



*A Voice For Faculty*

# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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## **CSU BOT Member Editorial on Reorganization of Higher Education— *Bad Higher-Ed Deal Done In The Dark , By John Doyle***

Gov. Dannel P. Malloy recently announced his "deal" to reorganize most of Connecticut's public higher education. It was crafted by one political appointee and one legislator. It's typical of such "deals" done in the dark — it's bad public policy. It's even worse educational policy. It's not the way our elected representatives should allow laws to be made.

This "deal" didn't actually produce a bill that the public could read or understand. We don't know when all our legislators will have the opportunity to debate and vote on this "deal." Will it be one of the "end of session" bills passed by number and shuttled between the House and Senate under "suspension of the rules"? Will it be part of the "implementers bill" passed at the end of the session when our legislators are too tired or too constrained by the rules to debate its mandates? Who knows? One of the dealmakers said the "deal" was a "leap of faith" with "a lot that hasn't been filled in." Very comforting.

Here's what we do know. This "deal" is a power grab, pure and simple.

It politicizes higher education. It gives the governor top-to-bottom control, from the naming of the top paid "executive" to negotiating employee contracts for most of Connecticut's higher education personnel. The University of Connecticut, with the greatest number of highly paid administration and other staff, apparently doesn't need any "reorganization." But this doesn't matter because the governor's proposed budget makes no claim of any dollar savings from the reorganization.

[Read more](#)

## **Governor's "Plan B": More Cuts to CSUS?**

*The Hartford Courant* reported on May 6 that Governor Malloy has given a list of options to the legislature to find one billion dollars in cuts if there is no agreement with the state employee unions around concessions. Reportedly, another 10% cut to CSUS is on this list. However, the Governor's Office denies that the list the Courant obtained is final.

CSU-AAUP and our lobbyist will continue to follow this story. Also, SEBAC and the Governor's representatives continue to meet.

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

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

1. PRELIMINARY ANALYSES OF GOVERNOR'S BILLS
2. CONNECTICUT POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS
3. CONNECTICUT'S RACIAL PROFILING LAW

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