

*Update on Connecticut's
Economy and the State
Budget*

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Dates to Remember

- 2/1:** Provost takes required action and informs professional assessment candidates of his/her decision; DEC chairs inform first year renewal candidates (August hires) in writing of the evaluation process
- 2/4:** Governor Rell to release the state budget
- 2/10:** First year renewal candidates (August hires) submit relevant materials for consideration to DEC's
- 2/20:** DEC submits evaluations and appropriate recommendations of first year renewal candidates (August hires) to the Dean
- 2/25:** Dean submits recommendations of first year renewal candidates (August hires)
- 2/27:** Provost takes required action and informs first year renewal candidates (August hires) of his/her decision; DEC receives and reviews records and notifies second year or later renewal candidates (August hires) that they must be evaluated
- 3/5:** University-wide Promotion and Tenure Committee submits recommendations for penultimate year tenure candidates (August hires) and promotion candidates to the Provost
- 3/13:** DEC submits evaluations and appropriate recommendations of second year or later renewal candidates (August hires) to the Dean
- 3/18:** CSU-AAUP/SUOAF-AFSCME Lobby Day

Union News

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The **Adjunct Advocate** is a bimonthly magazine featuring articles that pertain to part-time faculty. To read the magazine online at www.adjunctnation.com, please contact your local AAUP office for the username and password.

View the CSU-AAUP Annual Report online at www.ccsu.edu/aaup/csu under "Documents." If you would prefer a printed report, please contact Ellen Benson at (860) 832-3793 or bensonell@ccsu.edu

Update on Connecticut's Economy & the State Budget

As of publication, the projected deficit for the current fiscal year, which ends on June 30, 2009 is estimated to be \$1 billion. There is estimated to be \$3 billion deficit for next year (the first year of the biennium) and another \$3 billion for the second year of the biennium. In other words the state is estimated to be short \$6 billion dollars of a \$18 billion budget over the next two years. That is a gap that the legislature cannot cut or tax itself out of; it must utilize a combination of both. For example, if the state were to enact a progressive income tax (those who make over \$200,000 would be taxed at a higher rate), raise sales tax by one percent, increase the alcohol and tobacco taxes, close some corporate tax loopholes, the state would still need to produce about another \$5 billion in cuts.

Governor Rell will present her budget on February 4. She has repeatedly stated that she will not raise taxes in her budget, but there have been rumors that she may be exploring some increases. There have also been rumors that the Governor may not be allocating the budgets for the higher education institutions, CSUS included, in block grants. When money is distributed in block grants, the Governor or General Assembly does not have a say in how the funds are divided. Chancellor Carter has the ultimate authority to decide how much money is spent for instruction, administration, technology, etc. Losing the block grant would be detrimental for the university because it would take away its flexibility, however it is likely the Governor and General Assembly would make cuts from non-instructional areas. These are simply rumors at this time; we will not know for sure what the Governor's budget entails until she presents it on February 4.

The State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC), which collectively bargains for the healthcare and pension benefits for all unionized state employees, has begun meeting with representatives from the Governor's office regarding potential savings for the State. CSU-AAUP will keep its members informed as negotiations progress.

On a positive note, Connecticut is expecting some money from the federal government stimulus package. It is estimated to be about \$1.2 billion. However, these

funds are targeted to specific items or projects.

CSU-AAUP will be keeping its members regularly informed, by email, as more information becomes available. All of the email postings will also appear on the CSU-AAUP website (www.ccsu.edu/aup/csu) in the section "Economic Crisis". In addition, CSU-AAUP will be holding chapter meetings where President Dave Walsh will share information and answer questions; the dates of the four campus meetings are listed below. It is likely that additional face-to-face meetings will be scheduled as the legislative session progresses.

CSU-AAUP Meetings on the Economic Crisis with President Dave Walsh

- CCSU:** 2/5, 3pm, Memorial Hall, Connecticut Room
- ECSU:** 2/18, 3pm, Webb Hall 3rd Floor Lounge
- SCSU:** 2/6, 11am, Student Center, Room 309
- WCSU:** 2/11, noon, Student Center, Room 202

CSU-AAUP/SUOAF-AFSCME Lobby Day

CSU-AAUP and SUOAF-AFSCME have been jointly sponsoring lobby days since 2005. In the past, CSU-AAUP has asked faculty to attend lobby days to support our efforts to obtain funding for additional full-time faculty positions, which we had success with in 2007. However, this year our lobbying efforts will be focused on limiting cuts to the CSUS budget. **It is crucial that faculty attend our Lobby Day on Wednesday, March 18 at the State Capitol to help prevent steep cuts to CSUS' budget.**

For many years, we have been asked to make do with inadequate resources. There are not enough full-time faculty to meet the demands of all of the responsibilities required of faculty—teaching, research, advising, assessment, curriculum development, governance and service. Part-time faculty also face many challenges of performing their jobs with inadequate resources.

We have all heard the increasingly bleak forecasts for our economy (see article on page 3), and we will soon know the Governor's recommendations for the state budget on February 4. Since CSU and the other institutions of public higher education have a built in revenue source – student tuition - it is very likely that Governor Rell will recommend cuts to our budget. This likely means that each and every faculty member will be asked to do more with even less resources unless we act to prevent these cuts.

