

Opposition to Proposed Senate Bill 596 – An Act Concerning the Definition of Managerial Employee

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Testimony

Opposition to Proposed **Senate Bill 596** – An Act Concerning the Definition of Managerial Employee

My name is Diana Rios, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Communication and El Instituto, President of the UConn Chapter of the American Association of University Professors and Council Member of the National AAUP.

The senate bill seeks to “clarify” or reclassify, reclassify faculty members as managerial employees. The responsibilities, duties, and obligations of faculty members include being scholars and researchers who teach, guide, and inspire new generations of students. Faculty have an array of duties that include generating and disseminating new knowledge that helps other faculty peers teach more creatively and powerfully; responsibilities and initiative to advance areas of specialization in the social sciences, humanities, arts, and across all disciplines.

Faculty are not managers; they are teachers and scholars. Throughout their career, faculty perform varying amounts of necessary service for the good of the university and for the good of the students, through work on committees, task forces, and strategic initiatives.

The proposed senate bill seeks to change the state’s public sector collective bargaining laws simply *to exempt faculty from collective bargaining*. Faculty in general are university employees who do not have the decision-making power and control of “managers”. With the exception of higher level faculty administrators (who are not in unions), faculty do not command staff.

Faculty are teachers and scholars who help students expand their minds, broaden their perspectives, and reach their dreams for the benefit of the state of Connecticut, the United States, and the world.

Faculty working conditions should continue to be protected by unions and collective bargaining.

Faculty working conditions are student learning conditions.

Faculty are not managers.

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****Senate****

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