



Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 6, Issue 1 | Feb. 22, 2016

Higher Education Committee Hears New SARA Bill:

New legislation that would require Connecticut to join in SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) for distance learning programs was raised Feb. 18, 2016, during a public hearing of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. The bill, which was not passed last year, is [HB 5071](#). Board of Regents President Mark Ojakian testified on the bill, calling for the committee and stakeholders to take a more critical look at the pros and cons of SARA as the session continues. [Click here to see all testimony](#) given at the hearing regarding SARA legislation.

CSU-AAUP union leaders and faculty members from the four CSUs are scheduled to meet with the Higher Education Committee Co-Chairs to discuss SARA and share thoughts and concerns regarding the proposal from the CSU faculty's perspective.

The next Higher Education Committee hearing is scheduled for Feb. 25, 2016, at 12:30 p.m. [Click here to see an agenda.](#)

CSU-AAUP Members Testify:

Facing another austere state [budget](#) from Governor Dannel Malloy and calls for millions of [dollars in cuts to all state agencies](#), CSU-AAUP members and CSU students valiantly took to the Capitol Feb. 10 to [testify in front of the Appropriations Committee](#) on why an investment in public higher education pays off for the state. Members and students drew thoughtful questions from the committee and were thanked by Committee Chair Sen. Beth Bye for their service to the people of Connecticut. [Click here to see the testimony on CT-N.](#) [William Faraclas is at 6:40.](#)



Join CSU-AAUP For Lobby Day March 8:

Given current budget woes facing Connecticut, it is important now more than ever to build support for public higher education. CSU-AAUP members are holding a Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day to let lawmakers know that an investment in public higher education pays off. **Join faculty and students March 8, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Old Appropriations Room of the Capitol. Come for an hour or stay the whole morning.** After breakfast, members will meet with legislators and their staff to share information on why quality public higher education is something that deserves support. CSU-AAUP lobbyists will also be on hand. **Please join us! Email Michelle Malinowski at malinowskim@ccsu.edu to attend.**

Bills: Week of 2/21

To see a full list of bills being heard by the Higher Education Committee, [click here](#). Following are some bills CSU-AAUP is watching this session:

[HB 5071](#) An Act Requiring Connecticut to Participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Program.

[SB 147](#) An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status With the Cost of College

What are the hot topics at the Capitol?

From the [Office of Legislative Research](#):

1. 2015 Achievement Gap Data.
2. Teenage Sexting Laws.
3. Connecticut Penal Code– Updated and Revised
4. Private Child Placing Agencies

Have a question? [Get the answer!](#)

Call (860) 832-3793 or email us at newberge@ccsu.edu