



Legislature Passes Budget Right On Time:

Unlike the 2017 legislative session when the General Assembly frightfully failed to produce a budget until just before Halloween, the legislature managed to pass a bipartisan budget hours before adjourning the legislative session on May 9. The budget adjustment bill passed the Senate unanimously and passed the House with a vote of 142-8.

The budget was signed into law by Governor Malloy on May 15. However, the Connecticut State Universities saw a nearly \$4 million cut in this budget.

Republicans took the opportunity during budget negotiations to add proposals from The Commission on Fiscal Stability that would take away your democratic right to collectively bargain for your pension and healthcare. This was not in the final bill. However, many recommendations like that will come back next session, including a stop to cost-of-living adjustments to pensions for retirees. Democratic leaders in the General Assembly stood by Connecticut's working and middle classes and rejected Republican proposals that would take away your rights and restrict your opportunities to build a better life for you and your family.

A preliminary analysis of budget adjustments from the AFL-CIO can be found here.

Take A Look At Some Wins And Losses This Session:

From free tuition to a \$15 minimum wage, a number of progressive pieces of legislation were introduced this session. However, not many made it to the Governor's desk. The Equal Pay Bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor, as was a bill granting institutional financial aid for Dreamers. The Free2Start, Free2Finish bill, which CSU-AAUP leadership and members supported and testified in favor for, made it out of the Higher Education Committee but died in Appropriations.

On the heels of a resounding NO to the Board of Regents' consolidation plans, and the following threats of closure and tuition hikes from CSCU President Mark Ojakian, a new amendment to SB 214 An Act Concerning Community College Consolidation was introduced by Higher Education Chairs Sen. Beth Bye and Rep. Gregg Haddad that would have curtailed the Board's ability to close campuses. In the wake of the debacle that has been Students First, Amendment LCO 5623 would have increased legislative oversight to the Board of Regents and required the BOR develop criteria to be used in any decision to close an institution or campus within the CSCU system.

The BOR also would have been required to hold one or more public hearings to receive comment on these criteria. The amendment would have put in place other constraints to prohibit the BOR from making arbitrary decisions behind closed doors. This bill and the related amendment died on the Senate floor.

Click here for a look at some of the session's biggest legislative wins and losses.

Stay Union Strong This Summer:

Attacks on democratic collective bargaining rights are being waged across the country and right here in Connecticut. This is why it is essential to sign your support for CSU-AAUP.

Doing so will help to keep your union strong and also help to protect the academic freedom you enjoy. If you haven't done so already, please click here and sign on as a CSU-AAUP member or recommit your membership.

#ThriveTogether #UnionStrong
