



College of Technology – Site Coordinators Meeting

Date: Friday, April 9, 2021

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
Eric Flynn, Department Chair – Engineering & Applied Technologies, Gateway CC
Mary Bidwell, Dean of Advanced Manufacturing, Asnuntuck & Tunxis Community Colleges
Stella Litwinowicz, Assistant Professor, Housatonic CC
Adam Scobie, Instructor, Housatonic CC
Felisha G. Fleurimond, Recruitment/Retention Coordinator, 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
Tracy Ariel, Director, Manufacturing, Manchester & Middlesex Community Colleges
Steve LaPointe, Director, Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, Quinebaug Valley 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
Ren Sharma, Professor and Coordinator, Naugatuck Valley CC
Christopher Tuccio, Professor, Naugatuck Valley CC
Mathew Spinelli, STEAM Director, Tunxis CC
Asheka Rahman, Program Coordinator, Tunxis CC
Michael Gentry, Professor, Three Rivers CC
Aaron Dahlen, Professor, Three Rivers CC
Mehrddad Faezi, Professor, Manchester CC
Matthew Enjalran, Professor & Chair, Physics, Southern CT State University
Segun Odesina, Associate Dean, Central CT State University
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
H. Jemiel Rose, Project Director, NAMAP, CT State Colleges & Universities

Other College & Universities

Harvey Hoffman, Associate Dean, School of Engineering, Fairfield University
Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven
Colby Vere, Transfer Enrollment, 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
Daniel Burkey, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education & Diversity, School of Engineering, University of Connecticut
Kevin Blake, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Sacred Heart University
Byungik Chang, Associate Professor & Chair, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven
Eric Diekman, Assistant Professor, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven

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
Frank Avery, Director, Regional Programs, Business-Higher Education Forum

MINUTES

Welcome Remarks - Dr. Karen Wosczyzna- Birch, Executive Director, College of Technology-Regional Center for Next Generation Manufacturing (COT-RCNGM)

- Thanked the University of New Haven for hosting this meeting.
- Recognized Mark Vesligaj of Three Rivers Community College who suddenly passed away. He was a champion of the College of Technology and one of the original Site Coordinators. There are scholarships being developed through a Go Fund Me page and through the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (EAMA).

Overview of Tagliatela College of Engineering Programs, Transfer Process, and Q&A– Dr. Stephanie Gillespie, Associate Dean, Tagliatela College of Engineering, University of New Haven with Advisors, Admissions Representatives, and Faculty

- The new College of Technology articulation agreement with University of New Haven (UNH) was signed this spring. Colby Vere of University of New Haven noted that their goal is to continually support students throughout the enrollment process. Transfer scholarships are available based on cumulative GPA and Phi Theta Kappa members can get an additional scholarship. Students who complete UNH's Transfer Intent Form prior to completion of 12 credits towards an A.S. degree can enroll as a non-matriculated student in one free on-ground course at UNH per year for up to three courses. Mobin Rastgar Agah of Norwalk Community College asked if there is somewhere that says this publicly. Stephanie Gillespie of UNH replied that she will get it put on the UNH website under the COT section. Mobin Rastgar Agah suggested having details for tuition and transfer on UNH's specific COT webpage as well. Colby Vere noted that if a student thinks cost will be an issue, they should be encouraged to reach out to Colby or Brittany Drobinske, Assistant Director of Transfer Enrollment, because they work with transfer students on this all the time. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch asked if the Epsilon Pi Tau Honor Society student inductees could also be recognized with a scholarship. Stephanie Gillespie noted that we can further discuss that. Stella Litwinowicz of Housatonic Community College noted that it would be helpful to have suggestions for elective courses that students should take as sophomores. Stephanie Gillespie responded that students can work with transfer advisors to help map this out in addition to the crosswalks that are being created. Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley Community College asked if there is a minimum number of credits a student has to take at UNH. Stephanie Gillespie responded that they can transfer in up to 90 credits. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College asked what CAD is used in the mechanical engineering program. Eric Diekman of UNH responded that they mostly use SolidWorks. Eric Flynn asked if they use MATLAB and Eric Diekman responded that they use MATLAB and Python.

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

- Tech Times Newsletter - Submit news items to Wendy Robicheau at wrobicheau@commnet.edu. The newsletter is widely distributed and a great way to disseminate our successes.
- Epsilon Pi Tau Virtual Induction – The virtual ceremony will take place on Friday, April 30th, 2021 at 5:30pm. Applications are due April 20th. Volunteers are needed to read ceremony roles.
- The French Embassy Bootcamps are virtual again this year. We have National Science Foundation funding to go to France and Sharon Gusky of Northwestern CT Community College will be planning travel to Spain and Germany with this type of funding also. Sharon Gusky also noted that two of her students have attended French bootcamps and she is also involved in the CLICKs program, which is great for students to build communication skills. She also had a student receive a Gilman Scholarship. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch noted that the CLICKs projects are still running and some groups are doing research projects.
- Microcredentials – Karen Wosczyzna-Birch has been asked what the COT is doing regarding microcredentials. We are in the process of reviewing how to package them and looking into badging and certificates of completion also. Send Karen Wosczyzna-Birch any suggestions for microcredentials.
- There will also be funding opportunities to help students make up for lost time in the classroom. If you have a proposal for hands-on ideas send them to Karen Wosczyzna-Birch and Wendy Robicheau. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College has already submitted four proposals. Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College asked if specifications for microcredentials can be provided.

