

Chairwomen Bartolomeo and Willis, Ranking Members Witkos and Betts, and Distinguished Members of the committee:

For the record, I'm John Board, Western Connecticut State University's Board of Regents Student Advisory Committee Member where I have the privilege of representing 6,000 students.

I'm here to testify favorably on SB166 – AN ACT PROHIBITING THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION FROM FUND-RAISING.

Over the last five years State funding for higher education has decreased by thirteen percent, forcing higher education institutions to turn to private funds and endowments. Currently, Western Connecticut has an endowment of roughly thirteen million dollars. – which over FY10 and FY11, increased by 19.2%.

Approving this bill is critical for several reasons:

1. Most states do not have a dual fundraising organization. With having a dual fundraising approach the competition for donors will be fiercer than ever. Additionally, there is already a struggle for donors already.
2. If Alumni move out of State, we more than likely loose them as donors because people tend to support their local community (and foundations)
3. The last thing we need at this point is for the Board of Regents to be distracted by fundraising
4. Also, if the *Board* does set up its own fundraising, how is it going to assure that funds are divided up among the seventeen institutions.

As a Senator in the Student Government Association, I had the opportunity to sit on the Student Philanthropy Committee – where Students help Students. We are currently in the process of set up several fundraisers, where we are attempting to raise money for scholarships for our fellow students. – We are approaching the business community, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni and members of the community to help contribute to this cause. Once again if the Board of Regents, is able to set up their own fund this could reduce our ability to succeed.

The Board of Regents needs to stay in the business of help students succeed, not helping to line the pockets of the System. During these difficult budget times we have the find ways to tighten the belt; while still providing the critical services for our students.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Western Connecticut State University Student Government Association's Point of View  
on Additional Bills:

The bills below are bills which the Student Government Association of Western Connecticut State University are willing to take a position on after consultation with the Student Government President. – If members have questions about these bills, ask away!

Bill Number:	Title:	For/Against:
SB393	AN ACT CONCERNING A CAP ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.	For
SB636	AN ACT CONCERNING AFFIRMATIVE CONSENT	For
HB5421	AN ACT PROHIBITING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM CHARGING A CONVENIENCE FEE FOR THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS IN MAKING A TUITION PAYMENT.	For
HB6117	AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF DIGITAL OPEN-SOURCE TEXTBOOKS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.	For
HB6695	AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO THE HIGHER EDUCATION STATUTES.	For