



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Bill to Allow Faculty on the Board of Regents

Thanks to all of you who took the time to contact legislators on the Higher Education & Employment Advancement Committee in support of **SB 867, *An Act Concerning Faculty Representation on the Board of Regents for Higher Education.*** Because of your efforts, the Higher Education Committee approved the bill unanimously, but not without amendments. **We are again asking for your assistance in getting this bill brought to the floor for a vote by the entire House and Senate so that it will become law.** We also would like to have the bill further amended so that it will ensure even more meaningful participation by faculty in the governance of our institutions.

The original legislation as proposed would have allowed for the chair and vice-chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to serve as ex-officio, non-voting members of the Board of Regents. Further, the original bill would have allowed for two members of the Faculty Advisory Committee to serve on all Committees of the Board, except those dealing with personnel matters. **The Higher Education Committee amended the bill and removed all language about faculty serving on board committees while keeping the language about the chair and vice-chair serving as ex-officio, non-voting members of the BOR.**

This is an important legislative initiative for us. The communication structure must get fixed so that the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents will have a more meaningful voice and we believe this bill will achieve that, especially if faculty are allowed to serve on Board Committees.

So please contact your State Representative and State Senator and ask them to please bring SB 867 to the floor for a vote and to support an amendment allowing two faculty members from the Faculty Advisory Committee to serve on the following BOR Committees: Academic & Student Affairs, Information Technology, Finance, and Strategic Planning. Please explain to your legislators why faculty input on these committees is important.

Funding for Faculty Lines at ConnSCU

The consolidation of the governing boards of CSU and the Community Colleges was offered as a means to identify savings, which would be redirected into the classrooms. The Board of Regents identified over \$5 million in savings from the consolidation that was earmarked to hire 47 new full-time faculty, but the positions were withdrawn when the BOR learned of the Governor's rescission in November 2012. The Higher Education Subcommittee to the Appropriations Committee recognizes the need for more full-time faculty and has generously recommended that funding be added to the state budget for these hires, but we need your assistance in making sure this funding makes it into budget recommended by the Appropriations Committee.

Please contact members of the Appropriations Committee today and urge them to accept the Higher Education Subcommittee's recommendation to fund 47 new full-time faculty positions at ConnSCU in 2014 and 57 in 2015. (Please note that these 47/57 positions will be spread over the 17 institutions that make up the ConnSCU System). These additional full-time faculty positions are urgently needed. Part-time faculty are an integral part of CSUS, but the lack of growth in full-time faculty over the last ten years has created systemic problems for higher education in areas such as student advising, assessment, curriculum development and university governance. In addition, more full-time faculty are needed to improve graduate and retention rates.

Please call or e-mail the members of the Appropriations Committee today and tell them approved funding for full time faculty at ConnSCU will:

- Lower student/faculty ratios;
- Improve graduation rates by being able to provide required courses for majors in a timely manner; and,
- Increase the number of lower division courses taught by full-time faculty.

We urge you to e-mail all the members of the Appropriations Committee today. Please take a few minutes out of your day to let legislators know that increasing full-time faculty is vital to the health of the Connecticut State University System and will improve the educational experience of our students – **THE STUDENTS WHO ARE CONNECTICUT'S FUTURE.**

File: Week of 4/1

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 NO. 271 : AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MASTER PLAN BY THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP TASK FORCE AND THE RECIEPT OF THE MASTER PLAN BY THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR ENDING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP. The Committee on Education reported through SEN. STILLMAN of the 20th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Issuance of Driver's Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants
2. Federal Court Decision on Prisoners and the Census
3. Sentencing for Gun-Related Crimes
4. Right to Bear Arms under the Connecticut Constitution