



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY **Student Government Association**

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Appropriations Committee,

Honorable Chairs Representative Walker and Senator Bye, Honorable Vice Chairs Representatives Porter and Genga, and Senator Hartley, honorable Ranking Members Representative Ziobron and Senator Kane, and members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify on the state budget. My name is Wyatt Bosworth and I'm currently a sophomore political science major at Central Connecticut State University. I am also CCSU's representative to the Board of Regent's Student Advisory Committee, as well as a Senator on the Student Government Association.

For decades, this General Assembly has consistently reduced the portion of our system budget paid by the State. It's not our responsibility, it's not President Miller's responsibility, and it's not President Gray's responsibility, but ultimately the responsibility of the General Assembly to maintain the continued solvency of our system. More importantly, this must be done in a way that does not continue to place the financial burden of the state's fiscal mismanagement on our students, faculty, and administration. Our budget at CCSU has been so frequently and dramatically cut that the only area left to cut is academic affairs. According to the most recent budget reduction proposals by the university, cuts will be very damaging; \$6,523 from study abroad resources, a reduction of 5 math and English tutors, and \$11,500 from cuts for homeland security background checks for the Student Services Center. There will also be reductions in Academic Advisors' hours, as well as academic center hours, alongside the elimination of eTutoring.

Our institution has reached the breaking point. The only viable options going into the future for our system will be an 8 to 12% tuition increase or a 6 to 10% reduction in fulltime faculty; both of which would be devastating to the system as a whole.

Last year around this time, the legislature designated \$42 million in operating funds for an initiative titled "Transform 2020". Aside from its main mission to consolidate costs, one of the cornerstone objectives of Transform is to make college more accessible and affordable for our students. A year later, this same General Assembly is now considering an appropriation that will force a halt in our institutional and system wide progress toward a more affordable, accessible, and high quality system. Our institutional budget proposal, engendered by the harmful budget proposal made by Governor Malloy, is antithetical to our goals. The General Assembly must meet its duty to financially

support our system. We can no longer afford for the General Assembly to avoid its responsibility to us.

It has been a true honor to represent CCSU students both on campus and on the Board of Regents. I speak for myself and the students I represent when I say that we cannot, and will not, brook another tuition increase. We will not sit by and watch our academic resources disappear, while tuition has gone up 21% over the last five years. This is above all true while UCONN continues to receive preferential treatment from this General Assembly, and is able to spend \$3,000 more per student than our system.

Sincerely,

Wyatt Bosworth
SAC Representative, Board of Regents
CCSU Student Senator