



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol Vol. 2, Issue 1 | January 31, 2012

Legislative Session to Begin on February 8

The legislative session begins on February 8. 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, we continue 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.

Education Reform Key Topic in Upcoming Session

Governor Malloy has repeatedly declared that the 2012 legislation session will focus on education reform. On December 20, 2011, he sent a letter to legislative leaders outlining his principles for reform.

In the letter, Governor Malloy announced that he is seeking to introduce legislation that:

- “Enhances families’ access to high-quality early childhood education opportunities,
- Authorizes the intensive interventions and enables the supports necessary to turn around Connecticut’s lowest-performing schools and districts,
- Expands the availability of high-quality school models, including traditional schools, magnets, charters, and others,
- Unleashes innovation by removing red tape and other barriers to success, especially in high-performing schools and districts,
- Ensures that our schools are home to the very best teachers and principals – working within a fair system that values skill and effectiveness over seniority and tenure,
- And delivers more resources, targeted to districts with the greatest need – provided that they embrace key reforms that position our students for success.”

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 individually by its number or have all bills introduced by a certain legislator or committee added to your account.

Committee Leadership

Appropriations

Toni Nathaniel Harp (D-New Haven), Senate Chair
Toni E. Walker (D-New Haven), House Chair
Edith G. Prague (D-Columbia), Senate Vice Chair
Catherine F. Abercrombie (D-Meriden), House Vice Chair
Henry J. Genga (D-East Hartford), House Vice Chair
Patricia B. Miller (D-Stamford), House Vice Chair
Robert J. Kane (R-Watertown), Senate Ranking Member
Craig A. Miner (R-Litchfield), House Ranking Member

Higher Education and Employment Advancement

Beth Bye (D-West Hartford), Senate Chair
Roberta B. Willis (D-Lakeville), House Chair
Gary D. LeBeau (D-East Hartford), Senate Vice Chair
Juan R. Candelaria (D-New Haven), House Vice Chair
“Toni” Boucher (R-Wilton), Senate Ranking Member
Timothy B. LeGeyt (R-Canton), House Ranking Member

Labor and Public Employees

Edith G. Prague (D-Columbia), Senate Chair
Bruce Zalaski (D-Southington), House Chair
Edwin A. Gomes (D-Bridgeport), Senate Vice Chair
Ezequiel Santiago (D-Bridgeport), House Vice Chair
Anthony Guglielmo (R-Stafford Springs), Ranking Member
John B. Rigby (R-Colebrook), Ranking Member

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the [Office of Legislative Research](#):

1. Justice Department Report on Allegation of Discriminatory Policing by East Haven Police Department
2. Department of Justice Ruling on Internet Lottery Ticket Sales
3. Summary of National Institute of Justice: Study of Deaths Related to the Use of Conducted Energy Devices
4. Cemetery Theft Penalties