

My name is Kimberly Grant, Treasurer of the Gateway Community College Student Government Association. Through our current state of financial crisis, I understand that there is a need for cutbacks and downsizing but again, this should not be coming from community colleges. Consolidating the governing bodies of the Community Colleges with the Connecticut State University System and Charter Oak College may save a few bucks short term, but what will happen when one office becomes responsible for 12 community colleges and five state schools? It's already a hassle from a monetary stand point of getting checks from Hartford for student activities and with the lack of independence of services such as IT, where computers get taken away for weeks at a time, imagine if that were combined and how long it would take for any computer issues to be resolved. The freedom of independence has already been taken away from us as Community Colleges, adding more school will suck what little level of creativity that's left away.

In my two years serving in this position, I've seen the frustration of businesses and performers having to go through not only tireless paper work but in addition, a waiting game of when they would get paid. This has left many with an apprehensive mind set of doing continuous business. How much longer will these processes take when five more schools are added to the ballot? Rather than two to three weeks that we presently experience to get checks processed for payments, would it now go to a month or longer? This would have a significant impact on student clubs and organizations and the leadership experience that we are seeking.

Keep community colleges separate, as it is hard enough now to get a consensus with 12 schools for any technological innovations, imagine 17. Putting that much strain on one body of persons will slow even more the already snail like bureaucracy that the State puts us through. Where has freedom gone in our society?

Kimberly Grant