



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Governor Malloy to State of the State Speech on Feb. 5

The Connecticut legislative session is scheduled to open on February 5 with Governor Malloy presenting the annual State of the State speech at the State Capitol (originally scheduled for noon, but it may be delayed due to weather). Will Excel CT be mentioned during his speech as Next Generation UConn was last year? CSU-AAUP will be watching and will report back to you on the Governor's speech.

Higher Education Committee Meeting

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee met on Thursday, January 30 to discuss [concepts to be raised](#) during the 2014 legislative session. Approved at the meeting along with other concepts was "*An Act Concerning Faculty Representation on the Board of Regents for Higher Education*," an idea proposed last year by CSU-AAUP allowing for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to serve as ex-officio members on the BOR and to serve on BOR committees.

The Higher Ed Committee will meet next on February 11.

Program Review and Investigations Committee Issues Report on UConn Affordability

In June 2013, the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee "authorized a study to examine how the affordability of a UConn undergraduate education has changed, with particular attention to in-state students." While the legislative report does not examine CSU or ConnSCU, the fact that legislators are looking into the question of public college affordability could lead to future legislative action that would impact all public institutions in Connecticut.

UConn Affordability

Continued

The main findings of the [report](#) are:

- UConn's affordability has worsened but overall, compares well to other flagships and peers for in-state students
- Despite relative affordability, UConn prices can be burdensome, especially for lower- and middle-income families
- UConn has been devoting substantial and growing resources to merit- and need-based grant aid
- The effects of UConn's financial aid and price policies are opaque, which could make it hard for prospective students and families to understand likely true prices
- UConn's spending has risen – and so has its quality – with increasing reliance on tuition and fees

Several recommendations are proposed in the [report](#). “The recommendations would:

- Inform prospective students and their families of scheduled price increases, on the university's financial aid website;
- Require feasibility studies of two proposals, one involving price schedules and another to offer more – and better publicized – need-based grant assistance, both of which have been done by other flagships; and
- Inform policymakers about UConn's financial aid, credit acceptance policies, and graduate employment outcomes.

In addition, six policy options — Pay-It-Forward, State Promise Programs, Tuition Freeze, On-Line Education, Finish-in-Three Degrees, and Competency-Based Learning — are discussed in the [report](#).

Read the full report [here](#) or the following articles for more information:

[Report Finds That UConn Is Less Affordable](#) (CT NewsJunkie)

[State report: UConn is less affordable](#) (CT Mirror)

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

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

1. Recertification of Intellectual Disabilities for State Programs
2. OLR Backgrounder: Bifurcating Town Budget Referenda
3. Access to Information in Birth Certificates

Have a question? Get the answer!

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