



### President's Message:

April ends with some astounding news. On April 24, NEASC informed Pres. Mark Ojakian that the BOR's proposed substantive change for accreditation simply would not fly. Rather, NEASC said that the "Community College of Connecticut" would be a new institution and, thus, would need to "go through established [...] processes to become a candidate for accreditation" and then, to apply for accreditation.

Since last April, when the consolidation plan was first announced, CSU-AAUP members were involved in working groups, where, frankly, it wasn't always clear that our views and ideas were being heard in a way that we like to call "shared governance."

CSU-AAUP also worked over the entire year with the leaders and members from the 4Cs, SUOAF, and AFT monitoring and troubleshooting the "progress" on the Students First [sic] plan. It was the view of CSU-AAUP that there was never enough evidence that SF could achieve savings, and – in the meantime – the plan could wreak much havoc on students' lives.



Above, CSU-AAUP members protest the community college consolidation plan at a May 2017 Board of Regents meeting.

The NEASC decision validates our concerns. Although now we will hear the words "cuts, closures, and tuition hikes," let's remember and encourage others to see that there are other ways to make our colleges and universities thrive. As we've been saying for some time now: Let's push for greater investment in public higher education; let's work to pass legislation like Free2Start Free2Finish, but see that it would include not only the community colleges but also the CSUs. The BOR should listen to the ideas that the community college leaders and community members have for ways to help our institutions thrive.

In other news, after five long years of fighting for it, the Connecticut Students for a Dream (C4D), will be eligible to apply for institutional financial aid. Their bill passed on April 25 in the House of Representatives in a 91-59 vote and Gov. Malloy signed it into law on April 27. In these five years, CSU-AAUP and many of our members have attended events for the very well-organized campaign that C4D has put on. Your colleagues have given testimony, chanted at rallies, and stood with C4D. C4D has also stood with us. CSU-AAUP congratulates the Dreamers and commends their very deserved and long overdue win!

Our current hurdle is JANUS- proofing our union, which you can read about in this issue. For now, I hope everyone has a successful finish to the semester and a productive summer.

Elena Tapia

### Stand Up For Your Union Rights:

So who's behind The Janus vs. AFSCME Council 31 case – a case that stands to decimate unions in this country and was heard by the United States Supreme Court on Feb. 26? Ultra-wealthy corporate elites and special interest groups aiming to take away your democratic rights to collectively bargain for a fair contract. Remember what happened in the last CSU-AAUP contract negotiations? It was ugly. Now imagine negotiating against those terms with no union support. The Janus case could weaken union protections for CSU-AAUP members and millions of other working and middle class people in our country. That would mean a certain ruin for quality public higher education in our state.

Make no mistake, this case is a way to rig the rules of our economy and workforce by taking away your freedom to join together as a union. **This is why we want you to recommit to your membership in CSU-AAUP before the end of the semester.** Please [click here to join or recommit](#) to CSU-AAUP. Click [here](#) to read the Amicus Brief filed by national AAUP in partnership with the National Education Association.

The Janus case seeks to reduce our power not only to ensure a living wage, but to protect our professions, institutions, academic freedoms, and our students' educations. [This is why we need you to recommit as a member in CSU-AAUP.](#) Doing so will mean we can build greater strength to ensure CSU-AAUP continues to successfully negotiate and protect our contract, salaries, academic freedom, pension, and healthcare.

Only by all of us joining together in a union can we have the power to uphold the educational standards our students deserve. [Please click here to recommit to protecting your right to collective bargaining and to defending quality public higher education.](#) A decision by the court is expected by June.

### CSU-AAUP Supports Dreamers:

With the passage of SB 4, a bill that allows access to institutional financial aid regardless of immigration status, Connecticut Students For A Dream have finally achieved their goal of equal access to institutional financial aid. But it was a long time coming and CSU-AAUP has been with them, standing shoulder to shoulder, along the way. Most recently, faculty Advisory Committee Chair and CSU-AAUP Dr. William Lugo spoke at a press conference April 17 organized by C4D to urge the legislature to call SB4 for a vote on the Senate and House floors. [Visit the CSU-AAUP Facebook page to hear Dr. Lugo](#) give his statement of support in that press conference. You can also see testimony from CSU-AAUP members in support of equal access to institutional financial aid [here](#).

