



Commission to Enhance Agency Outcomes Makes Recommendations: A Look at Their Discussions on Higher Ed and State Employee Benefits

THIS WEEK'S POLL:

Do you agree with the BOT's decision to search for a new Chancellor when it has been proposed that the position be eliminated?

Union News

REMINDER: December 10 is a furlough day for teaching faculty, counselors, and coaches; December 27 is a furlough day for librarians

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The Commission to Enhance Agency Outcomes was created by Governor Rell and charged with identifying potential savings. The group created a list of proposals, found [here](#), and has already given preliminary approval to more than \$140 million in savings.

When discussing a proposal regarding “greater accountability and oversight in higher education, including personnel and operating expenses” Senator Kissel commented that “there is absolutely not the same pressure to drive efficiencies [in public higher education]...This area of society is not making the necessary cuts that everyone else has done.” Senator Harp responded by saying that “the workforce of our future matters differently. As a parent, what are the resources [the General Assembly] is giving to CSU and UConn and the Community-Technical Colleges? My criticism is that you’re just looking at CSUs. We won’t be able to compare anything else.” This proposal was approved for additional exploration.

As for state employee benefits, the proposals included:

- Basing retirement on salary for top five years instead of three
- Imposing a maximum pension cap
- Imposing a cap on Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs)
- Increasing the employee contribution towards retirement by 1%
- Eliminating longevity payments all together or not allowing longevity payments to count towards one’s pension
- Requiring all state employees to contribute towards their retirement healthcare

In discussing these proposals, the Committee recognized that the solution will have to be negotiated between the Governor and the state employee unions.

November CSU-AAUP Council Meeting

- At its meeting on November 18, the CSUS Board of Trustees (BOT) voted to proceed with a search for a new Chancellor, putting off the search for a new president of SCSU until the spring. The Systemwide Advisory Committee (SAC) to the BOT will consist of fifteen members:

Four representatives of the AAUP Faculty designated by the president of CSU-AAUP (the AAUP Chapter Presidents will recommend the member to the CSU-AAUP President);

Four representatives of the Administrative Faculty designated by the president of SUOAF-AFSCME;

Two student representatives designated by the Student Advisory Board; and

Five at-large members, one each representing each university (elected by each university's employees) and the System Office respectively.

The SAC will be asked to review applicant materials and advise the Trustee Search Committee on such applicants.

- The California Faculty Association (CFA) created a draft statement on the "[Quality of Higher Education for the 21st Century](#)." CSU-AAUP voted to send its President and Vice President to CFA's meeting where the statement will be discussed. If you have any comments, please send them to [Ellen Benson](#).

- Problems surrounding unemployment compensation for part-time faculty (in winter and/or summer) were discussed. A meeting has been scheduled with the CSU-AAUP attorney and lobbyist to determine if there is a legal or legislative means to solve the problems.

- CSU-AAUP approved surveying its members annually. CSU-AAUP is in the process of appointing a committee to design the survey.

- CSU-AAUP approved creating a discussion group or listserv so that our members can communicate across the four campuses.

- A lengthy discussion took place regarding emergency appointments at CSU. An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to draft a position paper. The resolution was as follows:

**November CSU-AAUP
Council Meeting—
Continued**

Resolution #11-10-29

RESOLVED, That the CSU-AAUP Council immediately form an ad hoc committee charged with articulating principles as the basis for further action on the abuse of Special Appointments in CSUSYS, principles that prioritize the needs of students and the educational integrity of the University.

- The estimators for the ARP grievance should be finalized by the Retirement Division in December. The Retirement Division was also able to secure a dedicated Social Security representative in Boston to answer all its social security-related questions.

Have a question? Get the answer!
Call (860) 832-3790 or email us at AaupDistList@ccsu.edu