



## College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, January 29, 2021

Time: 9:00AM

Virtual Meeting

### ATTENDEES

#### CT State Colleges & Universities

Karen Wosczyzna-Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Wendy Robicheau, Project Manager, College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing  
Sue Spencer, Program Coordinator, Gateway CC  
Stephen LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC  
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges  
Adam Scobie, Instructor, Housatonic CC  
Rich DuPont, Director of Community & Campus Relations, AMTC, Housatonic CC  
Stella Litwinowicz, Assistant Professor, Housatonic CC  
Lin Lin, Program Coordinator, Middlesex CC  
Jakob Spjut, Program Coordinator, Quinebaug Valley CC  
Mobin Rastgar Agah, Professor, Norwalk CC  
Sharon Gusky, Professor, Northwestern CT CC  
Crystal Wiggins, STEM DC, Northwestern CT CC  
Mehrdad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC  
Tracy Ariel, Director, Manufacturing, Manchester & Middlesex Community Colleges  
Michael Gentry, Program Coordinator, Three Rivers CC  
Aaron Dahlen, Associate Professor, Three Rivers CC  
Andre Freeman, Professor, Capital CC  
Joe DeFeo, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Deirdre D'Amore, STEM Recruitment & Retention, Naugatuck Valley CC  
Mathew Spinelli, STEAM Director, Tunxis CC  
Ashoka Rahman, Program Coordinator, Tunxis CC  
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University  
Segun Odesina, Associate Dean, Central CT State University  
Jemiel Rose, Project Director, CT State Colleges & Universities  
Jordan Domkowski, Academic Advisor, STEAM & Advanced Manufacturing, Tunxis Community College  
Paul Resetarits, Professor, Manufacturing & Construction Management, Central CT State University  
Ju Kim, Dean, School of Engineering, Science, and Technology, Central CT State University  
Shuju Wu, Professor & Department Chair, Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology, Central CT State University  
Sango Park, Associate Professor, Computer Electronics & Graphics Technology, Central CT State University

#### Other College & Universities

Harvey Hoffman, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Fairfield University  
Daniel Burkey, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education and Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Shoshana Armington, Assistant Director of Advising for Student Transitions, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Amy Donofrio, Academic Advisor, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Aida Ghiaei, Director, Graduate Outreach & Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut  
Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven  
Laurie Granstrand, Manager of Graduate Programs, Undergraduate Transfer Evaluations, College of Engineering, Technology, and Architecture, University of Hartford  
David Pines, Associate Dean for Student Support, College of Engineering, Technology and Architecture, University of Hartford

#### High Schools

Cristina Stisser, Manufacturing Cluster, CT Technical Education & Career System

## **Other**

Candace Williams, Director of Policy Research & Strategic Initiatives, New England Board of Higher Education  
Charlotte Peyser, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, New England Board of Higher Education  
Stephanie Blochinger, Associate Program Director, Business-Higher Education Forum

## **MINUTES**

### **Welcome Remarks**

- Dr. Karen Wosczyzna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM) – Thank you to everyone for coming to this meeting hosted by UConn.
- Dr. Daniel Burkey, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education and Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut – In the last year, UConn has looked at expanding multidisciplinary work including the arts. Two alumni, John and Donna Krenicki, helped develop the Krenicki Arts and Engineering Institute at UConn. The institute will include classes that combine subjects such as theater and industrial design. Multidisciplinary Engineering (MDE) is a new program at UConn and one of the few in the Northeast.

### **Transfer to UConn School of Engineering & New Multidisciplinary Engineering (MDE) Program - Shoshana Armington, Assistant Director of Advising for Student Transitions, School of Engineering, UConn**

