



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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Higher Education Committee Unveils “Concepts” for 2012 Legislative Session

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee began its work early this year, meeting eight days before the legislative session opens, to agree on concepts that the Committee will propose as bills. The concepts discussed included “the development of a general education core of courses to allow for the seamless transfer from the Community-Technical College System to CSU and UConn” as well as “the selection process for faculty representation on the Board of Regents.” Another concept includes “open access to College level courses” which will seek to limit the amount of remediation required of students. Additionally, a few legislators commented about the need for bills to address tuition increases and the quality of teacher preparation at CSU. The Chairs said that the list of concepts before the Committee was not exhaustive.

You can view the [agenda](#) for the Higher Education meeting, which includes a list of eleven concepts [here](#). The next meeting of the Committee will be on February 9 at 11am and will include a presentation by the New England Board of Higher Education on the key issues and trends in higher ed.

Over \$1.5 Million Cut From CSU’s Budget

On January 24, Governor Malloy used his statutory rescission authority to cut \$79 million in state spending in order to keep a balanced budget.

For the higher education units, the rescission amounts were as follows:

Charter Oak State College — \$27,000

Regional Community-Technical Colleges — \$1,538,000

CSUS — \$1,574,000

UConn — \$2,135,000

Malloy warned that further rescissions could be ordered if the budget picture worsens before the fiscal year ends June 30.

How to Track a Bill

The Connecticut General Assembly allows for electronic tracking of any legislation. What this means is that once you have added a bill to your account, the system will email you whenever there is a new action taken on the bill such as the scheduling of a public hearing or committee vote.

To sign up, please visit [Bill Tracking](#) on the General Assembly website. Enter an email address and create a password. You can add a bill individually by its number or have all bills introduced by a certain legislator or committee added to your account.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

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

1. Gun Violence Reduction in Small U.S. Cities
2. Penalties for Failing to Report Suspected Child Abuse
3. Essential Health Benefits Package
4. OLR Backgrounder: Connecticut Prison Population Over the Last Five Years