



*A Voice For Faculty*

# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 5, Issue 2 | March 31, 2015

## Higher Ed Hearing Committee Reaches Joint Favorable Deadline March 24 :

March 24 marked the “Joint Favorable Deadline” for The Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. This is the deadline by which the committee must pass any bills out of committee or they die. A number of bills were passed out of committee that CSU-AAUP was watching. Thanks to our members’ involvement contacting legislators and giving testimony, nearly all the bills of concern to us were passed with positive changes based on our suggestions and testimonies.

These include bills [H.B. 6812 AN ACT CONCERNING FACULTY REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION](#) and [HB 6919, AN ACT CONCERNING OUTCOMES-BASED FINANCING](#).

To see a full list of bills that were passed out of the Higher Education Committee, [click here](#).

## Budget Predictions Worsen :

Recently, the Office of Fiscal Analysis, a non-partisan, professional office of the legislature, estimated the state budget deficit to be \$191 million. That’s a \$52.8 million more than the \$138.2 million deficit announced just last week by Governor Malloy’s budget director Ben Barnes. With such dire budgetary realities, Barnes said rescissions are a possibility.

[Click here to see a copy fo the OFA report.](#)

With state coffers in dire straits, Board of Regents President Grey sent a [letter to union leaders, including CSU-AAUP President Vijay Nair](#), asking for a conversation on ways to address the cuts in funding.

The letter inspired a CT Mirror article in which President Nair is quoted. [Click here to see the CT Mirror article.](#)

President Grey also reported to the legislature’s Appropriations Committee Higher Education Subcommittee that the budget deficit at the CSUs went up from \$38 million to \$48 million in one week due to unexpected fringe benefits costs. The unions take issue with that reasoning.

[Click here for a letter from Dan Livingston](#), SEBAC chief negotiator. The letter was mailed, emailed, and hand delivered to the Appropriations Committee Chairs explaining how this fringe benefits cost argument is a moot point.

## How You Can Take Action!

With the drastic cuts threatening so many agencies and organizations and faculty benefits being singled out by the BOR President, it is imperative that we make our voices heard.

CSU-AAUP encourages faculty to contact their legislators and urge them to support funding for the CSUs. It is essential that we maintain a dialogue with our legislators. They want to hear from you, their constituents. Please contact your legislators. Tell them why funding the CSUs is essential to our state's future. To find your legislator, please [click here](#).

## Bills: Week of 3/23

To see a full list of bills that were passed out of the Higher Education Committee, [click here](#).

### ***"I support or oppose one of these bills; what should I do?"***

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. You can [Track](#) the bill so you know the status of each bill.

**Please contact your legislator to voice your concern for the future of higher education!**

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Please consider writing or visiting your legislator to show your support for higher education. If we all join our voices together, they will be heard.

If you don't know who your legislator is or how to reach him or her, [Click here to find your legislator](#).

If you want to know the status of a bill, you can [click here and see the latest developments](#).

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“Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country.” - Franklin D. Roosevelt

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## What are the hot topics at the Capitol?

From the [Office of Legislative Research](#):

1. Nonmedical Exemptions From Childhood Immunization Requirements.
2. Home Improvement Guaranty Fund.
3. State and Federal Home Repair and Rehabilitation