



*A Voice For Faculty*

# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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## Transform CSCU 2020

After being delayed a day because of a snowstorm, Governor Malloy delivered his “State of the State” address on Feb. 6 at noon ([full text here](#)). Among many other priorities, Governor Malloy announced “Transform CSCU 2020.”

According to the [introduction to the Governor’s budget](#) “to bolster the operations of the community-technical colleges, state universities and Charter Oak State College, the Governor’s budget makes a one-time revenue transfer of \$60 million from resources of the General Fund in FY 2015 to the proposed Board of Regents (BOR) – President’s Office Operating Fund.

**Transform CSCU 2020** is a multi-phase plan to strengthen the colleges and universities of the Board of Regents, increase enrollments and prepare tomorrow’s workforce. Phase One of the Transform CSCU 2020 plan provides both capital and operating resources to develop the strategic vision for the system and enhance the student learning experience for current students. Components of this vision include:

- Establish the **Go Back to Get Ahead initiative** which will encourage Connecticut residents who have some college credits, but have not attained either an associate’s or bachelor’s degree, to return to the state universities, community-technical colleges or Charter Oak State College to complete their degrees. These funds will enable the BOR to identify and contact the targeted students and provide resources to give each student a customized road map for degree completion. This program will support the Tuition Incentive Program to boost BOR enrollments and degree completions, enhancing Connecticut’s workforce.
- The Governor wants to encourage students to return to college and complete their degrees. In coordination with the Governor’s Go Back to Get Ahead initiative, the Governor proposes establishing the **Tuition Incentive Program for students returning to the BOR colleges and universities**. Students who have been out of school for 18 months would receive up to three free classes at BOR colleges and universities, to match up to three classes for which they pay. This will increase enrollment throughout the BOR system, encourage degree completion and prepare the workforce with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in the twenty-first century.
- Provide planning funds to **expand the Early College Experience** to offer community college courses to high school students. This will increase the educational attainment of students at risk of placement in

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**Continued:  
Transform CSCU  
2020**

developmental education courses and decrease the time toward degree completion.

- Enhance **support services for veterans** returning from service and pursuing higher education. These funds will provide additional financial aid and counseling support and enhance the capacity to evaluate credits based on experiential learning.

- **Ensure seamless transfer and articulation across BOR institutions** which will reduce time to degree completion and reduce student costs. These funds will provide one-time faculty stipends of \$2,500 to develop the transfer and articulation plans.

- The Governor is committed to ensuring that all students enrolled at BOR colleges and universities have the **developmental education** resources and support they need to succeed. Since 2012, the Board of Regents has operated a variety of pilot programs to provide developmental programs and support to students. Funding will continue these programs and implement best practices to provide the developmental education tools students need to succeed

**TRANSFORM CSCU – CAPITAL COMPONENT**

Governor Malloy is also proposing that Transform CSCU 2020 subsume, extend and augment the current CSUS 2020 capital investment program to allow the BOR to begin making system-wide capital investments at all of its higher education institutions.

The Governor’s proposal increases capital funding for the BOR by \$60 million in FY 2015 to:

- Begin to upgrade and consolidate student and financial information systems to provide for unified and simplified admissions, financial aid, registration and financial reporting system;
- Improve the student learning environment with smart classroom technology;
- Develop a system-wide master plan;
- Implement deferred maintenance projects across the system’s campuses; and
- Construct a new Advanced Manufacturing Center at Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield.

The proposed capital adjustments will transfer \$20 million of previously authorized capital funding for the Community College System for equipment, technology and deferred maintenance into this capital investment program to allow the BOR to more swiftly implement the improvements outlined here. Other adjustments to the capital investment program include reprogramming projects at Central Connecticut State University for construction of a new engineering building, renovations to Barnard Hall for the School of Education, and renovations to Kaiser Hall.”

CSU-AAUP is still in the process of gathering information about Transform CSCU 2020 and will continue to report on its progress as we move forward in this legislative session.

## Appropriations Committee Hearing on Higher Ed

The Appropriations Committee will hold state agency budget presentations and public hearings from Wednesday, February 13, 2013 through Friday, February 22, 2013. **The presentation and public hearing on Higher Education, including Transform CSCU 2020, will be on Thursday, February 13** (see full hearing schedule [here](#)). The Board of Regents will testify at 11:15am on Thursday and the public hearing will begin at 5pm.

Public speaker order for the public hearings will be determined by a lottery system. Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:00 AM until 10:00 AM in the LOB First Floor Atrium and from 10:15 AM until 1:00 PM in Room 2700. The list of speakers registered through the lottery system will be posted outside the designated hearing room two hours prior to the start of the public hearing. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes of testimony. Please submit 25 copies of written testimony at the time of sign-up.

The Committee will accept electronic testimony via email at [appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov) for posting on the Committee's website and inclusion in the hearing transcript. All public hearing testimony, written & spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and will be indexed by internet search engines.

The Governor's proposals for Higher Education can be found below in the Bills: Week of 2/3 article.

## Higher Education Committee Meeting

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 10:30 A.M. in Room 2E of the LOB on the following two bills:

H.B. No. 5028 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES*

**Statement of Purpose:** To make revisions to the higher education statutes.

H.B. No. 5029 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS*

**Statement of Purpose:** To improve campus sexual assault and intimate partner violence policies and the response of institutions of higher education to reports of sexual assault of intimate partner violence against students and employees of such institutions.

Instructions for signing up to testify or to submit electronic testimony can be found on the [agenda](#).

## Bills: Week of 2/3

The following list of bills have been identified as having a potential impact on our members if passed. We will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed.

Please remember that these are simply proposals. Thousands of bills are filed in a legislative session but only a few hundred make it to the Governor for consideration.

"I support or oppose one of these bills; what should I do?"

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. [Track](#) the bill so you know when

### **EDUCATION & HIGHER EDUCATION**

S.B. No. 30: *AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE ACT*

**Statement of Purpose:** To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

H.B. No. 5028 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES*

**Statement of Purpose:** To make revisions to the higher education statutes.

S.B. No. 18 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER EDUCATOR INCENTIVE PROGRAM*

**Statement of Purpose:** To redesign the current English language learner educator loan reimbursement program to allow for grants to and loan reimbursement for a larger pool of eligible students.

S.B. No. 19 (RAISED): *AN ACT ESTABLISHING UNIFORM STATE ACADEMIC DEGREE STANDARDS*

**Statement of Purpose:** To clarify that the academic standards set forth in regulation regarding academic programs apply to all institutions of higher education and that public institutions of higher education may have their own processes for program approval.

S.B. No. 20 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINORITY ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM*

**Statement of Purpose:** To make technical changes to the statutes governing the minority advancement program to reflect the current administration of such program by the Office of Higher Education.

H.B. No. 5029 (RAISED): *AN ACT CONCERNING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE ON CAMPUS*

**Statement of Purpose:** To improve campus sexual assault and intimate partner violence policies and the response of institutions of higher education to reports of sexual assault of intimate partner violence against students and employees of such institutions.

**Continued Bills:  
Week of 2/3**

H.B. No. 5048: ACT ESTABLISHING THE CHET BABY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

**Statement of Purpose:** To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

H.B. No. 5050: ACT IMPROVING COLLEGE COMPLETIONS

**Statement of Purpose:** To implement the Governor's budget recommendations.

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

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Alimony Payments and Duration in Connecticut and Massachusetts
2. Initiatives to Help Elderly Parents of Intellectually Disabled Persons
3. Delinquent Property Taxes