

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022
CONDUCTED VIA WEBEX
LIVESTREAMED ON**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZIBMOjFiK5k>

REGENTS - PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
JoAnn Ryan, Chair	Y
Richard J. Balducci	Y
Ira Bloom	Y
Alexander Grant, Student Regent	Y
Felice Gray-Kemp	N
Holly Howery	Y
Juanita James	Y
James McCarthy	Y
Richard Porth	Y
Luis Sanchez-Chiriboga, Student Regent	Y
Ari Santiago	Y
Erin Stewart	Y
Elease E. Wright	N
*David Blitz, FAC Chair	Y
*Colena Sesanker, FAC Vice Chair	Y
*Dante Bartolomeo, Labor Commissioner	N
*Dr. Manisha Juthani, Public Health Commissioner	N
*Alexandra Daum, DECD Commissioner	N
*Charlene Russell-Tucker, Education Commissioner	N
*Kelli-Marie Vallieres, Chief Workforce Officer	N
<i>*ex-officio, non-voting member</i>	

CSCU STAFF:

Terrence Cheng, CSCU System President
 Dr. Alice Pritchard, CSCU Chief of Staff/Chief Strategy Officer
 Ben Barnes, CSCU VP of Finance and Administration
 Dr. Rai Kathuria, CSCU Provost & SVP of Academic and Student Affairs
 Dr. Paul Beran, Interim President, Western CT State University
 Dr. Joe Bertolino, President, Southern CT State University
 Ed Klonoski, President, Charter Oak State College
 Dr. John Maduko, President, CT State Community College
 Dr. Zulma Toro, President, Central CT State University
 Ernestine Y. Weaver, CSCU System Counsel
 Pam Heleen, Asst. Secretary of the Board of Regents (recorder)
 Manohar Singh, SCSU, Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Following roll call, a quorum was declared.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chair Ryan noted that there would not be a need for an Executive Session at the end of the Board Meeting and made a motion to amend the agenda to remove that item. Regent Howery seconded her motion.

The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The motion to adopt the amended agenda was made by Regent Bloom, seconded by Regent Santiago and adopted by unanimous voice vote.

CHAIR RYAN'S REMARKS

- Chair Ryan welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the Spring 2023 semester.
- She noted that there is challenging and fulfilling work ahead and thanked the faculty, staff, and students in advance for their hard work.
- Chair Ryan also thanked the campuses for sending the Regents the calendars of upcoming events and celebrations and noted that they were looking forward to visiting campuses very soon.
- She thanked the SCSU Jazz Trio, led by Professor David Chevan, for the beautiful music provided at both the Regents' December Luncheon and the NWCT Chamber's Annual January Open House.

PRESIDENT CHENG'S REMARKS

- President Cheng recognized recent tragic events at Michigan State University and in Turkey and Syria. He also commented on the upcoming one year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine.
- CSCU administration testified in front of the Appropriations committee, backed by institution presidents, faculty, staff, and union leaders. In addition, 20 students testified about the value of their institutions and experiences, followed by nearly 50 public commenters to let the legislators know that CSCU does incredible work every day and deserves the highest levels of support.
President Cheng thanked Louise Williams and John O'Connor of AAUP, Seth Freeman and Colena Sesanker of 4Cs, Gregg Crerar of SUOAF, and all our bargaining unit leaders and members who helped to organize and represent their institutions and constituencies with professionalism, dignity, and sophistication.
He also thanked the students who testified, specifically Luis Sanchez, a student at NWCT CC and a Student Regent who testified on a panel; Rakim Grant, from Southern Connecticut State University who testified during public forum; and Lisandra Hernandez, from Charter Oak who testified on a panel.
- With the assistance of CFO Ben Barnes, President Cheng delivered an update on CSCU 2030. The content of their presentation is included as Attachment A.
 - Regent Porth commented that the CSCU presence at the Capitol was impressive. He asked if there was a way to measure how CSCU is doing with the Appropriation Committee, whether we can predict how it will turn out, and if there is anything else the Regents can do to help out. President Cheng indicated that he thought we did well; he believes we are progressive in our proactive approach to designing and creating solutions. He could not predict where CSCU will land at the end of the budgetary process. Ben Barnes indicated that CSCU will now go to a sub-committee of the Appropriations Committee to provide data items that they want to look at. The nature of their questions suggest that they are in favor of supporting CSCU. The real constraint is the series of spending caps and other limitations.

