



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

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BIG, FAT F! CSU Faculty Give Legislators Failing Grade on Budget

Faculty, students, speak out on legislature's draconian budget, cuts to public higher education

HARTFORD – Reeling from the legislature's budget that puts public higher education squarely on the chopping block, CSU faculty, staff, and students will speak out Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2017, at a press conference in Room 1A of the Legislative Office Building in Hartford to say enough is enough.

After the press conference, faculty dressed in full academic regalia and their students will deliver “report cards” to lawmakers who voted for a budget that attacks public higher education and denies Connecticut students access to the affordable, quality public higher education they deserve.

WHO: Faculty, staff, and students from the state's CSCU system.

WHAT: Press Conference on the 'Failing' Budget and Report Card Delivery to Legislators

WHERE: Legislative Office Building, Room 1A, 300 Capitol Ave., Hartford

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 11 a.m.

WHY: Because austerity is not the answer. When legislators fail to invest in public higher education, they fail the young people of Conn. and put the future of our state at risk.

The CSCU system has already taken a reduction of \$66 million over the last 2-3 years. The proposed state budget would cut approximately \$93 million more. Such underfunding makes a tuition rise inevitable.

Meanwhile, this budget would eliminate the Roberta Willis Scholarship Fund, which many CSU students depend on – despite working multiple jobs - to afford tuition. To give context to the situation: the maximum Pell grant is \$5,920 for the academic year. In-state undergraduate tuition plus fees at the CSUs this year is \$10,538, not including room and board that ranges from \$6,200 to \$8,300. These are significant amounts considering many CSU students qualify for SNAP and depend on food pantries to make ends meet.

“Public higher education is an economic driver of our state and is responsible for building the workforce that today's companies demand,” said CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia. “The continued decline in funding today will lead to a decline in achievement, ingenuity, entrepreneurship and leadership tomorrow. And that puts Connecticut at risk of being left behind.”

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