

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6402

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION.

Vote Date: 3/22/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/4/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

To conduct a study of public higher education.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

[Catherine Babbitt, Associate Professor of English, GCC:](#)

Submitted written testimony discussing the "dire need for developmental courses." Ms. Babbitt describes three "strikes" to student academics that result in long-term negative consequences – lower-level student intimidation by being lumped in with higher-level students; overwhelming workload; and financial aid repercussions for grades of C- or lower. She shares stories of student success and explains the need and benefits of creating a trusting learning environment.

Additional Testimony:

Community college professors submitted written testimony with substitute language calling for "a study concerning the efficacy of the Board of Regents (BOR) for Higher Education and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system of governance from its inception in 2011 to the present with a particular emphasis on the consolidation plan referred to as 'Students First,' which was initiated in 2017." They provide the framework for how that study should be conducted.

Lauren Doninger, EdD, LADC, LPC, Professor of Psychology and Faculty Chair of Faculty/Staff Council, GCC

Stephen Adair, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, CCSU

Francis M, Coan, Ph.D., Professor of History, TCC

Meghan Finley, PhD, Associate Professor of Sociology, MCC

Seth Freeman, Professor of Computer Information Systems, CCC

Elizabeth Keefe, Associate Professor of English, GCC

Diba Khan-Bureau, Ph.D., Professor of Environmental Engineering Technology, TRCC

Lillian Maisfeht, MLIS Reference & Instruction Librarian, Information Literacy Coordinator, and Staff Chair of Faculty/Staff Council, GCC

Eric Maroney, Professor of English, GCC

Bridget Mullally, Coordinator of First-Year Studies Student Services, GCC

Eileen M Russo, MA, LADC, Professor and Program Coordinator of the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Program, GCC

Colena Sesanker, PhD, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, GCC, Chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the BOR

Carmen Yiamouyiannis, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, CCC

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed.

Reported by: Jeremy Salyer

Date: 04/01/2021