

## Questions for Nominees to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

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### Board of Regents for Higher Education ([CGS § 10a-1a](#))

The Board of Regents for Higher Education (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 CSCU president.

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.

### Questions

1. What should BOR do to maintain the distinct missions of the state universities, community colleges, and Charter Oak State College?
2. Demographic projections predict that the number of Connecticut high school graduates will decrease over the next 10 years due to a declining school-age population. How should BOR address this projected enrollment challenge?

3. Last summer, the *Hartford Courant* reported that 74% of CSCU students find in-state jobs after graduation (“[Almost Three-Quarters of CSCU Grads Get Jobs In Connecticut](#),” July 31, 2016). What can BOR do to sustain this student retention?
4. Student loan debt has become increasingly burdensome for college graduates. What is your assessment of the amount of debt that CSCU students have? What steps can BOR take to mitigate student debt levels?
5. In 2012, BOR approved a transfer and articulation plan to streamline student transfer requirements among CSCU institutions. Do you believe BOR should work with UConn to establish a similar streamlined plan to allow student transfers between their two university systems?
6. Last year, the General Assembly passed a new law allowing the regional community-technical colleges to establish special police forces on their campuses with BOR approval ([PA 16-154](#)). BOR has since approved an application process for the colleges that want to establish these armed police forces. Do you have a position on the presence of armed police on community college campuses?
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? Should BOR seek the consolidation of bargaining units in the future?
8. Last year, the General Assembly passed a new law requiring all Connecticut colleges and universities to use an affirmative consent, or “yes means yes,” standard when determining whether sexual activity is consensual as part of their sexual assault policies ([PA 16-106](#)). What are your thoughts on this new policy and the campuses’ role as its enforcers?
9. The first two CSCU presidents resigned after serving fewer than three years apiece. What role should BOR have in helping to maintain the system’s current leadership stability?
10. BOR currently has two student members among its 15 voting members and 21 total members. If appointed to the board, how do you intend to work with the student members?

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