- Professor Blitz provided commentary (Attachment B). Regent Balducci stated that he would like to see, for the first time, a united front with the Board of Regents, administration, unions, faculty, staff, and students making a positive case about the needs of higher education. A collaborative approach is needed to make the arguments to the Governor and to the legislature, strengthening our relationship with our students and the public.

OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE BOR

The Board received no written communications this month.

<u>Students</u>
Samantha Desronvil CCSU Governor's Budget
Zakai James SCSU Costs of Higher Education

President Cheng thanked both students who provided public testimony.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Associate Director of Board Affairs Heleen noted that General Counsel discovered an error in the December 15, 2022 draft minutes originally posted. The error was corrected and the draft minutes reposted. Professor Freeman's written comments were posted to the site and shared with BOR per policy, but inadvertently omitted from minutes of the December 15, 2022 Board meeting. Professor Sesanker and Professor Blitz provided commentary with regard to the December 15, 2022 minutes leading to an amendment to include Professor Freeman's comments in the minutes. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlBMOjFiK5k> (58:27)

On a motion by Regent Bloom and seconded by Regent Howery, the December 15, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes were approved with the inclusion requested by Professors Sesanker and Blitz after a unanimous voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Regent Howery, seconded by Regent Porth, the Consent Agenda was unanimously adopted.

Academic Programs

Discontinuations

- Mathematics - B.A. - Southern CT State University
- Mathematics 7-12 - B.S. - Southern CT State University

New Programs

- Business - B.S. - Central CT State University
- Theatre Arts - B.F.A - Western CT State University
- Popular Music - B.A. - Western CT State University

Modifications

- Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership -M.S. - Charter Oak State College
[Name change to Organizational Leadership]

- ii. Addiction Counseling - Post-Master's Certificate - Southern CT State University
[Name change to Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling]
- iii. Applied Mathematics - B.S. - Southern CT State University
[Modification of courses and options and name change to BS Mathematics]

Academic Appointment Recommendation

- i. Recommendation to appoint Edwin Vargas to the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics

Finance and Infrastructure Items

- i. Construction and Slope Easements to DOT for Norwalk Community College
- ii. CSU 2020 Fund Reallocation

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED ON CONSENT

Academic Programs - Discontinuations

- i. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the discontinuation of a program, Mathematics (CIP Code: 27.0101 / OHE# 00652), leading to a Bachelor of Arts at Southern Connecticut State University, effective Spring 2027.
- ii. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the discontinuation of a program, Mathematics 7-12 (CIP Code: 13.1205 / OHE# 04465), leading to a Bachelor of Science at Southern Connecticut State University, effective Spring 2027.

Academic Programs - New Programs

- i. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the licensure of a program in Business (CIP Code: 52.0101, OHE# TBD) leading to a Bachelor of Science at Central Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020.
- ii. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the licensure of a program in Theatre Arts, with three concentrations (Acting, Design Tech, and Stage Management, CIP Code: 50.0599, OHE# TBD), leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Western Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020.
- iii. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the licensure of a program in Popular Music (CIP Code: 50.0901, OHE# TBD) leading to a Bachelor of Arts at Western Connecticut State University; and grant its accreditation for a period of seven semesters beginning with its initiation, such initiation to be determined in compliance with BOR guidelines for new programs approved on or after April 3, 2020.

Academic Programs - Modifications

- i. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the modification of a program - Organizational Effectiveness and Leadership (CIP Code: 52.0213 / OHE# 018066), specifically a name change to Organizational Leadership - leading to a Master of Science at Charter Oak State College.
- ii. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the modification of a program - Post-Master's Certificate in Addictions Counseling (CIP Code: 51.1501 / OHE# 20013), specifically a name change to Graduate Certificate in Addictions Counseling - leading to a Certificate at Southern Connecticut State University.
- iii. RESOLVED: That the Board of Regents for Higher Education approve the modification of a program - Mathematics, Applied (CIP Code: 27.0101 / OHE# 000653), specifically modification of courses and options and a name change to Mathematics - leading to a Bachelor of Science at Southern Connecticut State University.

