



Connecticut State University System

BR#04-27



RESOLUTION
concerning
AWARD OF THE TITLE
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR
to
FELTON O'NEAL BEST

May 7, 2004

WHEREAS, The faculty at Central Connecticut State University has recommended Felton Best for the title of Connecticut State University Professor, and

WHEREAS, The President of Central Connecticut State University, Richard L. Judd, has recommended awarding this title to Professor Felton Best, and Connecticut State University Chancellor, William J. Cibes, Jr., has concurred, and

WHEREAS, Professor Best has served Central Connecticut State University since 1991 as a member of the History Department and its chair from 1996 to 1997, and

WHEREAS, Professor Best founded the African American Studies Center in 1991 and served as its director since 1997, and

WHEREAS, Professor Best has written, edited and contributed to numerous books and articles, and

WHEREAS, Professor Best, a prolific writer and scholar, has been awarded national and international awards, including induction into the International Scholars of Religion Hall of Fame at Morehouse College, and is recognized by his colleagues for professional excellence, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the title Connecticut State University Professor is herewith awarded by the Board of Trustees to Felton O'Neal Best of Central Connecticut State University effective May 7, 2004, pursuant to the BOT/AAUP Collective Bargaining Agreement, and be it further

RESOLVED, That Professor Best be entitled to all the rights and privileges and responsibilities pertaining to this honor.

A Certified True Copy:

Signature of Lawrence D. McHugh
Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman

Signature of William J. Cibes, Jr.
William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor

ITEM

Award of the Title Connecticut State University Professor to Felton O'Neal Best

BACKGROUND

In 1987, at the request of the Board of Trustees for Connecticut State University, the title Connecticut State University Professor was created to recognize outstanding merit among the teaching faculty in the System. Each university is limited to three such designated scholars at any time. To attain the designation, a faculty member must be nominated through a committee procedure which is advisory to the University President, receive the recommendations of the University President and CSU Chancellor, and receive approval of the Board of Trustees. CSU Professors receive a salary 10 percent higher than they would otherwise receive for their rank and years of service.

ANALYSIS

Dr. Felton Best is a prolific writer, scholar, and a lecturer, with numerous publications in books, articles, curriculum guides, and presentation. He has been recognized by his colleagues for professional excellence. He has received numerous awards and honors and has been cited by President Judd for his service to CCSU

The designation of CSU Professor for Dr. Best has been recommended by President Judd and Chancellor Cibes and is in compliance with the provisions of the AAUP contract.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve awarding the title of CSU Professor to Central Connecticut State University Professor Felton Best.



C E N T R A L
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Richard L. Judd, President

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April 23, 2004

Mr. John Doyle, Chair
and Members, Academic Affairs Committee
Dr. William J. Cibes, Jr. Chancellor
Connecticut State University

I am pleased to recommend that Dr. Felton O'Neal Best be designated as a CSU Professor. Dr. Best is currently Professor of Philosophy and Director of African American Studies at Central Connecticut State University. In accordance with § 5.6 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (2002-2006) the CCSU CSU Distinguished Professor Committee reviewed nominations and unanimously recommended Professor Best for this title (attachment 1). I approve and support the committee's recommendation.

Dr. Best is nationally recognized for his scholarship in African American studies. His work, Crossing the Color Line, A Biography of Paul Lawrence Dunbar (based on his dissertation submitted to The Ohio State University) is considered by Professor William E. Nelson Jr., as the "...most accomplished biography on...Dunbar to date..."¹ (see attachment 2). Several other outstanding scholars in this field corroborate this view, viz; Professor Kenneth M. Hamilton states "...His book [on] ...Dunbar... has established him as the leading world scholar on ...Dunbar..." Professor Hamilton further states that Dr. Best's work on oppression and retaliation is "...regarded as a ground breaking study on the topic of African-American and African resistance movements..."² (see attachment 3). Dr. Ted Ownby considers his work on slave children's survival to have "...made a giant splash in the field of African-American History..." and notes that the University of Mississippi Press will publish papers from a symposium dedicated to the later topic³ (see attachment 4). His record of scholarly activity is acknowledged by many other authorities (see attachments 5-10) as "seminal," "creative," "significant," "illuminating," "top notch," "analytical," and on and on with many commendations and plaudits. In the brief, he is considered most highly nationally and internationally.

¹ Nelson, William, E. Jr., Research Professor of Black Studies and Professor of Political and Director, Center for Research and Public Policy, The Ohio State University. Letter dated November 23, 2003.

² Hamilton, Kenneth, L. Senior Professor of History and Chair, Ethnic Studies, Southern Methodist University. Letter dated March 5, 2004.

³ Ted Ownby. Professor of History and Director, Southern History Project, The University of Mississippi.

Beyond his scholarly and teaching work he has given of himself unselfishly to many area projects, including the Bloomfield Public Schools (see attachment 11), Morehouse College, where he was one of the major presenters on a Ford Foundation sponsored conference about religious studies (see attachment 12). His presentation to the Connecticut Historical; Society on "The Black Experience in Connecticut" and the curating of a major exhibit drew great praise (see attachment 13).

Enclosed with this recommendation are also letters from his Departmental peers (attachments 14 and 15) and a curriculum vitae (attachment 16).

Finally, I wish to comment on Professor Best's service to Central Connecticut State University. He has been a paragon among paragons serving this university, its mission and students. Most everyone regards him as one of our finest ambassadors; he is thought of as a "teaching" professor; he has served on so many committees that it is not necessary to cite them, but notably, he has served as President of the Faculty Senate for four years. I have observed him in that role and watched his leadership grow by leaps and bounds. One most notable contribution to Central Connecticut State University and to the larger community is the African-American lecture series that he established. This lecture series is noted as the single most outstanding of its kind in the nation. His ability to work with the most difficult constituencies in any governance relationship has been nothing but stellar. He knows how many angels *really* fit on the head of a pin. On the campus, there are a very few faculty and administrators who are so committed as is Dr. Best to the concept and practice of diversity.

I am not only enthusiastic about Professor Best's nomination for this honor but believe he exemplifies, with distinction, the past and current holders of this emolument.

Sincerely,



Richard L. Judd
President



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

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C: Estela
Becky

MEMO

Date: April 29, 2004

To: Board of Trustees for the
Connecticut State University System

From: Richard L. Judd, President
Central Connecticut State University



Re: Senate Action

I approve the termination of the Composites & Polymer Materials Technology specialization within the Engineering Technology, B.S. major in School of Technology as recommended by the Senate on April 5, 2004.

Post-it® Fax Note	7671	Date	4/30	# of pages	1
To	W.J. Cibes	From	RL Judd		
Co./Dept.	CSU system	Co.	CCSU		
Phone #		Phone #	832-3000		
Fax #	3-0009	Fax #	832-3033		