### FAC Holds Shared Governance Conference:

The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents for Higher Education presented the 4th annual *FAC Conference on Student Success and Shared Governance* on April 13 at Southern Connecticut State University. The conference theme "Preserving Access, Building Lives, Creating Justice," emphasized the role of public higher education in supporting social justice. Breakout sessions related to this theme included panel discussions, roundtable discussions, and workshops.



Above from left, Gateway Community College professor Roberta Prior moderates a CSCU student and alumni panel during the conference.

Keynote speakers were Mark Huelsman, a higher education policy analyst with Demos specializing in access issues, such as college affordability, student debt, financial aid, and state investment in higher education. The second keynoter was Khizr Khan, a Gold Star parent and author of "An American Family: A Memoir of Hope and Sacrifice," which according to one critic "matters because Americans need to listen hard to one another, especially as questions of inequality have gained renewed visibility." Rounding out the conference was a stirring student panel and an open discussion with members of the BOR.



Above, Khizr Khan, a constitutional rights advocate, a Gold Star parent, and international lawyer speaking at the FAC conference.

### CSU-AAUP Members Lobby State Legislators:

Clad in red CSU-AAUP t-shirts and holding #ThriveTogether and Invest in Higher Ed signs, faculty, staff, and students from CSU-AAUP, 4Cs, and UConn-AAUP joined together for the second annual Lobby Day for Public Higher Education at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.

The lively event saw more than 40 legislators and their staff stop by for information and to talk with members and students. The group heard comments from students, union leaders, and key legislators, including the Public Higher Education Committee Chairs Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Gregg Haddad, Labor Committee Chair Rep. Robyn Porter, and Higher Education Committee Ranking Member Rep. Pam Staneski.



CSU-AAUP members from across the state came together for Lobby Day 2018. From left: Kathleen Skoczen; CSU-AAUP President Elena Tapia; Stephen Monroe Tomczak; and David Stoloff.

Students spoke about why public higher education matters to them.

Later in the day, a group of SCSU faculty and students met with Rep. Tony Walker – chair of the powerful Appropriations Committee and an SCSU graduate – and Rep. Porter.

Other students live-streamed parts of the event on CSU-AAUP's Facebook and Twitter feeds so that members who were unable to attend could still hear and see what was happening.

The New Britain legislative contingent met with faculty from CCSU and New Britain in the House Gallery while the House was in session.

Later that day, Rep. Peter Tercyak publicly recognized a group of CSU-AAUP members, staff, and students on the House Floor. He and other legislators applauded the group and thanked them for their efforts in the Capitol advocating for quality public higher education.

To see more of the event, please visit the CSU-AAUP [Facebook page](#) or check out our [Flickr page](#).



Above, SCSU students advocate for quality public higher education at CSU-AAUP's Higher Education Lobby Day.

### CSC-AAUP Holds Annual Meeting:

The Connecticut State Conference AAUP invites CSU-AAUP members to their annual Spring Meeting May 10 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at The Social Media Club, 155 Elm St., New Haven. This year's theme will be "The Impact of Graduate Education on Academic Freedom" with special guests Dr. Johnny E. Williams of Trinity College and Dr. Hank Reichman, AAUP First VP and AAUP Committee A Chair.

Registration and cash bar will begin at 5 p.m. with dinner being served at 6 p.m. Keynote speakers will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by a question and answer period.

The cost of attendance for CSU-AAUP members is being paid for by CSU-AAUP and your local AAUP chapter. Please contact your AAUP chapter staff person to register for the CSC-AAUP meeting and dinner by May 6.

### Join AAUP In NH For The 2018 Summer Institute

Have you made your plans for the summer? Spend a few days in July with AAUP in Durham, NH, at the University of New Hampshire for the AAUP Summer Institute.

If we have learned anything from this year's upsurge in activism—from the dedicated teachers going on strike across the country to the courageous students occupying the administrative offices of Howard University—it's that when we organize together, we can and will win a better future for our students, our institutions, and our communities.

There has never been a better time to equip ourselves with the tools we need to stand up for AAUP principles and the role of higher education in our democracy. And there is no place more fun to build your skills, meet other academic activists, and recharge your batteries than the AAUP/AAUP-CBC Summer Institute.

This year's program runs July 19–22. Featuring trainers experienced in policy, strategy, organizing, and leadership, our workshops at this year's summer institute will give you all the skills and tools you need to build a powerful voice on your campus.

[View the complete program](#) and reserve your spot now for the 2018 Summer Institute!

Warm regards,  
Christopher Simeone AAUP Director of Organizing and Services

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