



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 6, Issue 2 | March 17, 2016

AAUP Members Meet With Higher Ed Committee:

New legislation that would require Connecticut to join in SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) for distance learning programs was passed out of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee recently. CSU-AAUP union leaders and faculty members from the four CSUs met with the Higher Education Committee Co-Chairs to discuss concerns surrounding [HB 5071](#). As a result of that meeting, the co-chairs accepted language that preserves the right of Connecticut residents and the Attorney General to pursue claims against distance learning providers in Connecticut courts. The bill has the votes to move quickly and is likely to pass.

CSU-AAUP Holds Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day:

Facing millions of [threats of furlough days and calls for opening up the SEBAC agreement](#), CSU-AAUP members and CSU students gathered for a

Legislative Breakfast and Lobby Day March 8, 2016, to build relationships and garner support of quality public higher education. CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia 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 Ojakian gave opening remarks and likened his role to that of a new father. Rep. Matt Lesser and Rep. Robyn Porter also 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 Witkos, ranking member of the Higher Education Committee.



[To see more photos from Lobby Day, please click here.](#)

Bills Voted Out Of Higher Ed Committee:

For the current list of bills passed out of the Higher Education Committee, [click here](#). If you wish to write your legislator to relay your concerns about funding for public higher education, [click here](#). You can also take action by visiting the [CT-HigherEdMatters.org](#) website.

Governor Lists Recissions

[Calling for massive cuts in state government](#) services, Governor Malloy has issues a list of recissions. He is seeking more than \$1.6 millino from CSU. [Click here to see a copy of that list](#). To contact your legislators about funding concerns, [click here](#) or visit [CT-HigherEdMatters.org](#).

Bills: Week of 3/14

To see a full list of bills being heard by the Higher Education Committee, [click here](#).

To read testimony submitted on [HB 5071](#) An Act Requiring Connecticut to Participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Regarding Distance Learning Program, [click here](#).

To read testimony on [SB 147](#) An Act Assisting Students Without Legal Immigration Status With the Cost of College, [click here](#).

What are the hot topics at the Capitol?

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

1. Local Taxes on Leased Cars.
2. Home Energy Improvement and Assistance Program.
3. Connecticut Penal Code– Updated and Revised
4. The Tip Credit