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Capitol Monitor

A Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 7, Issue 2 | Jan. 17, 2017

**Stand up for
Higher Ed! Join
us Jan. 26 at the
Day of Action:**

In this time of [attacks on professors](#), continued [cuts to public education](#) and the influence of special interests making their way onto [college campuses](#), the three public higher education unions in Connecticut are joining forces Jan. 26 at the state capitol to defend public higher education. We will call on lawmakers to reinvest in the young people of Connecticut who are our state's future and support a public higher education system that is accessible, affordable and operates with excellence. **Join us for all or part of the day** and hear from expert panelists, students, lobby your legislators, and see a special screening of [Starving the Beast](#), a new documentary by Steve Mims on the chronic defunding and corporatization of public higher education in our country. **Free buses will take you and your students to and from Hartford. Bus schedules will be emailed to members soon.** [Click here for the day's agenda.](#)

Email [Liz Newberg](#) to register.

**Vote slated for
SEBAC pension
agreement:**

The Senate has scheduled a Feb. 1 vote on a recent deal brokered between the Office of Policy and Management and SEBAC leaders that restructures the pension fund. The deal, which all CSU-AAUP members were informed of in December, reduces the state's required pension contributions by stretching payments beyond 2032 to 2046 and avoids a burgeoning payment in 2032 of more than \$6 billion—or 30 percent of the state's total operating budget.*

The state's current contribution to the pension fund is already \$1.5 billion. The new agreement increases the payment to at most \$2.3 billion, a move that has been viewed favorably by administration, labor and business leaders. The agreement does not change benefits members currently receive. **

This vote comes as no surprise as Republican legislators have introduced bills this session that would require the legislature to vote on all labor contracts. Currently, a collective bargaining agreement is passed if no action is taken on it within 30 days of it being sent to the legislature. Contracts rarely have been called for a vote. This session, however, Republicans are likely to use their new power-sharing agreement in an evenly split Senate to require votes on all labor contracts.

*Source: ALF-CIO *The Worker Bee*

**Source: *Connecticut News Junkie*, [General Assembly Will Vote On Pension Deal](#), January 11, 2017

Important Dates:

Important Appropriations Committee deadlines for the 2017 Legislative Session:

- **Jan. 24:** 10 a.m. Room 2E Public Hearing and Committee Meeting on the SEBAC Pension Agreement
- **Feb. 9:** Office of Policy and Management briefing on the Governor's Proposed Budget.
- **Feb. 14-Feb.24:** Agency Budget Presentations and Public Hearings on the Governor's Proposed Budget.
- **Feb. 15:** Committee Bill and Raised Bill Deadlines
- **April 27:** Joint Favorable Deadline

**The Major Issues
of 2017:**

Every year, legislative leaders ask the Office of Legislative Research (OLR) to identify and provide brief descriptions of important issues that the General Assembly may face in the upcoming session. This report represents the professional, nonpartisan views of staff in OLR, the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA), and the Legislative Commissioners' Office (LCO) on possible upcoming legislative issues. * To read the report, [click here.](#)

*Source OLR Major Issues Report

Have a question? Get the answer! Call (860) 832-3793 or email us at newberge@ccsu.edu