



**CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**

February 24, 2014

Senator Bye, Representative Walker, and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Vijay Nair and I am president of the Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors (CSU-AAUP), which represents over 3,100 full-time and part-time faculty, librarians, coaches, and counselors at CSU. I am here to testify regarding Transform CSCU 2020.

Governor's Bill 30, *An Act Concerning the Board of Regents for Higher Education Infrastructure Act*, proposes to increase enrollments at the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities and prepare tomorrow's workforce. It includes a one-time revenue transfer of \$60 million to create a "President's Office Operating Fund" and proposes to increase capital funding by \$60 million for IT/smart classroom technology and the creation of a system-wide master plan.

While CSU-AAUP supports many of the goals of "Transform CSCU 2020," we are disappointed that funding for additional faculty and student support staff is not included in the bill. While the bill proposes to change CSUS 2020 to CSCU 2020, we believe **it is necessary to maintain the Community Colleges, Charter Oak, and Connecticut State Universities as distinct systems, respecting their distinct missions and identities.**

We share many of the goals of the Transform CSCU 2020, specifically its efforts to keep tuition low and increase funding for the Governor's Scholarship Program for our current students who are struggling to be able to afford a university education. These proposals will help our current students to complete their degree programs. Further, CSU-AAUP supports the concept of increasing enrollment at our institutions by recruiting students with some college credit to complete their degrees. However, such students who have been away from college for more than 18 months are likely to need additional support. Unfortunately, this plan does not provide funding for additional faculty and other personnel to serve not only an increased student population, but a student population with increased needs.

Our organization has been lobbying for funding for additional full-time faculty for CSU for over eleven years. Since 2003, the number of full-time faculty positions has remained relatively stable at around 1,400 while the number of part-time faculty has grown dramatically at CSU (from approximately 1250 part-time faculty in 2003 to nearly 1,750 in 2013). Adequate levels of full-time faculty are crucial to the functioning of the university. Further, having inadequate numbers of full-time faculty affects student retention, graduation rates, and workforce development. CSU

**needs a significant investment from the state to hire full-time faculty as was the case with UConn and Next Generation Connecticut last year.**

CSU-AAUP strongly supported the capital funding for “Connecticut State University System 2020.” We are thankful for the construction and renovations that have taken place on our campuses due to CSUS 2020. We hope that such necessary upgrading of the facilities of the four Connecticut State Universities will continue as promised by CSUS 2020. Further, the present proposal includes system-wide capital investments for IT and Smart Classroom Technology. We support this proposal, but caution that capital funds for the Connecticut State Universities, Community College System, and Charter Oak State College should remain distinct. We are all under the Board of Regents, but the Community Colleges, Charter Oak State College, and the Connecticut State Universities have distinct missions and identities and the legislature should be able to channel funding to these systems accordingly.