

March 15, 2010

Honorable Chairs, Members of the Committee:

My name is Edward Marth. I have been the Executive Director of the AAUP Chapter at Storrs and the regional campuses since 1986. More recently I had the privilege of serving this year on the Majority Leaders' Round Table on Connecticut Economic Development.

The University of Connecticut has become a major name and university of national prominence in the last twenty years with the support of many of you and your predecessors in the legislature.

The faculty and staff have show themselves to be committed to the health and excellence of the university throughout the intermittent surges and downturns in the economy, the present downturn being, of course, the worst. We have endured the swelling enrollments with diminished numbers of faculty and over-reliance on graduate students. Yet the amount of funded research combined with other university generated revenues have become major contributors to the Connecticut economy.

Today you have a proposal which is far-reaching in its promise of job creation and re-branding Connecticut as a leader in technology.

Change and technology are the drivers of a healthy economy. Rep. Sawyer and I were talking last year about the audacious plan of Governor Clinton to build a canal in 1815 to connect the Great Lakes with the port of New York and the world. Although today only a tourist and recreational facility, it formed the pathway to be followed by the great cities which became home to international corporations, the throughway and major airports.

Today we have the prospect of using the new international highway, the internet, to create medical knowledge, to train physicians here and abroad through the

concept of virtual applications of medical assistance and surgery pioneered on the battlefields where American presence has been required.

The integration of UCONN expertise with the applications of health care in Hartford will likely lead to new patentable results that will be drivers of a new age of well paying jobs where the competition is from elsewhere but it will again be met by Connecticut minds. No thinking person imagines our prosperity being built on anything but education and the practical applications of knowledge that flow from that.

This proposal has much to hope for in results, and much to be concerned about in development physically and application practically. People change in their roles but institutions continue on, shaped by the work they do and the belief in their roles.

UCONN has shown itself to be a source of pride for Connecticut and a producer of results; in 80,000 Connecticut alumni in every vocation imaginable, in job creation from the Storrs and Health Center advances in technology and imagination, and from generations passing through its portals.

This is hallmark legislation, worthy of supporting in concept and in fact. It is a part of what you must consider for breaking the trend of job disappearance as documented by Professor Carstensen and others. The Round Table proposals are vital and this is a contribution both specific and needed.

Thank you.

Ed Marth