



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 2, Issue 8 | March 27, 2012

Higher Ed Approves Substitute Language for SB 40 In Regards to Remediation

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee approved substitute language for SB 40, which was previously named AN ACT CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS TO COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES. The substitute language changes the title of the bill to AN ACT CONCERNING COLLEGE READINESS AND COMPLETION.

The original language of the bill would have allowed all students open access to entry level courses at the college level and would have prohibited Connecticut public institutions of higher education from forcing any student to enroll in a remedial course.

The substitute language directs the public institution of higher education to offer remedial support “embedded with the corresponding entry level course.” Further, it directs the public institution of higher education to offer “intensive college readiness programs” to students who are determined to be below the skill level necessary to successfully complete college level work. Among other changes, it also enables “the successful completion of the high school mathematics and language arts curriculum, as described in Connecticut’s Common Core State Standards, to be the indicator of readiness for college level work.” Read the substitute language in its entirety [here](#).

CSU-AAUP has made a few recommendations for further amendments to the Chairs of the Higher Education, including revising the dates in the bill and requiring that the Board of Regents also collaborate with the Faculty Advisory Committee on the creation of the “intensive college readiness programs,” among other minor changes.

Want to know more? Read the [Hartford Courant article](#) about this legislation.

Status of Higher Ed Bills

The Higher Education Committee's Joint Favorable (JF) Deadline was March 20, 2012. If a bill is not taken up for a vote by this date, it is dead for this session.

The Higher Education Bills that have moved forward in the process that CSU-AAUP has been monitoring include:

House Bill 5030: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERAL EDUCATION CORE OF COURSES

Substitute Bill 5030 Approved by Higher Ed Committee

Vote Tally on the Substitute Bill

This bill calls for seamless student transfer from Community Colleges to the State University System and UConn, via a general education core of courses of at least 30 academic credits. A substitute bill was approved by the Higher Ed Committee and sent to the floor of the House for action. The substitute language adds that faculty members from the various state higher education institutions be included in the development and implementation of a general education core of courses.

Senate Bill 40: AN ACT CONCERNING OPEN ACCESS TO COLLEGE LEVEL COURSES

Substitute Bill 40 Approved by Higher Ed Committee

Vote Tally on the Substitute Bill

See article above for details of the substitute bill.

Senate Bill 42: AN ACT CONCERNING THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Substitute Bill 42 Approved by Higher Ed Committee

Vote Tally on the Substitute Bill

This bill clarifies the composition of the committee and the means and manner under which elections will be conducted. The language approved by the committee allows for the election of three faculty and one administrative faculty representative who provides direct student services from each of the systems. It also specifies that unions are not required to be involved in the

election process. Thirdly, it adds the words “fair and open” with regard to the system-wide election of faculty senate members. The Higher Ed Committee approved the bill and sent it to the Senate floor for action.

Senate Bill 242: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY ON THE RELEASE OF FACULTY FROM CERTAIN TEACHING REQUIREMENTS

Senate Bill 242 Approved by Higher Ed Committee

Vote Tally on the Substitute Bill

This bill requires the Board of Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Trustees for The University of Connecticut to study issues concerning course releases and the feasibility and potential effects of reducing the number of faculty members who receive course releases from public institutions of higher education.

**Appropriations
Budget Expected
This Week**

Capitol insiders are expecting the Appropriations Committee to release a budget this week. Meanwhile, “Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration recognized shrinking tax revenues in its latest budget forecast last Wednesday, yet remained the only entity still projecting that state government will wrap up the fiscal year in just over three months in the black.” Read more from the *Connecticut Mirror* [here](#).

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

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Summaries of Governor's Bills
2. “Caylee’s Law”: Legislation in Other States
3. Options for Implementing Revaluation
4. Characteristics of Charter and Public School Students