



**Connecticut State University
American Association of University Professors Response to
Governor Dannel P. Malloy's Budget and Higher Education Reorganization Proposals**

CSU-AAUP shares many of the goals that Governor Malloy has articulated including:

- More funding for instruction
- More decision making authority at the university level
- Continued dedication to our academic missions
- Improving student access and success
- Reducing management costs
- Greater transparency and accountability in institutional management

However, the current proposals for budget cuts and reorganization of higher education will not achieve these shared goals.

- A transformation that will result in positive outcomes for Connecticut must involve all stakeholders of the constituent units including educators and students
- A change of this magnitude must be undertaken with sufficient time to consider likely consequences, both intended and unintended
- The current proposal limits legislative authority, including the appointment of members to the Board of Regents/Trustees and the allocation of general funds to constituent units
- The identities, missions, and the unique educational experiences provided by the individual institutions will be undermined
- Educational attainment cannot be defined by graduation and retention rates alone; educational standards must be at the heart of any plan to increase attainment and accountability
- Any proposed changes in collective bargaining must take into account the fact that our collective bargaining agreement is not just about wages and benefits, but also includes institutional governance, academic freedom, and curricular matters
- Effective collective bargaining requires institutional memory on both sides
- The proposed performance based funding will create a level of unpredictability that will prevent effective planning to address the changing needs of our students and has already been rejected by the majority of states that have experimented with it
- Budget cuts of the proposed magnitude cannot be achieved by eliminating management inefficiencies alone; they will reach into the classroom and harm every student

We know about change. We are in the business of change. We create the knowledge that drives change. Students come to Connecticut State Universities and their lives are changed. **But change must not be at the expense of quality higher education and the future of our students and of our State.**