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Union News

Vol. 4, Issue 25 | October 30, 2014

BOR Updates on Transform— "Roadmaps" Released

The BOR released a special edition of "Update," a publication providing information on Transform CSU 2020. The latest version was not received by some people due to campus spam filters. If you still haven't received the email, the roadmaps can be viewed [here](#). CSU-AAUP encourages our members to view look at this important information. According to "Update," Questions and suggestions and input on initiatives by faculty should be routed to the Faculty Senate/Committee leader.

Higher Ed, Not Debt CT Conference— Student Debt Crisis

About 70 people attended a conference on the Student Debt Crisis held at Manchester Community College on Monday, October 20. The conference was sponsored by Higher Ed, Not Debt CT, a coalition of labor unions (including CSU-AAUP) and student, community, and civil rights organizations.

Mark Huelsman from DEMOS presented on how state disinvestment and inadequate grant aid are making college less affordable. Charlene M. Cromwell of the Center for Responsible Lending presented on for-profit colleges with a particular emphasis on their impact on minority students. Chris Hicks, from Jobs with Justice and the United States Student Association presented on grassroots challenges to a debt-based economy.

Higher Ed, Not Debt CT will be working to address the issue of student debt in the next legislative session. The coalition will meet after the election to finalize their policy objectives.

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**Planning
Commission for
Higher Education
Close to
Approving
Strategic Master
Plan for Higher Ed**

The Planning Commission for Higher Education was created by state statute in 2011 “to develop and ensure the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education in Connecticut.” The Commission been meeting regularly since March 2103, and recently released a draft strategic plan with the hope of finalizing the plan in mid-November. The Commission met again on October 14 and continued to debate the plan.

There are several issues of concern in the plan, including:

- Making the Planning Commission a permanent entity with the authority of establishing goals for higher education.
- Allowing the Planning Commission the authority of determining whether or not an institution has done enough to meet goals.
- Incentive payments for public institution for improving productivity with unrealistic goals.

CSU-AAUP leaders plan to meet with legislative leaders to discuss our concerns about the draft strategic plan.

The Planning Commission is scheduled to meet again on November 17.