

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 under 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. How has BOR maintained the distinct missions of the state universities, community colleges, and Charter Oak State College?
2. The [National Center for Education Statistics](#) predicts that Connecticut's public school enrollment will decrease by approximately 12.2% between 2015 and 2027, which may

contribute to declining enrollment at state colleges and universities. Declining enrollment may result in reductions in tuition revenue. How will BOR address this projected enrollment challenge?

3. In January 2019, CSCU submitted a [public comment](#) outlining specific concerns regarding proposed changes to Title IX's rules for sexual harassment and sexual assault complaint procedures. Should they take effect, how do you anticipate these proposed regulations could impact the way CSCU institutions respond to such incidents? What are your thoughts on the proposed regulations?
4. A recent [update](#) on the Students First initiative reported that the consolidation of key administrative functions is underway. At a recent public hearing on SB 749 (which would require legislative approval for BOR to merge or close an institution), some testimony raised concerns that a centralized administrative office would not be able to understand the needs of the community that the college is serving. How will BOR work with the community-technical colleges to ensure that student and community needs are met?
5. 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?
6. The Hartford Courant recently [reported](#) on an economic impact study released by CSCU, which states that 76% of CSCU graduates work in Connecticut within nine months of graduation. What can BOR do to continue to retain graduates in the state and grow CSCU's economic impact on the state?
7. 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?
8. CSCU recently released the [Technology, Education, and Advanced Manufacturing \(TEAM\) Works Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan](#) to expand manufacturing training and education to meet workforce needs. The plan calls for a collaboration with stakeholders across industry, government, and education to increase program capacity and reduce program costs. How has BOR marketed this initiative to attract students? How will BOR measure the success of this plan?

9. Recently, the BOR finance committee was presented with potential [tuition plans](#) focused on increasing enrollment and timely degree completion, including free and reduced-tuition models. There are also several bills currently being considered regarding free college programs, including SB 273, which would enable recent Connecticut high school graduates to graduate debt-free from a regional community-technical college. What are your thoughts on these proposals? Are there other tuition models you think the state should explore?

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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