

Written Testimony of

Joseph Sweet, Union Representative, Area #38
UCPEA, AFT Local #3695, AFL-CIO

RE: GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED FY 2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET

Appropriations Committee
February 24, 2015

Good evening Senators Bye and Winfield, Representatives Butler and Walker, and members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Joe Sweet and I am a Union Representative for UCPEA, American Federation of Teachers Local 3695, AFL-CIO, a labor union representing 1856 staff members at the University of Connecticut. I am speaking on behalf of the 54 members of my area that includes the Departments of Procurement Services, Accounts Payable, and Logistics Administration.

Restoring the University's funding is essential for ensuring that the departments in my area are able to implement long-term cost reduction strategies, continue to provide opportunities for CT Small and Minority Businesses, and strive to build productive partnerships that advance the strategic interests of the State. Procurement Services, Accounts Payable and Logistics Administration have achieved a number of long-term cost savings measures, such as reducing the cost of office supplies by \$1.1 million annually, reducing the costs of our computer and peripherals program by \$300,000 annually, working towards reducing the University's travel spend by 10-14%, and helping the University in-source more activities to avoid costly privatization. Our departments have assisted small and minority owned businesses develop more business opportunities at the University. Just today, we had implementation discussions with a Woman Owned Small Business so that we can make their catalog available online to the University community through our e-procurement system. In April, we expect the completion of an fMRI center at the Storrs campus that will make us one of the first universities in the country to have a Siemens Magnetom Prisma, one of the most technologically advanced scanners in the country that will enable the University to do cutting edge research in neuro-behavioral disorders and kinesiology. Procurement Services helped make that initiative possible through industry and market research, working with the University's project managers and researchers, and negotiating with Siemens to ensure that this technology would be not only within budget but below budget.

The departments in my area have a long-term focus in lowering costs and advancing the economic and research objectives of the State. Short-term focused cuts would jeopardize the long-term value created for the State by reducing my area's ability to conduct research, analyze operational data, and develop strategic plans. This is why we need a restoration of the University's funding to protect the long-term value that we will continue to create for the State. Thank you.