



Union News

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Upcoming Presentation on the Hybrid Retirement Plan with Dan Livingston
CCSU: October 23 from 3-5pm in Vance 105
WCSU: October 26 from 2:30-4:30 in the Midtown Student Center Theatre

Kennedy & Meotti Resign—Former UConn President Austin Named Interim President

Following a week of intense media scrutiny, Dr. Robert Kennedy, President of the Board of Regents (BOR) for Higher Education, and Mr. Michael Meotti, Executive Vice President for the BOR, resigned on Friday, October 12.

Dr. Kennedy and Mr. Meotti first came under fire after allegedly offering the twelve community college presidents an expedited departure from their contracts without the knowledge of the Board.

Soon after, it was revealed that Dr. Kennedy approved more than \$250,000 in raises, most of which was awarded to senior staff members including an almost \$50,000 increase for Mr. Meotti. These raises were approved by Dr. Kennedy without the knowledge or consent of the Board, as required by state law.

Finally, it was revealed that Dr. Kennedy had spent six weeks during the summer of 2012 working remotely from a home in Minnesota under the “professional development” clause in his contract.

Support for Dr. Kennedy and Mr. Meotti waned during the week and by October 11, a bipartisan group of legislators from the Higher Education Committee asked for Dr. Kennedy’s resignation. Dr. Kennedy submitted his resignation prior to a special Board of Regents meeting on October 11. At that meeting, a Special Committee on Administration was appointed (Naomi Cohen, chair; Yvette Melendez, and Michael Pollard) “to gather information to formulate the policies and procedures necessary to govern the Board’s decision making process regarding compensation – including the salary adjustments –and other administrative matters” ([BOR Statement](#)).

Further, the BOR voted to recommend Philip Austin to Governor Dannel P. Malloy as Interim President of the Board. According to their press release, “Austin previously served as the president of the University of Connecticut from 1996 through 2007, and again as interim president in 2010 and 2011. Austin will serve as interim president until a permanent president is selected” (Read full press release [here](#)). The Governor accepted the Board’s recommendation and appointed Dr. Austin.

CSU-AAUP Leaders’ Op-Ed Campaign

As news of the improper raises awarded to senior staff in the ConnSCU offices was reported, CSU-AAUP leaders began to craft op-eds and letters to the editor in reaction to this news. With the assistance and guidance of CSU-AAUP staff, several op-eds are expected to be printed in the student newspapers as well as *The Hartford Courant* and possibly other daily newspapers. Julian Madison’s piece was published in *The Hartford Courant* on October 15.

[Tired Of Higher Ed 'Fat Cats' Failing Faculty, Students](#)