



**CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 10, 2017

CONTACT: Liz Newberg, CSU-AAUP
860-881-0805

CSU Faculty, Staff, Students Protest Board of Regents Meeting Thursday
On the heels of 17 Town Halls, CSU-AAUP has little faith in BOR's consolidation plan

NEW BRITAIN – Connecticut State University faculty and staff, outraged over a surprise plan to consolidate their colleges and universities, are staging a protest at Thursday's Board of Regents meeting.

With little to no involvement from faculty at the 12 community colleges and four Connecticut State Universities, BOR President Mark Ojakian's consolidation plan claims to save the system \$41 million but offers no hard data or details about the steps that would lead to such savings.

WHO: Faculty, staff, and students from the state's 12 community colleges and four state universities.

WHAT: A protest at the Board of Regents meeting against BOR President Mark Ojakian's consolidation plan.

WHERE: CSCU administration offices at 61 Woodland St., Hartford

WHEN: Thursday, May 11, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m.

WHY: Because CSU-AAUP members and CSU students consider President Ojakian's consolidation plan an egregious affront to Shared Governance, which is a hallmark of quality higher education.

"The plan uses austerity measures that will detract from quality programs rather than actively investing in the public higher education institutions that are educating the future leaders of our state," said Louise Williams, history professor at CCSU and the CCSU-AAUP chapter president. "The plan also fails to protect the unique missions of each of the 12 community colleges and the four regional Connecticut State Universities."

Here are some facts facing Connecticut public higher education:

- State funding cut by nearly 30 percent in the last 10 years;
- Since FY 1992 to 2012 the CSU system suffered a 55.8 percent decline in funding;
- Average CSU tuition has increased by 69 percent from 2004 to 2013.

###