



Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#2000-91



RESOLUTION

revising

THE MISSION STATEMENT
of

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

November 2, 2000

WHEREAS, Section 10a-89 of the Connecticut General Statutes requires the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System to develop the Mission Statements of the University System, and

WHEREAS, The existing Mission Statement of Southern Connecticut State University System was adopted by the Board of Trustees in its Resolution No. 98-63 on November 8, 1998, and

WHEREAS, The Department of Higher Education has indicated that missions statements for the CSU System should more clearly articulate that offering applied doctoral degrees is part of this mission, if the CSU universities intend to seek the authority to offer Ed.D. degrees, and

WHEREAS, A proposal for an Ed.D. program at Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) is awaiting approval by the Board, and

WHEREAS, The System Mission was revised by Board action on October 5, 2000 to create the following language which prescribes the array of doctoral degrees that are appropriate within the CSU System for its constituent universities:

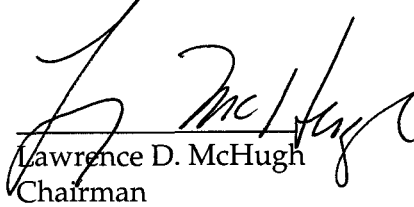
A CSU education leads to baccalaureate, graduate and professional degrees, including applied doctoral degree programs consistent with its historical missions of teacher education and career advancement.

WHEREAS, Southern Connecticut has come forward with a revision to its mission which is consistent with the October 5, 2000 revision in the System Mission, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System hereby amends the portion of Board Resolution No. 98-63 pertaining to Southern Connecticut State University, and adopts the attached revised Mission Statement for SCSU, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to Section 10a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System is directed to submit the revised Mission Statement of the Southern Connecticut State University to the Board of Governors for Higher Education for its review and appropriate action.

A Certified True Copy:


Lawrence D. McHugh
Chairman

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Mission Statement

The Mission:

The mission of SCSU is to enhance its position as the preeminent comprehensive metropolitan public university of the State of Connecticut. As a learning community grounded in the values of liberal education, SCSU is committed to students distinguished by their intellectual competencies, their skills for flexible adaptation to global change, and by their habits of cultural enrichment for life-long inquiry. As the lead institution for advanced study in the CSU system, SCSU is committed to the professional preparation of graduate learners for success in their careers and in service to their communities, *including applied doctoral degree programs consistent with its historical mission*. As an academic environment, SCSU is committed to innovative teaching strategies and to scholarship and creative activity that produces knowledge, refreshes faculty expertise and amplifies teaching effectiveness.

To fulfill this mission:

- SCSU will build on the strengths and values of current programs and services. The University will continue to respond to the evolution of society by enhancing current programs and developing additional ones to meet the changing needs of the state, the nation and the world.
- SCSU embraces its responsibility to design a culture of competencies in which undergraduate learners demonstrate ability to investigate, question, appreciate, communicate, collaborate, evaluate, and adapt to change. The University encourages learners to value responsible citizenship, sensitivity toward others, historical and cultural diversity, and awareness of the global environment. Undergraduates master both a well-defined general education curriculum in the liberal arts and sciences and a coherent major field of study.
- SCSU presents programs of advanced study that offer advanced learners state-of-the-art professional preparation and quality learning experiences. The University regards career preparation and placement of graduates as one of its greatest strengths and highest priorities. Learners meet the most rigorous expectations of their chosen professions, so that they may better serve Connecticut's schools, businesses, and health and human services.
- SCSU will continue its service to Connecticut's diverse communities. The University will improve collaboration with the social, economic, educational, cultural and community institutions that comprise its region. SCSU will expand its range of accessible cultural and social programs responsive to community interests.

- SCSU will continue vigorously to foster teaching excellence and the most progressive teaching strategies. The University seeks to match attention to the latest information and learning technologies with traditional methods of classroom and non – classroom learning. SCSU generates knowledge and advances its transmission to the academic community through the scholarship and creativity of the faculty. The University encourages all those who work and study at SCSU to pursue engagement in their disciplines, and to keep current with the information and skills required by all academic fields, occupations and professions. SCSU

- SCSU commits itself to strive for continuous quality improvement in all its efforts. The University continually will verify the effectiveness of this mission and its accompanying agenda through systematic self-evaluation and assessment of outcomes.

ITEM

Revisions to Mission Statement for the Southern Connecticut State University

BACKGROUND

The statutes charge the Board of Trustees, in part, to develop the mission statements for the Connecticut State University System. (CGS Sect. 10a-89) Pursuant to this authority, the Board adopted a mission statement in 1984, amended it in 1986, and completed two substantial revisions, the first in 1992 and the second in December 1997.

As part of the strategic planning effort undertaken by the system in 1996, each of the CSU universities developed its own individual mission statement defining the universities by their distinguishing characteristics. These mission statements were completed and approved for Eastern, Southern and Western in late Fall 1998 and for Central in February 1999.

In 1998 CSU also launched its first online initiative offering ten courses over the Internet. At the same time the CSU universities were exploring and have now implemented several synchronous and asynchronous alternative methods of course delivery using new technologies. The CSU System mission statement was approved by the Board in 1997 and since it had not been formally accepted by the Board of Governors for Higher Education was revised in February 1999 in the following manner:

- The phrase "technologically accessible" was added to emphasize that courses offered by CSU are made available to learners in a variety of ways including the Internet and other new technologies.
- The CSU system mission was clarified by stating that it is realized through the "focused mission of its universities" and a summary of these missions was incorporated as part of the system mission statement.

The revised System and University mission statements were submitted to the Board of Governors for Higher Education in February 1999.

ANALYSIS

In July 2000, the Board approved a proposal put forth by Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) to offer a doctorate in education (Ed.D.) and a similar proposal by Southern Connecticut State University is awaiting Board Action. The Board's action reflected its view that the Ed.D. is a logical extension of CSU's historical focus on teacher preparation

Following consultation with the universities, the System mission statement has been revised to indicate that the graduate and professional degrees offered in the CSU system may include: ". . . applied doctoral degree programs consistent with the historical missions of teacher education" and career advancement. A mission revision from SCSU has come forward which is consistent with the aforementioned System revision. Board of Governors approval of these mission revisions will provide clearer authority for the CSU System to grant such doctoral degrees.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revised Southern Connecticut State University System Mission Statement.