



QUESTIONS FOR BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION NOMINEE

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BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ([CGS § 10A-1A](#))

- The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) consists of 21 members, 15 of whom are voting members.
- The governor appoints nine members to staggered, six-year terms. The top four legislative leaders each appoint one member to staggered, four-year terms. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of BOR's student advisory committee also serve as board members and are elected to one-year terms by the advisory committee.
- The commissioners of economic and community development, education, labor, and public health, as well as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of BOR's faculty advisory committee, are ex-officio, non-voting members of the board.
- BOR makes policies and rules for governing the Connecticut State University System, the community-technical college system, and Charter Oak State College and prepares a consolidated budget request for these constituent units, collectively known as the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU).
- For each institution in its jurisdiction, the board appoints and removes a chief executive, sets tuition and fees, and develops a mission statement, among other responsibilities. It also appoints the BOR president.



QUESTIONS

1. Before 2011, the state universities, community colleges, and Charter Oak State College were governed by separate boards, whereas now they are all governed by BOR. What efficiencies or improvements have resulted from this merger? Have any unintended consequences emerged in the years since the merger that merit correction? Please explain.
2. How has BOR maintained the distinct missions of the state universities, community colleges, and Charter Oak State College?
3. One of the merger's goals was to reduce administrative costs. However, according to data presented last year to the Appropriations Committee, system office expenditures increased by \$5.5 million from FY 10 to FY 15. What accounts for this increase? What steps has BOR taken to limit administrative costs?
4. The board's first two presidents resigned after serving for fewer than three years apiece. How has this turnover affected BOR's ability to govern the institutions it oversees? What steps has BOR taken to address these leadership changes?
5. In 2012, BOR approved a transfer and articulation plan to streamline student transfer requirements among CSCU institutions. The plan's timeline targeted completion for 2014. What progress has BOR made in implementing the plan? When do you expect to finish implementation?
6. Faculty members at the state universities have expressed concerns about the impact that certain BOR collective bargaining proposals would have on academic freedom and shared governance. What is your response to these concerns?
7. Currently, faculty members at the state universities and community colleges are represented by separate collective bargaining units. What impact, if any, does this have on BOR with respect to contract negotiations? Will BOR seek the consolidation of bargaining units in the future?
8. In December 2015, BOR repealed a policy that generally prohibited the state's community colleges (except for Naugatuck Valley Community College) from employing armed police officers. BOR approved a new policy that allows community colleges to employ armed officers if, among other things, the college's police department is designated as a "special police force" under state law. Why did BOR make this policy change?

9. Last week the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee held a public hearing on SB 25, which would allow BOR to establish a special police force at each community college. If the bill passes, for which community colleges do you anticipate BOR would establish a special police force?
10. Currently, fringe benefit costs for certain CSCU employees are billed to the state comptroller. The governor's proposed budget shifts responsibility for these costs to BOR. What are your thoughts on this proposal?
11. In 2014, the General Assembly appropriated \$6 million for the Go Back to Get Ahead Program (reduced to \$4.8 million by budget rescissions), which allows certain students who left college before earning a degree to enroll at a CSCU institution and take up to three free courses. How many students are expected to complete a degree as a result of the program? Will BOR seek to extend the program for additional years?
12. Demographic projections predict that the number of Connecticut high school graduates will decrease over the next ten years due to a declining school-age population. How will BOR address this projected enrollment challenge?

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