



# Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

Vol. 5, Issue 3 | April 14, 2015

## State lawmakers work line by line to limit cuts, balance budget.

[With the April 15 tax deadline](#) upon us, state lawmakers are facing high stakes as they work to find ways to limit cuts and reduce spending to balance one of the toughest budgets that politicians and policy makers have seen in years.

No talk of raising taxes has been broached yet, but with a spending cap in place and lack of support to increase the cap, raising taxes does not provide a solution to budget woes. State lawmakers must work to close the \$1.3 billion deficit while facing \$20.5 million in cuts to the CSU system as proposed by Governor Malloy for the next year fiscal year. The legislature has until June 3 to adopt a budget.

A recent [CT Mirror article](#) can shed some light on how budget shortfalls have been addressed in the past when faced with the spending cap issue and what is plausible for the future.

## Saving a campus:

When the Board of Regents announced that it would manage budget restraints by [closing the Meriden campus](#) of Middlesex Community College, [the state Senate reacted](#) by passing a bill April 8 to prevent any campus closures without legislative approval. The bill was set to be raised for a vote in the House of Representatives today, April 14.

## Bills on their way to the floor:

To see what bills the Higher Education Committee has passed and are now on their way to a vote in the House and Senate, [click here](#). CSU-AAUP members and staff worked with our lobbyists to testify for and against and make recommendations to many of the Higher Education bills this session.

[Click here for a budget tracking tool](#) to follow the fate of Governor Malloy's proposed spending cuts.

## BOR answers questions on TAP:

The Board of Regents communicated with CSU faculty and staff recently to clarify some common questions regarding the new Transfer and Articulation Policy. [Click here to see a copy of that notice](#).

## 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](#).

**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. Proposed Bills Enacted Into Law.
2. University-Business Job Creation Partnerships.
3. Federally Required Customer Identification Program (CIP) for Banks..