



## APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 19, 2010

Carol Lewis, Professor and President  
Edward C. Marth, Executive Director

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Appropriations Committee:

On behalf of the UCONN Chapter of the AAUP, we would like to offer some testimony for the record. We represent the faculty and research professionals at the University of Connecticut at Storrs and the regional campuses.

Thank you for your efforts to struggle with the monumental problems caused by the current recession, and the earlier recessions that came in waves in each of the last three decades.

The economic crises seem to have different origins; in 1990 it was the general economic downturn and the adverse impact of the defense work, so prominent then in Connecticut, tumbling in the aftermath of the Berlin wall falling and taking the communist block with it. Ten years later the crisis was milder, but state employees accepted another pay freeze. This past year, the somewhat remodeled Connecticut economy with its dependence on the financial industry and reliance on an unstable tax structure reeled with the rest of the country from a meltdown in finances. The state has few natural resources other than its people; that being widely recognized, we need to keep our collective focus on education as the lynchpin for innovation and future jobs.

With the internationalization of business and demands by foreign countries to have a share of the American home-based manufacturing we have another dilemma. We are not about to demand a share of low-wage jobs exported earlier, nor will companies ignore the job-sharing demands of foreign customers.

We can create more jobs with strategic public investments:

- 1) Modern transportation to facilitate commerce and employment where needed;
- 2) Affordable housing to encourage employment where workers can live;
- 3) Government policies that facilitate innovation and investment;
- 4) An educated workforce that promotes innovation, investment, research, and culture.