Academic Appointment Recommendation

- i. WHEREAS, Central Connecticut State University is seeking to fill the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics, and
WHEREAS, This endowed chair is to be filled by a person with a distinguished record of recognition in the fields of public policy and politics, and
WHEREAS, Mr. Edwin Vargas's public service career spans 45 years, most recently serving Connecticut as State Representative and Deputy Speaker; Mr. Vargas volunteered to serve as a Commissioner for the Hartford Planning and Zoning Commission, and served on boards for the United Way, and the Hartford Hospital Corporation at the appointment of the Governor; Outside of his political service, Mr. Vargas worked as an educator for the Hartford Public School System for 35 years; Mr. Vargas has also served in various leadership roles nationally and on a state level for the Hartford Federation of Teachers, Connecticut State Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers Civil and Human Rights Committee, the Greater Hartford Labor Council, and as President of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights and Public Policy Chair of the National Puerto Rican Coalition, and
WHEREAS, Mr. Vargas earned his Master's degree in Public Administration, and his Bachelor's in Education from the University of Hartford upon transferring from the University of Puerto Rico, and
WHEREAS, The President of Central Connecticut State University, Dr. Zulma Toro, has endorsed the recommendation to appoint Edwin Vargas to this position, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents for Higher Education of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System designates Edwin Vargas to fill the Governor William A. O'Neill Endowed Chair in Public Policy and Practical Politics at Central Connecticut State University at the rank of Assistant Professor for a period of one-year, renewable yearly at CCSU's discretion, for up to two additional separate and distinct one-year terms.

Finance and Infrastructure Items

- i. WHEREAS, The State Department of Transportation (CT DOT) will be commencing with bridge reconstruction to roadway bridge 04152 located at West Cedar Street, Norwalk, and crossing over the 5 Mile River, and
WHEREAS, The bridge is located at the south-west corner of Norwalk Community College, and
WHEREAS, CT DOT will require easements from the BOR of approximately 371 square feet to temporarily access part of the bridge construction site, and a permanent slope easement of 122 square feet as when complete, and
WHEREAS, CT DOT will purchase rights from the BOR for the temporary and permanent easements based on a fair market appraised value of approximately \$2,000, and
WHEREAS, Neither easement compromises the College's current or projected operations, and therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the Board of Regents for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities grant CT DOT's request for both a temporary land and permanent slope easement.
- ii. WHEREAS, On December 14, 2017, the BOR reallocated \$9,125,000 of CSCU 2020 Program, FY 2020, Supplemental Project Funding to Central's Engineering Building to mitigate escalation and an equipment funding shortfall, and
WHEREAS, The Engineering Building is complete with \$4,967,252 of the reallocated funds remaining uncommitted, and
WHEREAS, Of the \$4,967,252 uncommitted funds, \$2,356,607 will be reallocated to mitigate escalation that has caused a funding shortfall for Central's Burritt Library Renovation and Addition Project, and

WHEREAS, Of the \$4,967,252 uncommitted funds, \$2,610,645 will be reallocated to Central's FY 2020 Code Compliance/Infrastructure Improvement Program to complete various campus improvements, and

WHEREAS, This funding reallocation does not require legislative approval, therefore be it RESOLVED, Central's Burritt Library Renovation and Addition Project funding will be increased by \$2,356,607 and Central's FY 2020 Code Compliance/Infrastructure Program funding will be increased by \$2,610,645.

ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - Committee Chair Bloom

The Academic & Student Affairs Committee met on February 3 and thanks the Board for approving, on Consent, the 9 items put forward. Regent Bloom noted that the approvals of new programs and modifications address the important goals of improving the student experience and opportunities for CSCU staff which are consistent with President Cheng's goals of academic innovation and workforce development. A summary of the new programs was provided.

