

TESTIMONY OF
William A. Aniskovich

Executive & Legislative Nominations Committee
April 28, 2009

I am William A. Aniskovich of Branford, and I am pleased to appear before you this morning as a nominee for re-appointment to the Board of Governors of Higher Education.

I would first like to thank Senator McKinney for nominating me to serve a second term on the Board. As always, it is a pleasure to be here at the LOB once again.

During my first term on the Board, the Board itself was a primary focus as a new Commissioner, former state Senator Michael Meotti, assumed his responsibilities. Commissioner Meotti has already made significant changes to the internal operation of the Board and the focus of its mission. These changes, while still in their early stages, are sure to improve the ability of the Board to make a more meaningful contribution to the policy decisions affecting higher education. I am excited about the Commissioner's vision for the Board and look forward to assisting in any way I can. His focus on serious data analysis and dialogue with the broader community of higher education stakeholders in the state and throughout the region is a welcome change.

As you all know very well, the hardships caused by national financial and economic changes are being felt everywhere. Our state's colleges and universities are not immune from the difficulties presented by increasing unemployment, low economic growth and a declining stock market. Whether it is the need to manage tuition costs, properly steward endowments, or keep curriculum relevant to these changing times, higher education is confronted with what is sure to be at least a decade of significant pressures.

If confirmed to serve on the Board, I look forward to working with you, Governor Rell, Commissioner Meotti, and others throughout the higher education community to face these challenges with innovative, data-driven and focused policy responses.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.