



Testimony by

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At the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee's public hearing on S.B. No. 1011 - An Act Concerning a Reorganization of Connecticut's System of Public Higher Education

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Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Willis, and members of the Committee. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify today.

CSU-AAUP is not opposed to a reorganization of Connecticut's systems of public higher education. In fact, we believe that some reorganization is long overdue. We also believe that it is necessary, at least in some of our institutions, to redirect more resources from managerial expenditures to instruction and other direct student services.

The difficulty we have is with the specific proposals that are before us now. Allow me to point out some of our concerns:

- The primary motivation behind the reorganization proposal is to save money, but it is unclear how savings can and will be realized. Consolidation in and of itself does not necessarily result in cost savings or more efficient use of resources.
- The sweeping power given to the proposed Board of Regents to transfer funds from one constituent unit to another (*H. B. 6380, Sec. 41*) makes planning by any of the units nearly impossible. Also, under the current proposal the Board of Regents will allocate appropriations to the individual institutions based on performance and outcome measures (*SB. 1011, Sec. 11 (a)*). We are not opposed to having performance measures for public institutions of higher education, but experience shows that funding based on such measures simply does not work. In fact, eleven states, after having tried performance and outcome measure based funding, have already abandoned it.
- The degree of centralization and bureaucratic control that are proposed will undermine the identities and missions of the individual institutions and compromise the unique educational experiences they provide.
- The proposal to remove position control for non-faculty positions from institutions of higher education (*S.B. 1000, Sec. 16*) will make it practically impossible for our institutions to respond to the changing needs of our students. Many of these positions are in academic support services. Necessary student services as well as instructional and research activities depend on them.
- These proposals seem to have been put together without sufficient involvement of the appropriate stakeholders, including educators and students.
- We believe that Connecticut must have a strategic plan for higher education in order to address the emerging demands of the twenty-first century. Such a plan should be developed with the involvement of all appropriate stakeholders from CSU, Community /Technical Colleges, Charter Oak, and the University of Connecticut, and reorganization should be effected in accordance with such a strategic plan. The present proposal really does put the cart before the horse.

Thank you.