AUDIT COMMITTEE - Committee Chair Elease Wright

No report.

FINANCE & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE - Committee Chair Balducci

The Finance and Infrastructure Committee met on February 8. The meeting included 2 action items on the Consent Agenda and several discussion items.

The two action items on the agenda pertained to facilities matters - a construction and slope easement at Norwalk Community College and the approval of the reallocation of uncommitted CSCU 2020 funds.

CFO Barnes provided an update on the Gateway/Long Wharf site and plans currently underway with the City of New Haven. The City is working on redevelopment of the area and CSCU is cooperating with the City based on a mutual understanding that the redevelopment should accommodate the automotive education facilities that Gateway needs for its programs to replace the inadequate facilities at the North Haven campus.

The committee received a report from CFO Barnes on the mid-year budget projection for CSCU. That report showed that the operating results in FY 22 were positive for CSCU, with an overall surplus of \$53 million. In the current year - FY 23 - the institutions are projecting surplus operations again, with a positive \$20 million result, up from \$10 million in the budget plan.

HUMAN RESOURCES & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE - Committee Chair Howery

No report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Chair Ryan

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by Regent Balducci and seconded by Regent Howery. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Submitted,

Alice Pritchard
Secretary of the CT Board of Regents for Higher Education

Attachments
Board of Regents Meeting
February 16, 2023

Attachment A - CSU 2030 Update

Attachment B - Professor Blitz's Commentary on CSU 2030 Update

cscw 2030

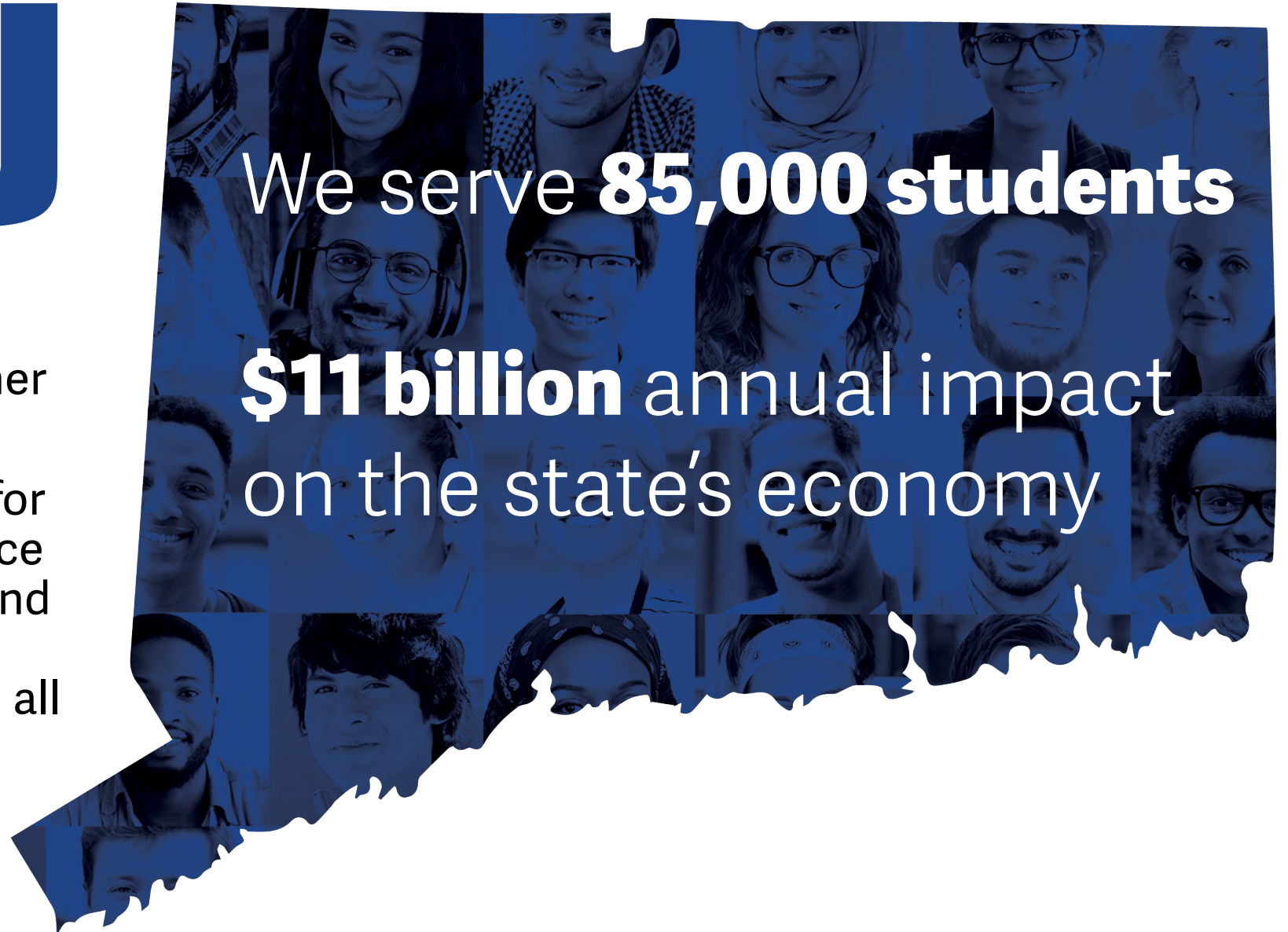
Briefing for Board of Regents

February 16, 2023





- Access and opportunity to every resident in every corner of the state.
- We are the primary engine for social mobility and workforce development in the state, and we provide world class education to students from all backgrounds.



We serve **85,000 students**
\$11 billion annual impact
on the state's economy



Who We Are

CharterOak
STATE COLLEGE

CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



EASTERN
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY



Southern
Connecticut
State University





The **CSCU** 2030 Vision

This is a big, bold, and ambitious vision for the future of our system, one that will allow CSCU to innovate as we evolve, transform how we support our diverse and aspiring students and our talented faculty, staff and leadership. It rebuilds, updates, and refreshes our important but aging infrastructure.



Our Two Distinct Financial Challenges

First, while the state has been generous with funding our system, the growth in fringe benefit costs has consumed nearly all that growth.

Our operating fund has been further compressed by:

