

The University of Connecticut Chapter of

AAUP

1875 Storrs Road
Storrs, Connecticut 06268
Campus Mail: AAUP, U-6028
WWW.UCONNAAUP.ORG
Telephone: (860) 487-0450
Fax: (860) 487-0341

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, INC.

February 15, 2017

Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building, RM 2700
Connecticut General Assembly
Hartford, CT 06106

Senators Formica and Osten, Representative Walker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Michael Bailey, Executive Director of the University of Connecticut American Association of University Professors (UConn-AAUP). UConn-AAUP is the collective bargaining agent of the 2300 faculty at the Storrs and Regional Campuses of UCONN.

I have been the Executive Director for three years now, and each of the three years I will have written to the Appropriations Committee concerning the Governor's proposed budget and his allocation to UCONN.

It is easy for me to list the facts and figures that make the University so important to the families that live in our communities. Such as 77% of UCONN's undergraduate student body are Connecticut residents. Or that 75% of UCONN's in-state graduates are employed and living in Connecticut.

It is easy to state what impact UCONN has on our business and economic growth. Such as UCONN generating more than 24,000 Connecticut jobs, or 1 out of 90 throughout the state. Or that business partners such as Pratt & Whitney, Comcast, Eversource, UTC and GE invested nearly \$100 million into UCONN and heavily recruited students for internships, which often led to full-time employment.

And it is easy to point out the innovations and solutions to major public health challenges that UCONN and UCONN Health researchers have made in the areas of cancer, heart disease, stroke, and obesity.

At the "heart" of all of this, is a group of dedicated faculty and researchers that teach our students and allow for their exploration and creativity through research. In order to attract and retain the most qualified faculty for our students, we must provide the facilities and support necessary for them to excel.

I realize the increased challenge that you face this year. But it comes at a time when another year of declining support will further harm students. There will be increases in tuition and fees, a slowing down in faculty hiring and difficulty in retaining good faculty, reductions in the number of courses that are offered – leading to increases in time-to-degrees, all leading to reduced access to higher education for our students.

I urge you to reverse this steady decline in state support to UCONN and re-invest in public higher education to the levels that will allow greater access and affordability for our Connecticut students – our leaders for the future.

Sincerely,

Michael Bailey
Executive Director
UConn-AAUP