- Amy Donofrio was introduced as a new Academic Advisor to the School of Engineering at UConn. The UConn School of Engineering provides research opportunities for students.
- There are 3,600 undergraduate students in the School of Engineering across all campuses. Most students transfer in the fall but can transfer in the spring as well. There are 13 programs for undergraduates and some of them are limited in space. There are minors available too. These are open to students outside of the School of Engineering also.
- All curriculum is available on UConn's website. The Admissions website has a guide to general education planning and equivalencies. There is now an environmental literacy competency course. CSE9100 is approved for CSE1010 (programming). The Admissions' Transfer Equivalency webpage is what is used to help students. ME2233 and ME2234 are being combined into one 4-credit e-course. Students with these 2 courses separate will be substituted in once the change is made. This is still being developed and new curriculum will be shared to see how it can be adapted at the community colleges.
- In Multidisciplinary Engineering (MDE) students get an overview of engineering and can pick up specializations along the way. MDE replaces "undecided" engineering. Students can transfer into MDE starting in fall 2021. The website for MDE is still being developed but can be shared with students to give them basic information. MDE students will also have the senior design opportunity.
- Students not admitted directly into the School of Engineering will be evaluated only on their UConn transcript after at least one semester. Coursework evaluations are done through the Admissions Department and faculty. Only grades of "C" or better for each course will be transferred. Orientation services and real evaluations can't take place until students are matriculated. Students are encouraged to keep syllabi in case it is needed for transfer evaluation.
- COT Admission Update: Departments have agreed that COT students that have a 3.0 and no grades lower than a "C" can be admitted to all majors, even those that are space limited.
- Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College asked why students would need to keep course syllabi with the COT agreement in place. Shoshana Armington responded that this is mainly for programming and computer courses. Sharon Gusky asked if UConn would accept the required FYE course that is part of the community college consolidation. Shoshana Armington responded that UConn does not require it, so it would go in as a 3-credit elective.
- Michael Gentry of Three Rivers Community College asked how UConn treats the pass/fail option that community college students were given at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Shoshana Armington followed up on this and submitted this response via email: "For all Transfers, including our own UConn students taking courses elsewhere, after Spring 2020, we have been following our standard guidelines which are: if a student has any previous grade for any courses that is less than C, the P will not transfer. Unless the grading system utilizes a 3 tier that denotes a "pass above C", "pass below C", "No Credit" (like the CTCCs), then we are transferring anything with the "pass above C" grading. Spring 2020, we suspended the guideline, and accepted anything in the 2-tie

system with “pass”; the 3 tiers allowed is to still differentiate.”

**Digital Generalist Pathway** - Candace Williams, Director of Policy Research & Strategic Initiatives, New England Board of Higher Education & Charlotte Peyser, Senior Policy and Research Analyst, New England Board of Higher Education

- We are now entering Phase 3 of the process of developing the Digital Generalist Pathway. Either a survey will be distributed to instructors and program heads to gather course information related to the digital generalist KSAs or a spreadsheet will be developed for the instructors to fill in with that information.
- Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that we will identify anyone who wants to be involved and who wants to submit course information. This will be a great example of higher education working with industry.
- Stephanie Blochinger of the Business-Higher Education forum noted that there will be very slight changes to the KSAs that will be shared.

**College of Technology – Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing** - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna Birch, Executive Director, COT-RCNGM

- Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges noted that for 180 Skills, participants will not have to do a 100% completion before moving on in their assessments. Participants will be able to just work on wrong answers rather than redoing the entire assessment. Seats are still free through June. A survey will be distributed to see how 180 Skills is being utilized. Users will receive certificates of completion and may be able to receive credit at the community colleges. We are looking at ways to provide virtual learning. Rich DuPont of Housatonic Community College noted that there are serious questions about how CARES money will be used.
- For the Tech Times Newsletter, submit news items to Wendy Robicheau. This has been getting distributed to politicians also.
- ITEEA – 2021 Virtual Conference – March 22-27, 2021, registration is open.
- The Connecticut State Colleges & Universities (CSCU) System has received two new major grants. Lesley Mara of CSCU noted that one grant is for \$3.4 million from the US Department of Labor. Norwalk Community College is the lead with Gateway, Housatonic, Tunxis, and Middlesex Community Colleges as partners. This will involve three pathways in healthcare. The goals are to create accelerated pathways, increase capacities at community colleges, respond to unemployment, build sector partnerships, and develop virtual delivery. This starts 2/1/2021 and ends 1/31/2025. The expectation is to train 2000 people. Rich DuPont noted another grant for \$10 million led by Capital Workforce Partners and involves all the workforce boards. The goal is to bring more students into manufacturing. There is also a part for adult learners.
- Mary Bidwell noted that the Governor’s Workforce Council is creating four committees and will send information out to anyone who wants to join.

