



University of Connecticut  
*Undergraduate Student Government*

HB 5494

Hon. Steve Cassano  
Hon. Roberta Willis  
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
Room 1800, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

The Honorable Steve Cassano and Roberta Willis,

There are thousands of undergraduate students on the Storrs campus alone, who are only represented by one trustee. It seems prudent to add at least one more undergraduate to the Board, to be a part of the decision-making process on the future of our university.

We need more diversity on our board, and that diversity will provide greater variation in input to the discussions they have and the decisions they make. When there are more ideas in the room, better decisions will be made with input from a constituency that is affected the most by their decisions.



The Board makes decisions every meeting about how to attract more students to our school, and how to make our school more prestigious. Let's make it so they don't have to speculate about how we feel about their initiatives by adding an additional student to the Board of Trustees. They make decisions about what they perceive as the best investment of my tuition, I want another student voice to be a part of that decision.

We have the opportunity, with an additional trustee, to have a stronger voice in telling the board what attracted us to UConn, and what were the best parts about our experience that we want to share with prospective students that come from an incredibly diverse background.

As members of the student body, we should have greater access to the decisions the Board makes, so that our money is used efficiently and spent in areas that will best fit the ever-changing needs of the university.

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

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Students bring a fresh, and valuable perspective. We are the single largest stakeholders in the future of the University of Connecticut. Shouldn't a group of 18,000 have more than one person speaking on their behalf? The 21 members on the Board are qualified. There's no doubt in my mind they have the best interests of the university at heart. They aren't students though, and it's difficult for any group of leaders – with many appointed by the Governor – to relate to exactly what goes on in a student's daily life.

It's important to have more students in the room. Not only because it's what we deserve with the fees we are paying, but because increased diversity in viewpoints will make our university better. There needs to be a fresh perspective, and clearer ideas from people who know personally how each decision affects our university experience. We have an incredible opportunity here today, to make a lasting change to benefit not only myself and the students with me today, but future Huskies in years to come. Thank you for giving us time to testify today.



*Presented in person by Adam Kuegler on 3/11/14*

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