



Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Public Hearing Testimony
By Lawrence D. McHugh
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Good afternoon, Senator Looney and Representative Janowski, and Members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee.

My name is Larry McHugh and I am honored to be nominated by Governor Rell to be appointed to the Board of Trustees of our great Flagship University: the University of Connecticut. It is indeed a privilege to appear before you today.

Just to give you a brief background on myself:

I have been a lifelong resident of the State of Connecticut – I was born in New Haven – attended public schools grades 1-8 then attended Notre Dame High School and went on Southern Connecticut State University where I graduated in 1962.

I was a teacher/coach for 22 years – 1 year in Durham and 21 years at Xavier High School in Middletown.

In 1983 I was hired as President of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce and I remain in that position today. We are the largest free-standing chamber in Connecticut with over 2,000 business members that employ over 49,000 throughout Middlesex County.

I was on the Board of Trustees of CSU since 1983, when I was appointed by Governor O'Neill. I was re-appointed by Governor O'Neill and subsequently re-appointed by Governor Weicker. I was named Chairman of CSU in 1995 by Governor Rowland. So, as you can see, for years, I have been dedicated to improving educational opportunities for the students in Connecticut in order to keep the best and brightest here in Connecticut. My service on the CSU Board of Trustees has provided me with invaluable experience in higher education and has prepared me well to now serve UConn.

Over the last few years, UConn has continued its dramatic rise in the ranks of public institutions of higher education. For example, according to U.S. News and World Report, UConn ranks as the best public university in New England and in the top twenty percent of all public institutions of higher education nationally. The quality and diversity of the student body is also on the rise, with increases in minority student enrollments and in the number of valedictorians. The General Assembly should be commended for its investment in UConn which has led to UConn's rise in national prominence.

Because of my job with the chamber, I realize daily the fact that our educational system is vital to the future growth of our great State. We should all be reminded that UConn's graduates, along with the University at large, generate significant contributions to the State's economy and, I believe, can serve to help contribute to the present and future economic development of our great State.

I appreciate your consideration of my nomination and welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have for me. Thank you.