#### **COT Curriculum and Articulation Discussions**

- *Central CT State University Electrical Engineering B.S. Transfer* – Sharon Gusky, Chair of the COT Curriculum Committee, reported that the committee decided the best thing to do is to modify the Engineering Science B.S. degree rather than make it an Option. Segun Odesina of Central CT State University asked how many credits that A.S. degree would be; Sharon Gusky responded 64-67 credits. Stella Litwinowicz of Housatonic Community College asked if these were changes for the entire Engineering Science A.S. degree statewide; Sharon Gusky replied yes and added that the committee is also proposing to add “Presentations” to Technical Writing. Wait to hear that these changes are approved before requesting any changes at the college level. Mobin Rastgar Agah asked if we can add EGR 115 Programming for Engineers to the proposed programming courses allowed; this was done. Susan Spencer of Gateway Community College asked what the timeline is; Karen Wosczyzna-Birch answered that it can be turned around by April. The vote for the Engineering Science A.S. degree alignment and Central CT State University Electrical Engineering B.S. will be at the February COT Meeting. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College noted that ENG 102 is not accepted by Central CT State University. Shuju Wu of Central CT State University noted that the changes better align now but will discuss further with the department. Jakob Spjut asked if we can see if ENG 101 and 202 will work with UConn instead of ENG 101 and 102; Central CT State University will discuss this more as well. Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College asked if other programming courses will transfer besides computational methods for Electrical Engineering at Central CT State University; Shuju Wu responded that the curriculum is fixed at this point so they would have to look into course substitutions right now, but computational methods is preferred. Next steps will be for Sharon Gusky to ask partners for written comments and a vote will be taken in February.

- *Engineering Science A.S. Degree Alignment* – Sharon Gusky met with the alignment committee and they asked for Engineering Science to be put through without CSS 101. Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College asked if prerequisites for EGR courses can be discussed; Sharon Gusky responded that this is part of the alignment process and those forms will be sent out for review and discussion. Shoshana Armington of UConn noted that UConn requires PHIL 1104 for graduation, but they are looking for other ways to incorporate it.
- *Middlesex Community College – VOTE: Technology Studies: Engineering Technology Option – Program Termination* – Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College explained that students are more interested in manufacturing or computer engineering rather than engineering technology. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College noted that he thought this is an internal issue. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that the Engineering Technology option was created more in an advising capacity. Motion to approve the discontinuation of the Technology Studies: Engineering Technology Option at Middlesex Community College by Lin Lin, Middlesex Community College; Motion seconded by Tracy Ariel of Manchester and Middlesex Community Colleges. Sangho Park of Central CT State University opposed the motion. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College abstained from the vote. The motion was approved.
- *Fairfield University Articulation Discussion/ VOTE* – Harvey Hoffman of Fairfield University noted that the university has made some changes in course numbers and core curriculum so the articulation agreement with the COT should be updated. There are five engineering programs with three that are ABET accredited. The Bioengineering program will change to Biomedical Engineering next fall. A cumulative GPA of 2.5 and “C” or better in each course is needed for transfer. Motion to approve the proposed curriculum crosswalk updates for an articulation agreement between the College of Technology and Fairfield University by Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College; Motion seconded by Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College. The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.
- *College of Technology on CT State Community College Org Chart* – Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that she will bring up the question of where COT will fit in the organizational chart. Tracy Ariel of Manchester and Middlesex Community Colleges noted that she made the observation we will no longer be reporting to our campuses. Mary Bidwell of Asnuntuck and Tunxis Community Colleges noted that she has talked to President James Lombella and he will talk to Alice Pritchard for further clarification. Tracy Ariel noted that this has been discussed during the Shared Governance Committee for the consolidation.

#### **Attendee Updates**

- Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that Susan Spencer has been promoted to Program Coordinator of Math at the college. Gateway Community College is also looking for a biomedical/electrical engineering technology adjunct.
- Tracy Ariel of Manchester and Middlesex Community College noted that a part-time educational assistant position is open at Middlesex Community College to do manufacturing advising and outreach.

#### **Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings**

(all meetings will be held virtually from 9:00am – 12:00pm EST unless otherwise noted)

- February 19, 2021
- March 12, 2021
- April 9, 2021
- May 14, 2021