To: Members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

From: James LoMonaco, President, State University Organization of Administrative Faculty

Date: February 28, 2012

Senator Bye, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to Testify before the Committee regarding Senate Bill 42. My name is James LoMonaco and I serve as President of the State University Organization of Administrative Faculty the organization that represents the 710 professional staff members of the Connecticut State University.

Our testimony today is intended to point out a significant omission in Senate Bill 42 with regard to the composition of the Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents. If this legislation were to be enacted the result would be the exclusion insofar as formal representation to the BOR is concerned of the professional employees at CSU, The Connecticut community Colleges and Charter Oak College. These employees provide direct service to students in many that are essential to students as well as to the provision of services by the various campuses. It is our view that the collective wisdom of all stakeholders' is of great value to the Regents as they chart the course for the next step in public higher education in Connecticut.

Senate Bill 42 would limit Advisory Board membership exclusively to Teaching Faculty and provide no opportunity for formal input to the Regents by the approximately 1200 Administrative Faculty of the 3 units of the BOR. In testimony heard by this committee in the last several week's issues of admissions, financial aid, course availability, academic support services and cost to students were raised, both through testimony and through questions and comments made by the committee. Each of these areas are those that the Administrative Faculty have a great deal of knowledge regarding and, in fact, actually are responsible to oversee these services provided to students. While I expect the teaching faculty would be most uncomfortable with us advising on activities within the classroom with which we have limited expertise we are equally uncomfortable with faculty advising in areas in which they have little expertise.

The reorganization of public higher education in is a complex and challenging undertaking that will take a number of years to complete successfully. We believe that the Regents need all input available in the decision making process as issues mentioned above are addressed as we all move forward. To that end

it is suggested that if legislation is necessary that the text be revised to read "two members of the Teaching Faculty and one member of the Administrative Faculty" to be elected to represent CSU. Similar language could be used for the Community Colleges. This language would replace the exclusionary language that "teaching" faculty creates in section (a) of SB42 and would ensure that the Regents have the benefit of receiving advice formally from all faculties on the campuses. Elections for this membership could be made by combined faculty Senates (CCSU, ECSU and WCSU) and the Administrative Faculty Senate and the Teaching Faculty Senate at Southern to achieve the uniformity of process that the authors of the bill seek. A similar process could be employed by the Community Colleges as well Charter Oak State College.

In order to make sure that the process of reorganization goes well for students as well as the State of Connecticut generally it is imperative that we bring all of our intellectual resources to bear on the issues that face Connecticut. The professional staff that provide students with direct services in academic, student service and administrative support areas should be a resource that the Board of Regents uses effectively in overseeing this enterprise.

Thank you.