



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Appropriations Hearing on Funding for “Transform CSCU”

On Monday, February 25, the Appropriations Committee held a hearing on the Governor's budget, including Transform CSCU.

The Board of Regents testified in support of the Governor's plan (written testimony [here](#); video [here](#)).

Eight CSU faculty members submitted testimony for the public hearing, [Vijay Nair](#) (CSU-AAUP President), [Stephen Adair](#) (Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee, CCSU), [Edmond Chibeau](#) (ECSU), [Marsha Davis](#) (ECSU), [William Faraclas](#) (SCSU), [Mary Ann Mahony](#) (CCSU), [Patricia O'Neill](#) (WCSU), and [Elena Tapia](#) (CSU-AAUP Vice President). Their testimonies expressed the need for funding for full-time, tenure-track faculty and for the systems to maintain their distinct missions and identities.

Approximately twelve CSU students submitted testimony, mainly discussing issues of affordability while all speaking positively about the quality of our institutions. The testimony of the students can be found [here](#).

Video of the public hearing can be watched [here](#).

Higher Education Committee Public Hearing on “Transform CSCU”

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee held a public hearing on Thursday, February 27. Included on the [agenda](#) were two bills that make up portions of “Transform CSCU 2020,” HB 5050, *An Act Improving College Completions* which proposes to establish a “Go Back to Get Ahead program” and S.B. 30, *An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education Infrastructure Act* regarding state bonding funds.

The Board of Regents testified in support of the Governor's plan (written testimony [here](#); video [here](#)).

Three CSU faculty members submitted testimony for the public hearing, Vijay Nair (CSU-AAUP President), Stephen Adair (Faculty Advisory Committee to the BOR Chair), and William Faraclas (SCSU Faculty Senate President). Their testimonies expressed the need for funding for full-time, tenure-track faculty and for the systems to maintain their distinct missions and identities. Video of their testimonies can be viewed [here](#) and their written testimony can be viewed [here](#).

Higher Education Committee Hearing 3/4

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 4. Included on the agenda are four bills including, S.B. No. 330, AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF REGENTS and H.B. No. 5435, AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. Further information about the hearing and how to submit testimony can be found on the agenda.

Bills: Week of 2/24

"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 public hearings are scheduled.

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.

EDUCATION & HIGHER EDUCATION

H.B. No. 5435 (RAISED): AN ACT REQUIRING AN EVALUATION OF CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Statement of Purpose: To require the Office of Higher Education to evaluate the effectiveness of certificate programs offered by the regional community-technical colleges and the Connecticut State University System.

S.B. No. 330 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF REGENTS

Statement of Purpose: To clarify the appointments of vice-presidents of the Board of Regents for Higher Education and eliminate references to the Board for State Academic Awards from the general statutes.

H.B. 5207 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING

Statement of Purpose: To permit institutions of higher education to award college credit for military occupational specialty training.

H.B. 5241 (RAISED): AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF A PAY-IT-FORWARD COLLEGE PAYMENT PLAN

Statement of Purpose: To require a study of the feasibility and implications of a pay-it-forward college payment plan.

Bills: Week of 2/24

Proposed S.B. 180: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Statement of Purpose: To provide funding for the academic advancement program so that academically advanced students can graduate high school early and enroll in college.

S.B. 181 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING UCONN LEASES WITH STATE AGENCIES AND QUASI-PUBLIC AGENCIES

Statement of Purpose: To clarify that The University of Connecticut may enter into leases for space with another state agency or quasi-public agency.

S.B. 182 (RAISED): AN ACT CONFORMING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION PURCHASING STATUTES WITH DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES PURCHASING STATUTES AND PRACTICE

Statement of Purpose: To conform public higher education purchasing statutes with Department of Administrative Services purchasing statutes and practice.

S.B. 183 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING FINANCING TRANSACTIONS FOR REVENUE BOND PROJECTS UNDER UCONN 2000

Statement of Purpose: To expand the revenues acceptable for issuing certain securities for UConn 2000 projects.

H.B. No. 5347 (RAISED): AN ACT ALLOWING CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES TO CREATE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS THROUGH MUNICIPAL BONDING

Statement of Purpose: To authorize distressed municipalities to fund scholarships through municipal bonding.

H.B. No. 5361 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING A STATE AUTHORIZATION RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT REGARDING DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMS

Statement of Purpose: To permit the state and individual institutions of higher education to participate in a state authorization reciprocity agreement.

H.B. No. 5362 (RAISED): AN ACT TARGETING STATE FINANCIAL AID TO SUPPORT TECHNICAL TRAINING

Statement of Purpose: To establish a pilot program to promote enrollment in nondegree certificate programs and technical courses offered by the regional community-technical colleges.

H.B. No. 5379 (RAISED): AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE

Bills: Week of 2/24

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TUITION PLEDGE PROGRAM AND A FINANCIAL AID PLEDGE PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Statement of Purpose: To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee concerning a study of the establishment of a tuition guarantee program and a financial aid pledge program at UConn.

H.B. No. 5380 (RAISED): AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING A REPORT ON FINANCIAL AID AWARDS AND TRACKING TRANSFER CREDITS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Statement of Purpose: To implement the recommendations of the legislative program review and investigations committee concerning reports on financial aid awards and tracking transfer credits.

H.B. No. 5381 (RAISED): AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF TUITION AND FEE SCHEDULE INCREASES AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM TO TRACK GRADUATES' SUCCESS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Statement of Purpose: To implement the recommendations of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee regarding publicizing tuition and fee schedule increases and developing a system to track graduates' success by UConn.

Labor & Public Employees

S.B. 220 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF LABOR HISTORY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Statement of Purpose: To include labor history, labor law and free market capitalism in the prescribed courses of study in the public school curriculum.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Bitcoins - Virtual Currency
2. OLR Backgrounder: Internet Sweepstakes Cafe
3. Prepaid Home Heating Oil Contracts