

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
MINUTES
BOR GOVERNANCE & NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE
January 12, 2026
CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY: <https://youtube.com/live/AX8KksYRPmU>**

REGENTS – PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
Juanita James, Chair	Y
Ira Bloom	Y
Rick Porth	Y

CSCU/BOR STAFF/REGENTS:

Don Williams, Regent
 Jessica Paquette, Vice Chancellor for System Affairs & Chief of Staff
 Adam Joseph, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs
 Karen Buffkin, General Counsel/Secretary to the Board
 O. John Maduko, Chancellor, Interim

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Committee Chair James called the meeting to order and, following roll call, declared a quorum present.

2. **CHAIR INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

Committee Chair James welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chair James noted Regent Don Williams attendance as a guest, noting that although not yet an official member pending committee assignments which are expected to occur at the January full Board of Regents meeting.

3. **ADOPTION ON THE AGENDA**

A motion was made to adopt the agenda by Regent Bloom. Regent Porth seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

4. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 5, 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

Regent Porth made a motion to approve the December 5, 2025 meeting minutes. Regent Bloom seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously adopted.

5. **BOARD VACANCY AND GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Process for filling vacancies

The Chair introduced the first item for discussion addressing vacancies on the Board of Regents. General Counsel Buffkin noted that the members were provided a list of the members of the Board of Regents and the two vacancies currently. GC Buffkin reviewed the appointing authority for each vacancy and what the statutory qualifications for those seats on the Board of Regents.

The discussion centered on the appropriate process for filling vacancies, including a way to vet candidates and get a sense of commitment to the mission of the Board of Regents and further, that it is not uncommon for the Board to make recommendations to the appointing authority of potential candidates to fill a particular seat. Adam Joseph confirmed that recommendations are made to both the governor's office and the four appointing authorities in the General Assembly, although recommendations may not always be accepted. The committee discussed direct outreach and engagement by regents could help in the appointment process.

Regent Williams indicated that yes, we could put together information that talks about what the Board would like to see for membership, such as commitment to academic quality for the benefit of our students. The nominees would go through an appointment process and would answer questions but as regents would still be an independent thinker.

All agreed that regent agreement in this area would be helpful and appropriate. The Committee noted that it was important to have a full complement and was hopeful it would accelerate the process. Key is the strengthening of the Board.

Board Composition

Committee Chair James then turned to the matrix of the board composition, terms and skills of the current Board members. The purpose of the matrix is for the board to help identify gaps in geographic representation and professional backgrounds that would complement the Board's work. The committee agreed that columns needed to be added for those two areas, residency and professional work, in order to guide future recommendations for both board and committee appointments.

Chair James noted the resignation of former Regent Erin Stewart and what the Board would be looking for in making recommendations, geographic area was a suggestion. The qualifications of the two most recent appointments were discussed as assets to the current composition. The upcoming end of Regent Wright's term was also noted which would conclude at the end of June 2026.

The committee further discussed the recommendations for board membership, potential issues with relying on the process solely. The committee discussed a more disciplined and inclusive process for making recommendations that are supported by the Board.

Committee Structure

The committee structure was discussed by the committee and the Committee Chair James noted that committee assignments going forward are being announced at the January board meeting. The committee agreed that the current number of committees and the topics within each committee's jurisdiction was appropriate as currently structured.

Regent Porth raised the issue of how we respond to emergencies in between full board meetings. The committee discussed that there had been an executive committee, but it has

not been operating based on the Board's prior decision. Committee discussed whether or not the committee should be reinstated, what format including other entities use of electronic voting and full board follow up. Regent Porth noted that if we have an executive committee careful consideration of the authority of that committee is imperative. Regent Bloom noted his agreement that we need to ensure it does not become a way to expedite routine matters. Regent Williams noted that the special meeting should be explored first, can be virtual and even electronic voting. Committee members expressed concerns about electronic/email voting on a topic. The committee discussed FOI public meeting requirements for special meetings and the need to potentially have a more immediate response, crisis type situation.

Succession Planning

The committee agreed that succession planning will need further discussion, including delegation of authority, the order of that delegation, the lines of authority and make a recommendation as to what makes sense for our system. This should be a first priority for next GNC meeting.

The committee discussed that there are really four pieces to a succession plan including Chancellor absence, President absence and whether it is short- or long-term absence. It was agreed that there should be clear line of succession and clear to everyone who is in charge in the event of an absence and maybe automatic.

Board Member Orientation Schedule

The Committee agreed that a two-day schedule for orientation or on boarding of new regents and for existing members is appropriate. Shorter sessions could be addressed if flexibility is necessary. Orientation materials will be updated to reflect the Board's Roles and Responsibilities document and updated to reflect recent legislative changes. As part of the materials the Board discussed ways to strengthen the confidentiality language stemming from the Board's roles, including executive session protocols.

Committee discussed the value of the training, including the day to day workings of the work of the committees, and its ability to be empowering for the members

A doodle poll will be sent out to identify suitable dates for the new regents and existing regents to attend.

Next Meeting

The Committee's next meeting is February 9, 2026, and the following are the materials to be prepared for next meeting:

- A) Revisions to Board membership chart to include residence and professional background.
- B) Provide two draft approaches for addressing emergency/urgent decision making by the Board, i.e. executive committee v. existing special meeting process with recommendations.
- C) Provide approach and recommendation for succession planning for Chancellor and Campus leadership with clear lines of authority.

- D) Conduct a poll for optimal dates for Board Orientation and Training for both new and existing board members, update board materials to meet the scheduled dates.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Regent Bloom and seconded by Regent Porth.. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen K. Buffkin
General Counsel, Secretary to the Board of Regents for Higher Education