Consider the facts: even while the economy was thriving, Connecticut's share of CSU's operating budget fell from 56% in FY2002 to 49% in FY 2007. Meanwhile, the state increased its demands on institutions of public higher education, introducing accountability measures and pushing for articulation between the community colleges and CSU. All of these actions have trickled down through the ranks and have caused an increased workload for faculty. In addition, applications have increased at our universities. Students are seeking more affordable options in these tough economic times and individuals out of work seek to go back to school to improve their skills and resumes. However, there are not funds to hire more full-time faculty to teach a

significant increase in the student body.

While we understand the harsh realities of the economy and understand that it is unlikely that we will escape without any budget cuts, it is crucial that faculty participate in Lobby Day to explain to legislators the challenges we already face from inadequate funding and staffing to ensure that cuts will not affect instruction at our universities. Legislators need to hear directly from their own constituents about these issues.

If you can attend Lobby Day, please consider doing so. We also welcome students! If you plan to attend, please contact Ellen Benson at bensonell@ccsu.edu or (860) 832-3793.

CSU-AAUP/
SUOAF-AFSCME
Lobby Day
Wednesday, March 18
*Breakfast & Meetings with
Legislators at the
State Capitol*
If you are interested in
attending, please contact
Ellen Benson at
bensonell@ccsu.edu or
(860) 832-3793

Legislative Leadership

Senate President Pro Tempore
Donald Williams

Senate Majority Leader
Martin Looney

Senate Minority Leader
John McKinney

Speaker of the House
Christopher Donovan

House Majority Leader
Denise Merrill

House Republican Leader
Lawrence Cafero

Higher Ed & Employment Advancement Comm.

MaryAnn Handley (Senate Chair)
Roberta Willis (House Chair)
Anthony Musto (Senate Vice Chair)
Juan Candelaria (House Vice Chair)

Appropriations Committee

Toni Harp (Senate Chair)
John Geragosian (House Chair)
Joan Hartley (Senate Vice Chair)
Jason Bartlett (House Vice Chair)
Deborah Heinrich (House Vice Chair)
Kelvin Roldan (House Vice Chair)

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Eileen Daily (Senate Chair)
Cameron Staples (House Chair)
John Fonfara (Senate Vice Chair)
Andres Ayala (House Vice Chair)
Chris Perone (House Vice Chair)

Council Notes

At its December 18 meeting, the CSU-AAUP Council:

- Announced that its staff member, Gary Holder-Winfield, who was recently elected as state representative and was appointed to serve on the Appropriations, Human Services, and Judiciary Committees
- Authorized payment of its SEBAC (State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition) Assessment for its lobbying and public relations activities to protect the health and pension benefits of state employees
- Approved a contribution to Foodshare
- Supported UAW's 16th Annual Civil Rights Awards Recognition Dinner
- Discussed the report of the Student Opinion Surveys Committee (appointed following an agreement after contract negotiations)

At its January 22 meeting, the CSU-AAUP Council:

- Authorized the renewal of the eBallot Annual License in order to continue online voting for CSU-AAUP and local AAUP elections
- Approved sending nine members to the East Coast Regional Collective Bargaining Congress meeting on February 7
- Authorized the attendance of up to 20 members at the National Center for the Study of Collective Bargaining in Higher Education and the Professions 36th Annual Conference in New York City from April 19-21
- Approved financial support for the benefit of the Richard Tulisano '69 Chair in Human Rights
- Appointed nominations/elections committees for both the CSU-AAUP officer elections and the election of a representative to the Board of Governors for Higher Education Standing Advisory Committee

National AAUP: *Cuts at Colleges*

Reprinted From National AAUP

More than one-third of respondents to a survey of colleges and universities conducted last month by the Chronicle of Higher Education and Moody's Investors Service said they had already frozen salaries or delayed salary increases, and more than half of the remainder said they intended to do so.

Two hundred and fourteen institutions responded to the survey, which was sent to chief financial officers at 874 institutions, of which 566 were private four-year colleges and 308 were public ones.

Just over 10 percent of colleges had laid off employees, and another 26 percent were considering layoffs. More than 40 percent said they had imposed partial freezes on faculty hiring, and nearly 60 percent had imposed freezes on other hiring. About 6 percent said they had reduced benefits, and 18 percent of the remainder were considering doing so. Half of all respondents said they had postponed or canceled building projects or were planning to do so.

Public colleges reported being affected by cuts imposed by statewide mandates, while private colleges are suffering—and anticipating more suffering—as a result of more families being unable to afford the full costs of college. Nearly 60 percent of all colleges said they were already seeing a decline in donations.

Almost a quarter of all private-college respondents but only 13 percent of public-college respondents said that they expected their retention rates from the fall to

the spring semester to be slightly or substantially worse than last year's. A large majority of private-college respondents, 83 percent, said they planned to keep their tuition increases for next year lower than the average of the past three years, while nearly half of public-college respondents said they expected their tuition increase to be higher than the average of the past three years.

Elections

There will be several elections taking place this spring. CSU-AAUP and SUOAF-AFSCME will be electing a representative to the Standing Advisory Committee to the Board of Governors for Higher Education (BGHE). In addition, CSU-AAUP will be electing officers, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. Finally, chapter elections will be held on each campus. Check with your local AAUP office to find out which positions are open for election. Nomination forms will be distributed early in the semester. If you are interested in running for any of these offices and would like more information, please contact your local AAUP office.

All CSU-AAUP bargaining unit members will be allowed to vote in the BGHE election, however membership is required for voting in the CSU-AAUP Officer Elections. Please contact the AAUP office if you have questions about your membership status.

CSU-AAUP

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Vice President

Arlene Bielefield

Secretary

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