In On Fiscal Legislature Takes To Approps Opening Day:

The General Assembly convened the 2018 legislative session on Feb. 7, starting a 12-week period that will see legislators proposing new public policy and considering adjustments to Connecticut’s current budget deficit. The opening day of the session was filled with speeches and announcements of what’s to come. Among other things, Ned Lamont, Sen. Beth Bye, Rep. Gail Lavielle, Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate and Selectman of Trumbull and nominee for State Treasurer in 2014, is a graduate of Trinity College and the son of school teachers. He understands what our students go through. He told the group that he is still paying off his student loans but he will not support that tax for public higher education.

CSU-AAUP members were present on the first day of the session and they will be on hand for the next two months of the legislative session. The group engaged GOP gubernatorial candidate Tim Herbst in a discussion on free tuition for the state’s public colleges and universities. Herbst, who is a former First Sergeant of the Franklin-floor-01-staff for State Treasurer in 2018, is a graduate of Trinity College and the son of school teachers. He understands what our students go through. He told the group that he is still paying off his student loans but he will not support that tax for public higher education.

In the absence of the State Appropriations Chair before a joint session of the General Assembly, Governor Malloy did not focus on the Connecticut’s budget challenges. Instead, he delivered a speech about the state’s need for increased public higher education and asked legislators for their support. The Governor’s speech was a welcome surprise, as many had feared that he would not address the budget issue. However, he did not provide any specific proposals or solutions.

The Governor’s speech was well-received in both the House and Senate. Members of both chambers expressed support for the Governor’s goals of increasing public higher education funding. They praised the Governor for his efforts to address the state’s budget challenge and called for bipartisan cooperation to find solutions to the state’s financial difficulties.

CSU-AAUP Testifies at Appropriations

CSU-AAUP Takes To Capitol On Higher Education Consolidation Bill:

CSU-AAUP Testifies at Appropriations

The place to be at the state legislature on Feb. 15 was the Appropriations Higher Education Committee hearing. CSU-AAUP members from all four CSU campuses and their student affiliate members were in attendance. Public higher education is facing serious budget challenges. Governor Malloy unveiled his FY 2019 budget adjustment proposal two days before session convened. He urged legislators to take politically difficult steps to close the deficit. Governor Malloy’s speech was well-received in both the House and Senate. Members of both chambers expressed support for the Governor’s goals of increasing public higher education funding. They praised the Governor for his efforts to address the state’s budget challenge and called for bipartisan cooperation to find solutions to the state’s financial difficulties.

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A little secret buried in the budget passed in October 2017 is the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth. This task force is top heavy with right wing business interests and excludes the voices of ordinary Connecticut citizens. The Governor’s budget challenges. Instead, he delivered a speech about the state’s need for increased public higher education and asked legislators for their support. The Governor’s speech was a welcome surprise, as many had feared that he would not address the budget issue. However, he did not provide any specific proposals or solutions.

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