



March 8, 2017

Testimony in Opposition of SB 971- An Act Concerning the Promotion of Transfer and Articulation Agreements

Members of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement:

Bill SB 971 – An Act Concerning the Promotion of Transfer and Articulation Agreements is very concerning for the University of Connecticut-American Association of University Professors (UConn-AAUP). It seems to be modeled after a 2011 attempt by the City University of New York (CUNY) Board of Trustees to assert control over the curriculum through an initiative called “Pathways”. The purpose of “Pathways” at CUNY was to ease transfer between the junior and senior colleges.

It appears the purpose of SB 971 is not only to ease the transfer between the independent institutions, the state colleges and universities, and UConn, but also to reduce the cost and time to a degree.

UConn-AAUP understands the challenges students face in attaining a college degree. It understands the value of a degree at different institutions. It appreciates the steps that the University of Connecticut has taken in addressing this situation with the articulation agreements that are presently in place.

It also understands, as did faculty at the CUNY system, a system whereby 30+ credits of a core curriculum as part of a course transfer program removes the professional expertise, individual qualifications and uniqueness that each faculty member brings to each and every course or lab. It prevents the right and the responsibility to decide the standards, courses and means of instruction without pressures from outside entities. It eliminates the concept of professional judgment, a pillar of institutions of higher education.

UConn-AAUP opposes SB 971.

Michael Bailey  
Executive Director  
UConn-AAUP