



*A Voice For Faculty*

# ***Capitol Monitor***

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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## **Legislative Session to Open February 5**

The Connecticut legislative session is scheduled to open on February 5 and adjourn on May 7. This newsletter will be distributed weekly during the legislative session to inform the CSU-AAUP membership about legislation that has the potential to effect the wages and/or working conditions of members of our bargaining unit. In addition, CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm, Betty Gallo & Company, monitor any matters that endanger the principles of academic freedom and shared governance. Finally, CSU-AAUP continues to educate the members of the Connecticut General Assembly regarding such matters as teaching load, tenure, and student financial aid, among others.

Public participation and influence in the legislative process is extremely important. It is important that the membership speaks out on issues important to them, their colleagues, their institution, and their students. No one is better at advocating on your behalf than YOU.

## **How to Track a Bill**

The Connecticut General Assembly allows for electronic tracking of any legislation. What this means is that once you have added a bill to your account, the system will email you whenever there is a new action taken on the bill such as the scheduling of a public hearing or committee vote.

To sign up, please visit Bill Tracking on the General Assembly website. Enter an email address and create a password. You can add a bill by its number or have all bills introduced by a particular legislator or committee.

## **Committee Leadership**

### **Appropriations**

Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Senate Chair  
Toni E. Walker (D-New Haven), House Chair  
Joan Hartley (D-Waterbury), Senate Vice Chair  
Mae Flexer (D-Danielson), House Vice Chair  
Elaine O'Brien (D-Suffield), House Vice Chair  
Robert Kane (R-Watertown), Senate Ranking Member  
Craig A. Miner (R-Litchfield), House Ranking Member

### **Higher Education and Employment Advancement**

Steve Cassano (D-Manchester), Senate Chair  
Roberta B. Willis (D-Lakeville), House Chair  
Gregory Haddad (D-Storrs), House Vice Chair  
"Toni" Boucher (R-Wilton), Senate Ranking Member  
Timothy B. LeGeys (R-Canton), House Ranking Member

### **Labor and Public Employees**

Catherine Osten (D-Sprague), Senate Chair  
Peter Tercyak (D-New Britain), House Chair  
Terry Gerratana (D-New Britain), Senate Vice Chair  
Ezequiel Santiago (D-Bridgeport), House Vice Chair  
Joe Markley (R-Plantsville), Ranking Member  
Richard Smith (R-New Fairfield), Ranking Member

## **What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?**

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Service Dogs and the Law
2. Abortion Clinics in Connecticut - Update
3. Tax Incentives Encouraging the Diversion of Cargo from Highways to Barges

Have a question? Get the answer!  
Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at [bensonell@ccsu.edu](mailto:bensonell@ccsu.edu)