

Jimmy Dignoti Testimony
Eastern Connecticut State University

**Connecticut General Assembly Appropriations
Committee Budget Hearing**

Connecticut State Colleges and Universities

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James Dignoti

258 Longvue Drive

Wethersfield Connecticut, 06109

Junior at Eastern Connecticut State University

I am writing as a student at Eastern Connecticut State University in regards to the proposed budget cuts to the CSCU System. I am a Senator in the Eastern Connecticut State University Student Government Association. As a student who is actively involved in Student Government and also currently employed outside of school, I know what it is like to have to balance a budget. I know that there are always areas that need to be cut as the money is not always there to be spent. I also know what it is like to be a student in this system and how budget cuts would affect myself and my peers.

I chose Eastern because it is a small Liberal Arts college and is very affordable. I am a Political Science Major here at Eastern and I feel that I have gained a great deal of knowledge and have benefited as a Political Science Major from the Liberal Arts Curriculum here at Eastern. The small class sizes and the Low Percentage of Adjunct Faculty and High Percentage of Full Time Faculty have also been beneficial to my success here at Eastern. I feel that with a majority of the classes being taught by Full Time Faculty there are many benefits because most of these Professors are very committed to the University and the Liberal Arts atmosphere.

I am afraid that with these proposed budget cuts there would be many negative affects to this institution and students who go to this institution. I am afraid that the institution will have to resort to hiring more Adjuncts to teach the courses. I feel that this would be less beneficial to my education because Adjuncts are not necessarily going to be committed to the students and the Liberal Arts Curriculum at this college. The affordability aspect will also be affected, it appears to be inevitable that tuition increases will be necessary to be able to keep the same resources available to students. Tuition increase would really hurt a majority of the Students who come here who are already employed. I also fear that there are students who would no longer be able to afford to come here if the tuition is increased since many of them are a part of the Middle Class and just able to afford the tuition as it is now. I hope you take all of these notions into consideration when drawing up the budget.

Sincerely,

James Dignoti