Digital Generalist Pathway Survey

Candace Williams of the New England Board of Higher Education noted their project will create a digital generalist microcredential utilizing a 6-credit framework. Charlotte Peyser of the New England Board of Higher Education thanked Asnuntuck, Housatonic, Norwalk, Capital, Three Rivers, and Northwestern CT Community Colleges for providing course information. Work is now being done to connect courses with the determined KSAs. Survey respondents and employer partners will be contacted for meetings. This plan has been shared with the Office of Workforce Strategy to hopefully get funding. There is still time to submit course info. Frank Avery of the Business-Higher Education Forum noted that the Office of Workforce Strategy is excited about this and it is a big part of the plan across regions in Connecticut.

Discussion and Vote: College of Technology Curriculum/Course Alignment – Sharon Gusky, Chair, COT Curriculum Committee

- *VOTE: Energy Management and Data Science Courses & Certificates Alignment* – Motion to approve Energy Management and Data Science Courses & Certificates alignment proposals by Jakob Spjut of Quinebaug Valley Community College; Motion seconded by Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College. Vote: The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.
- *VOTE: Engineering Science A.S. Degree and Course Alignment* – Sharon Gusky noted that this was challenging to make one curriculum that aligns with all university partners and the one college requirements. Technical Writing & Presentations was added. The philosophy elective was switched to Ethics. Shuju Wu of Central CT State University (CCSU) suggested that students can be advised to take ENG 202 for CCSU. Segun Odesina of CCSU noted that ENG 102 does not come in to CCSU as a literature course and Technical Writing & Presentations should come in as 290. Sharon Gusky noted that if a student will not need thermodynamics, a course substitution can be done with an elective that better fits for the major. Also, regarding thermodynamics, the COT curriculum committee decided to make the course 4 credit/4 contact hours. Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College asked which type of engineering programs students transfer to most. Karen Wosczyzna-Birch responded that mechanical engineering is the strongest transfer program. Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College noted that it is important to keep thermodynamics as a foundational engineering course and it is still important for students to have this knowledge. Discussion also focused on looking into how Banner should be set up to limit students to only one CAD elective. Maybe there is an automatic hold for COT students until they meet with an advisor. Jakob Spjut asked if MFG courses should be accepted as elective. Sharon Gusky responded that we want to make sure the electives are courses that will transfer to the universities. Jacob Spjut noted that the thermodynamics course makes the total credits 65-67. Motion to approve the one college Engineering Science A.S. degree courses and curriculum as presented on the Engineering Science Common Template by Ren Sharma of Naugatuck Valley Community College; Motion seconded by Jakob Spjut. The motion was approved with 10 votes in favor, 3 votes opposed, and 1 abstention.
- *VOTE: Technology Studies A.S. Degree Alignment* - Sharon Gusky noted that it is now Technical Writing & Presentations and anthropology is a behavioral science. Mathew Spinelli of Tunxis Community College asked if there was a specific recommendation among ANT, PSY, or SOC. Sharon Gusky responded that ANT meets Central CT State University's international requirement. Motion to approve the Technology Studies A.S. Degree alignment proposal by Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College; Motion seconded by Eric Flynn of Gateway Community College. Vote: The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.
- Stella Litwinowicz of Housatonic Community College noted that Housatonic Community College will terminate the Technology Studies Electrical Option.
- Mehrdad Faezi of Manchester Community College noted that he brought the Manufacturing Engineering Technology degree to 60 credits. This degree should be included in the COT alignment proposals for manufacturing.

- *VOTE: Eight Technology Studies A.S. Degree Options (non-manufacturing only) Alignment -*

- *Engineering Technology Option*
- *Technology and Engineering Education Option*
- *Biomolecular Science Option*
- *Data Science Option*
- *Industrial Technology Option*
- *Computer Engineering Technology Option*
- *Energy Management Option*
- *Environmental Science Option*

Motion to approve the Technology Studies A.S. Degree Options alignment proposal for the above mentioned eight options by Lin Lin of Middlesex Community College; Motion seconded by Mobin Rastgar Agah of Norwalk Community College. Vote: The motion was unanimously approved with no objections or abstentions.

Upcoming COT Site Coordinators Meetings

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

- May 14, 2021