal School was situated in downtown New Britain, and it did not move to its present site until the early 1900s, when Marcus White secured the funds to move the campus. By 1933, H.D. Welte had become the first President (as opposed to Principal) and the school became the Teachers College of Connecticut and offered baccalaureate degrees. In 1953, The University of Connecticut introduced a bill to the general assembly to transfer all education programs to that university in an attempt to crush the teachers' colleges. After a hard-fought legislative battle, the teachers' colleges retained their identities and by 1959 had received legislative approval to change their names. Thus, the Teachers College of Connecticut became Central Connecticut State College. A period of rapid growth in facilities, faculty, and students occurred on campus during the 1960s and early 1970s. During this time, the divisions grew into schools. Eventually, the programs at the state colleges grew to include Masters Degrees, which led the legislature to allow yet another name change to Central Connecticut State University in 1983.

A Brief Recent History of the CSUS

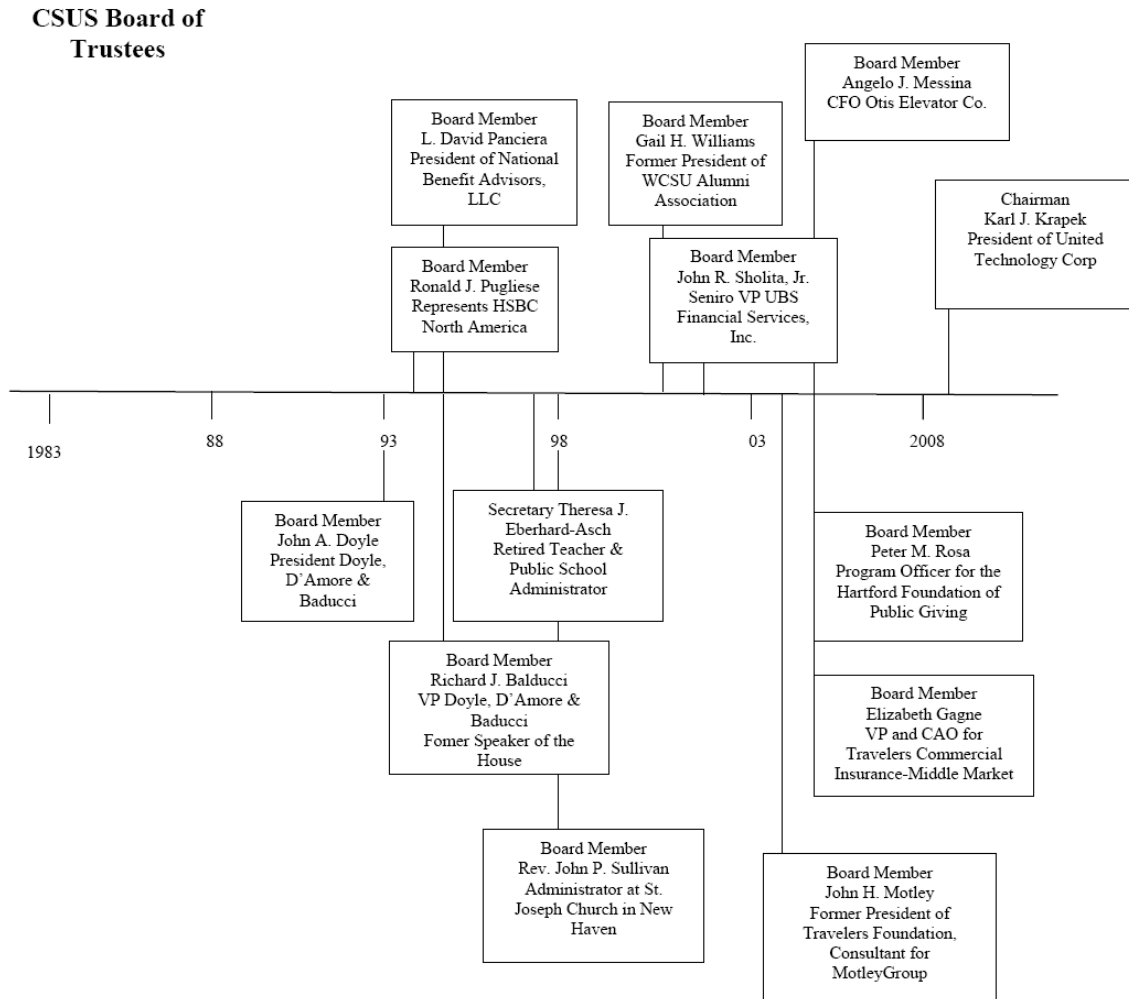
The 1982 Connecticut General Assembly created the **Board of Governors for Higher Education (BoG)** replacing the Board of Higher Education. The Board is charged with providing long-range planning and enhancing cooperative ventures in higher education within the state. The BoG also has statutory authority to license and accredit programs and institutions in the state. To this end, the four State Universities, the Community and Technical Colleges, the University of Connecticut, and private institutions of higher education cooperate with the Board. The Board consists of eleven members, seven appointed by the Governor, and four by the General Assembly. The Board, with its offices in Hartford, oversees the Department of Higher Education, which includes the **Commissioner for Higher Education** and a professional staff.

