Inequality was on the top of many agendas Feb. 10, 2016, as CSU-AAUP held their Summit on Inequality and the Crisis of Public Higher Education in CCSU’s Constitution Room in Memorial Hall. Standing-room-only crowds gathered to listen to expert panelists, legislators, community leaders and advocates launch important conversations on the dire situation in public higher education. Keynote speaker Bill Fletcher, Jr. inspired the crowd with his call to action against endemic inequality that plagues higher education today. Representative students from the four CSUs shared their stories of coming to CSU, their struggles to afford college or to balance school, work and family. Summit panelist Philip Trostel from the University of Maine shared his research on how investment in public higher education pays off in the long run. Click here to see Dr. Trostel’s Powerpoint.

Join CSU-AAUP, other SEBAC unions, and community organizations that make up the DUE Justice coalition on April 4, 2016, as we hold politicians accountable and rate their commitment to the people of Connecticut on these five critical issues:

- Good Jobs and Fair Wages
- Universal Access to Quality Public Education, Preschool to Graduate School
- A Vibrant and Fairly Funded Public Sector
- Racial, Gender, and Ethnic Justice
- Democracy in Our State and in Our Work Places

Letters exchanged between the Department of Labor and SEBAC Chief Negotiator Dan Livingston hit the press recently amid calls by Governor Malloy and the legislature to bring unions back to the table and reopen the 2011 SEBAC Agreement that laid out retirement and health care benefits for state employees. These included meetings with Sen. Beth Bye, chair of the Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Kevin Wiltsie, ranking member of the Higher Education Committee. To see photos from Lobby Day, please click here.

Facing dire budget forecasts, threats of furlough days and calls for reopening up the SEBAC agreement, CSU-AUAP members and CSU students gathered for a Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day March 8, 2016, at the Capitol to build relationships and garner support for quality public higher education. CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapa welcomed guests and speakers, and thanked CSU faculty who had participated in legislative task forces on Outcomes Based Financing, Open Source Textbooks, SARA, and others. BOR President Mark Cytkin gave opening remarks. Rep. Matt Lesser and Rep. Robyn Porter pledged to support quality public higher education for Connecticut. Nearly every CSU-AAUP member who came to Lobby Day attended a pre-arranged meeting with his/her legislators and/or staff. These included meetings with Sen. Beth Bye, chair of the Appropriations Committee, and Sen. Kevin Wiltsie, ranking member of the Higher Education Committee. To see photos from Lobby Day, please click here.

The Second Annual Conference on Shared Governance is being held April 8 at Housatonic Community College in Bridgeport from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Organized by the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education, Dr. Thomas Bailey of Columbia University will be the event’s keynote speaker. To register, please click here. The Spring Dinner and Meeting of the Connecticut State Conference of the AAUP will be the evening of May 12 at the Yale Graduate Club in New Haven. Registration details will be coming soon.

While attending a rally or march is a great way to show solidarity, there are some great things you can do on your own to make the faculty voice heard loud and clear.

- Find your legislator and write a letter telling why public higher education should be supported.
- Visit CT-HigherEdMatters.org and open the Take Action page for links to key legislative and policy leaders in our state. Let them know what the reality is for CSU students and faculty—who make up the heart and soul of the university system.

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