



Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

February 14, 2012

Public Hearing

Testimony

By

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Provost

University of Connecticut

Co-Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on Raised Bill 5030, *An Act Concerning the Development of a General Education Core of Course to Allow for the Seamless Transfer from the Regional Community-Technical College System to the Connecticut State University System and the University of Connecticut.*

The University of Connecticut has long been committed to ensuring the seamless transfer of students from Connecticut's Community Colleges to our campuses. Our Guaranteed Admissions Program (GAP) started as a pilot program in 2004 with three community colleges -- Manchester, Three Rivers and Quinnebaug Valley -- extending upon previous existing articulation agreements with the Community Colleges that had been in place beginning in the mid-1990's. In 2008, UConn's Guaranteed Admissions Program was expanded to all 12 Community Colleges and included 50 majors offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. In 2010, UConn extended GAP to include our School of Business. The Program ensures that qualified community college students in their first year have a guaranteed placement at the University of Connecticut provided they complete specified academic conditions including their associate's degree before matriculating in Storrs.

In addition to academic excellence, community college students bring unique experiences and backgrounds that enrich our campus both in the classroom and beyond. Since GAP began in 2008, over 400 Connecticut

community college students have been admitted into the program. As of Spring 2012, 90 GAP students are currently enrolled in degree programs at UConn and as of December 2012, 40 GAP students have graduated from UConn.

What has made UConn's GAP program so successful is the time and effort our faculty have invested in developing a challenging and engaging general education requirements program. We believe the University's general education requirements (which are uniquely tailored to each of our schools and colleges) form a model curriculum that should be emulated at the other public colleges and universities across Connecticut. Our general education requirements represent a close collaboration with our colleagues at the Community Colleges and provide a strong foundation in the competencies our students need to succeed at UConn and in life. Our transfer admissions website (http://transfer.uconn.edu/class_requirements.html) enables all Community College students and others who seek to transfer to the University to efficiently identify the types of courses they need to have a seamless transition to UConn.

While the University strongly supports the intent of the legislation, we are concerned that the bill mandates that UConn automatically accept 30 academic credits toward our general education core curriculum requirements for all transfers. This type of requirement may not be a problem for GAP students following a clearly articulated plan of study, but may be problematic for Community College students in specific areas of study who will have to take additional general education courses to graduate from a four year institution. Additionally, other transfer students, who may not have taken the appropriate courses at their initial university, may also be required to take some UConn general education courses in order to have the background to complete their degrees. It is for this reason that we request that the last sentence of the bill be deleted. While seamless transfer is important it should not come at the risk of a student graduating without the necessary competencies in their field of study.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the University of Connecticut. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.