¹ Muirhead, George R. *Images of America; Central Connecticut State University*. Charleston, SC.: Arcadia, 1999.

The University's instructional mission is defined by Section 10a-149 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which sets forth a **Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System (BoT)** whose responsibility is as follows: "...the Board of Trustees of the Connecticut State University System shall have special responsibility for the preparation of personnel for the public schools of the state including master's degree programs and other graduate study in education, and authority for providing liberal arts and career programs at the bachelors, masters and sixth year level..."

The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System (CSUS) is the legally constituted governing body for CCSU. Board authority is set forth by statute in Title 10a of the Connecticut General Statutes, beginning with Section 10a-87. The membership of the Board is also specified by statute and consists of eighteen members, fourteen of whom are appointed by the Governor for six-year terms to reflect the state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity (Section 10a-88). The appointed trustees are shown in the figure at the top of the next page along with the year they were appointed. In addition, four trustees must be full-time students who are elected by their fellow students for two-year terms. One student trustee is elected from each of the four universities in the CSUS. The Governor designates the chairperson of the Board.

The BoT ensures that the CSUS's service to the state is realized through a System Mission Statement and a System Strategic Plan, as well as through the mission statements, strategic plans, annual spending plans, and annual letters of presidential priorities for each of the individual universities. The BoT determines general policies for the CSUS including those requiring fiscal solvency for the Universities and the System.



The BoT appoints and may remove the chief executive officer (the President) of each of the four universities and delegates a very broad range of power to the Presidents to operate each University. The Board meets approximately 10 times per year. It conducts its business through four standing committees: the Executive Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee, the Student Affairs Committee, and the Finance, Administration, and Development Committee (which includes personnel and employee relations within its jurisdiction). The BoT's staff, headed by the Chancellor, meets with the staff of the four universities on a monthly basis through the Council of Presidents, the Council on Academic Affairs, the Council on Finance and

Administration, the Council on Student Affairs, and the Council on Employee Relations.

The CSUS website summarizes the history of the four CSU universities. Briefly, the CSU System was initially four separate institutions of higher learning. CCSU is the oldest such institution in Connecticut, having started as a normal school in 1849. Then came Eastern (in 1889), Southern (in 1893), and Western (in 1903). All four schools were reclassified as state colleges in 1959. With the change of status from colleges to universities in 1983, the institutions were united and a systems office was put into place by the BoT. **The system office, CSUS, consists of a Chancellor** appointed by the BoT and a staff of personnel whose responsibilities include (from the CSUS website):

- Collective bargaining with faculty and staff to create uniform contracts and personnel administration policies;
- Facilities planning and capital budgeting;
- Acting as a legislative liaison for the four universities;
- Providing an internal audit function;
- System-wide institutional research;
- Managing the strategic planning process and monitoring the implementation of the CSUS strategic plan;
- Providing staff assistance to CSUS trustees for budget allocation and prioritization and developing system-wide fiscal policy, while providing management for the common financial resources of the system;
- Providing consolidated information technology and telecommunications functions system-wide, including IT planning and direction, software development and maintenance, as well as voice, data and video networking support;
- Providing System Office staff with the leadership training and resources they need to continuously improve the quality of their services through the Quality Council;
- Advising the Chancellor on matters related to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action through the Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee and providing opportunities for awareness of cultural and ethnic diversity among staff.

A brief organizational chart of the System Office is included on the next page.