



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Public Hearing on Bill to Include Faculty on the BOR

SB 867, *An Act Concerning Faculty Representation on the Board of Regents for Higher Education*, proposes the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) be ex-officio, nonvoting members of the BOR. In addition, the legislation proposes that there be two faculty representatives, appointed by the FAC, on all standing and special committees of the BOR except those responsible for personnel matters.

In the brief history of the BOR, it has been demonstrated that faculty-board collaboration and communication have been extremely constructive. However, the faculty have had to be very assertive to make their voices heard. CSU-AAUP believes that if members of the FAC are given the opportunity to provide their expertise in board and committee discussions and decisions, it will benefit all parties.

The Higher Education Committee will hold a public hearing on SB 867 on Thursday, March 14 at 1pm in Room 1E of the Legislative Office Building. Testimony can be submitted electronically to HEDTestimony@cga.ct.gov (please note the bill number if submitting testimony).

Governor Malloy Announces \$37 Million in Bonding for Community Colleges

Reprinted from <http://www.governor.ct.gov>

Governor Dannel P. Malloy announced on March 5 that more than \$37 million in capital improvement projects for the state's community colleges will be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting of the State Bond Commission. The funding will be used for new instruction, research and laboratory equipment; development of IT networks; and other various renovation and construction projects at the colleges.

“Our state’s community and state colleges play an integral role in our effort to train the workforce of tomorrow,” said Governor Malloy. “The investments we are announcing today will help

Continued... Bonding for Community Colleges

our state and community colleges update and modernize their facilities, so that our students can compete in the global economy.”

Included in the bonding is:

- \$18 million to finance new and replacement instruction, research and/or laboratory equipment for 12 community colleges and the system office.
- \$10 million to continue the advancement and development of IT networks and capabilities throughout the community college system and the system office.
- \$3.7 million to finance the design of renovations at Norwalk Community College, including a pedestrian bridge, an addition to house a student center, new classrooms, and exterior and interior renovations.
- \$3.2 million for Manchester Community College for parking lot renovations.
- \$1.3 million for Manchester Community College to bring its facilities into compliance with federal ADA standards.
- \$480,000 to finance deferred maintenance projects at various community colleges.
- \$329,000 for Quinebaug Valley Community College in Danielson to award a construction contract for the replacement of boilers and breeching.
- \$300,000 to finance on-call design projects at various community colleges.

Files: Week of 3/4

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

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).

Please note that once a bill becomes a file it possibly could go to the House or Senate floor within two days to be voted on.

File 24: **AN ACT REQUIRING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH UNIFORM FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION**

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

Files: Continued

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

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).

File 25: **AN ACT ALLOWING ADJUNCT FACULTY MEMBERS OF CHARTER OAK STATE COLLEGE TO WAIVE MEMBERSHIP IN A STATE RETIREMENT PLAN** The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

File 27: **AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECEIPT OF QUARTERLY REPORTS BY THE OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION**. The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through REP. WILLIS of the 64th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

Bills: Week of 3/4

"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.

H.B. No. 5703 (COMM): AN ACT ELIMINATING LONGEVITY PAYMENTS FOR ALL STATE EMPLOYEES

Statement of Purpose: To study the effects of longevity payments on the state economy.

S.B. No. 1080 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE TENURE REVIEW PROCESS IN THE STATE SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Statement of Purpose: To require the state's higher education institutions to recognize the commercialization activities of faculty members during the tenure review process.

H.B. No. 6605 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY OF EXPENSES

Statement of Purpose: To increase transparency in public institutions of higher education by prohibiting unvouchered expenses.

H.B. No. 6611 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES' PENSIONS SOLVENCY

Statement of Purpose: To require a request for information to gather data and evaluate ways the state can improve the level of funding for state retirement and pension benefits, including, but not limited to, state-owned life insurance policies issued on state employees or state retirees or both, special purpose trusts or other investment vehicles.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. DUI Urine Tests for Marijuana
2. Comprehensive Energy Strategy Bill
3. Firearms Boards in Connecticut and Other States
4. Assault Weapons Ban and Takings Clause