



*A Voice For Faculty*

# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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## News Conference Announcing “Transform CSCU 2020”

The Governor held a press conference to announce “Transform CSCU 2020” on Wednesday, February 12 at Manchester Community College. Joining the Governor at the press conference was Dr. Gregory Gray, President of the BOR; Board of Regents for Higher Education Vice Chair Yvette Meléndez; Connecticut Department of Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor; Brian Nwafor, Student Government Association President at Manchester Community College; Anthony Resigno, president of the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce; and Steve Cassano, Senate Chair of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. There were no faculty at the press conference.

At the news conference, Governor Malloy said, “We know that 70-percent of jobs in 2020 will require postsecondary education. That’s why it is imperative that we garner support for these necessary investments in our students. This is a multi-year, multi-layered investment that will unite our 12 community colleges, four state universities, and single online college into one system. It will help colleges adapt to student needs and offer the kind of dynamic higher education experience that students want and employers expect. Let’s move our state university and community college system into the 21st Century. Let’s do that together.”

The news conference can be viewed [here](#). CSU-AAUP released a response, which can be viewed [here](#). Articles about the Transform CSCU 2020 include:

[Malloy’s Regents plan raises state support above pre-cut levels](#)  
*(The Connecticut Mirror)*

[Profes Disappointed: Malloy’s Plan Has No Money To Add Faculty, Staff](#) *(Hartford Courant)*

[Malloy Commits To Higher Ed, Hopes Future Governors Will Too](#) *(CTNewsJunkie.com)*

**Please Consider  
Testifying:  
Appropriations  
Committee Hearing  
on Higher Ed**

The Appropriations Committee is currently holding state agency budget presentations and public hearings. **The presentation and public hearing on Higher Education, including Transform CSCU 2020, will be on Monday, February 24.** The Board of Regents will testify at 10am and the public hearing will begin at 5pm. The hearings will take place at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford in Hearing Room 2C.

CSU-AAUP is encouraging our members and students to attend the Appropriations Committee hearing and testify. While we support the goals of Transform CSCU 2020 and certainly welcome additional funding for our universities, we believe the proposal lacks funding for additional faculty and we stress the need to maintain separate block grants and capitol funds for CSU, the Community Colleges, and Charter Oak State College. **If you would like sign up to testify, please notify Ellen Benson at [benesonell@ccsu.edu](mailto:benesonell@ccsu.edu) by Friday, February 21.** Our lobbyists will be assisting with signups earlier in the day. Information about testifying can be found [here](#) (but please note that our lobbyists will be attending the lottery for you). You must bring 25 copies of your testimony with you. If you are not able to attend the hearing, testimony can be sent to [appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov](mailto:appropriationtestimo@cga.ct.gov).

**Higher Education  
Committee Meeting**

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee met on Tuesday, February 18 at 10:30am to review certain committee bills, including *An Act Concerning the Board of Regents*, *An Act Concerning Connecticut Scholarships*, and *An Act Creating a Pilot Program at Southern Connecticut State University to Require State Contractors Who are Awarded Contracts to Perform Work at SCSU use the City of New Haven's Workforce Diversity Contracting Standards*. These bills do not include any language yet. The full agenda and list of bills can be viewed [here](#).

## Bills: Week of 2/10

"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

The following list of bills have been identified as having a potential impact on our members if passed. We will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed.

Please remember that these are simply proposals. Thousands of bills are filed in a legislative session but only a few hundred make it to the Governor for consideration.

### **EDUCATION & HIGHER EDUCATION**

H.B. No. 5127 (RAISED): AN ACT DEFINING THE UCONN FOUNDATION AS A PUBLIC AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT AND REQUIRING AUDITING OF THE FOUNDATION BY THE AUDITORS OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

**Statement of Purpose:** To subject the UConn Foundation to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act and to auditing by the Auditors of Public Accounts.

Proposed H.B. No. 5128: AN ACT REPLACING TUITION AND FEES AT PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WITH PAY FORWARD, PAY BACK FINANCING

**Statement of Purpose:** To allow greater access to higher education.

### **LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

H.B. No. 5066 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN WORKERS' RIGHTS TO COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN

**Statement of Purpose:** To clarify the process by which certain workers may collectively bargain.

H.B. No. 5067 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE BOARD OF LABOR RELATIONS AND THE STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

**Statement of Purpose:** To allow the disclosure of performance evaluations of members of the State Board of Labor Relations and the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration to certain individuals.

## Continued: Bills

H.B. No. 5068 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMPENSATION OF STATE BOARD OF MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION ARBITRATORS

**Statement of Purpose:** To adjust the compensation rate for State Board of Mediation and Arbitration arbitrators so that they are ultimately compensated at a consistent rate for each day they preside over an arbitration proceeding.

Proposed S.B. No. 53: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF AN ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN FOR THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

**Statement of Purpose:** To cut funding to the advertising budget of the Department of Education that was to be used for the promotion of the implementation of the Common Core State Standards.

S.B. No. 63 (RAISED): AN ACT CONCERNING TIMELINES FOR ARBITRATION AWARDS

**Statement of Purpose:** To establish firm timelines for the issuance of awards in cases before the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration and the State Board of Labor Relations.

## What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. OLR Backgrounder: Appellate Court Decision on Net Neutrality
2. Update: Sale of Driver License Information by the Department of Motor Vehicles
3. Removing Felony Convictions

Have a question? Get the answer!  
Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at [benensonell@ccsu.edu](mailto:benensonell@ccsu.edu)