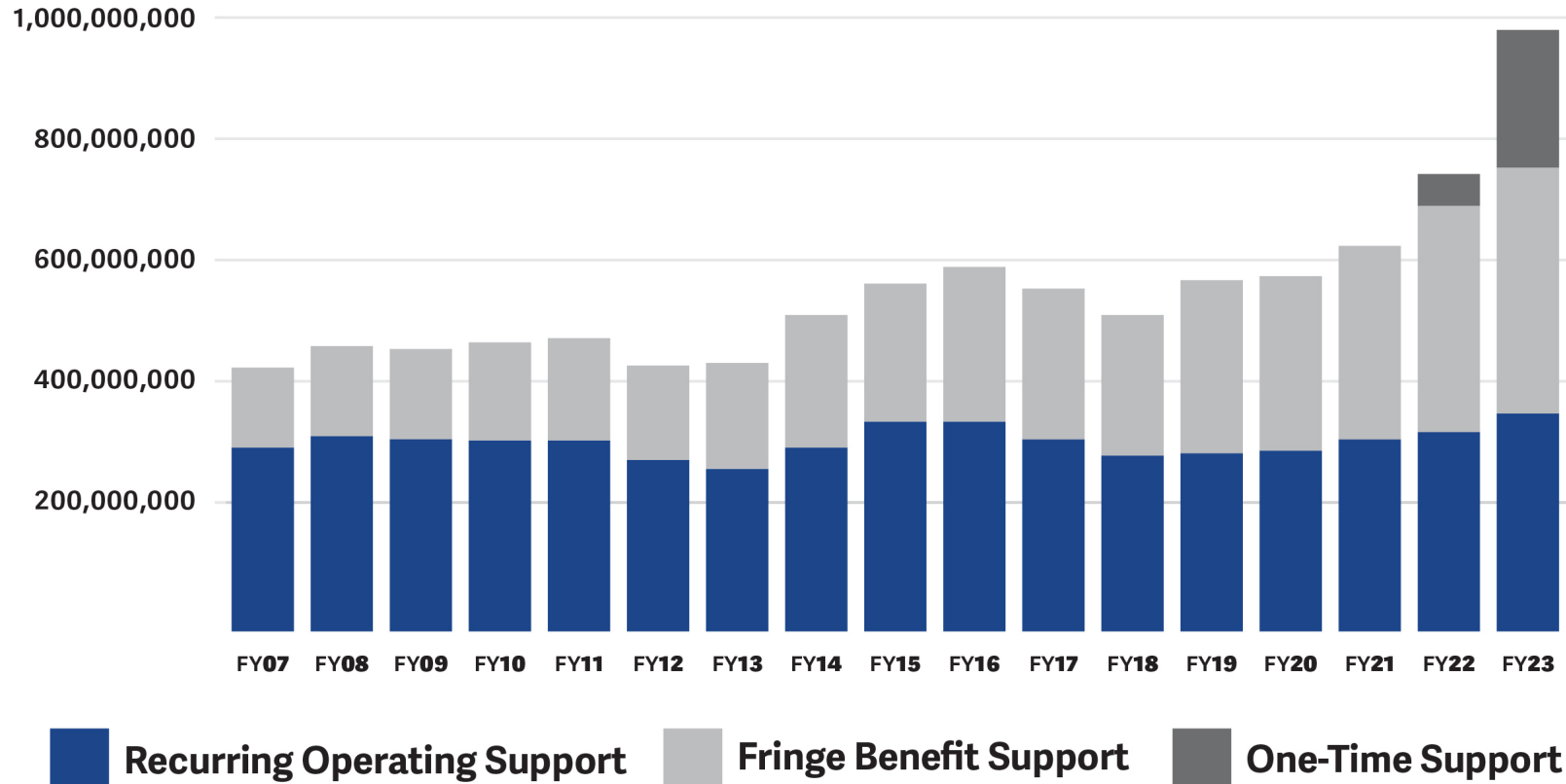
- significant inflation – increasing approximately 44% since 2007.

- SEBAC wage increases of 39.5% for CSCU faculty and staff



Our Two Distinct Financial Challenges

State Assistance CSCU Total





Our Two Distinct Financial Challenges

Second, with the successful completion of the CSU 2020 program, we need a new, multi-year capital projects program to provide CSCU's students with modern facilities and updated technology, laboratories and classrooms.



CSCU 2030

To meet these challenges and do the work of the state and its citizens at the highest and most effective level, CSCU has put forward proposals for generational investments in our people and our infrastructure:

- An investment in recurring funding across the system in affordability, students supports, and new academic programs.
- A new multi-year capital projects program which will ensure all our students regardless of zip-code, have access to safe, accessible, sustainable, and modern learning environments.

CSCU is proposing state support increases of \$54.3 and \$127.8 million over FY2023 levels in the new biennium, with support sustained through FY2030.

General Fund	FY23	FY 24	FY 25
Charter Oak State College	\$3,291,607	\$6,042,213	\$8,979,788
Community Tech College System	\$149,563,169	\$269,170,417	\$285,597,127
Connecticut State University	\$154,172,093	\$257,099,860	\$292,044,640
Board of Regents	\$408,341	\$408,341	\$408,341
Developmental Services	\$8,912,702	\$8,912,702	\$8,912,702
Outcomes-Based Funding Incentive	\$1,202,027	\$1,202,027	\$1,202,027
O'Neill Chair	\$315,000	\$315,000	\$315,000
Agency Total - General Fund	\$317,864,939	\$543,150,560	\$597,459,625

Additional Funds Available	FY23	FY 24	FY 25
Carryforward Funding	\$58,508,926	—	—
American Rescue Plan Act	\$178,600,000	—	—
PACT (funded in FY 23 with FY 21 Carryforward)	\$15,000,000	\$81,105,899	\$100,313,288
Agency Total - General Fund	\$569,973,865	\$624,256,459	\$697,772,913

SEBAC-related costs	\$179,875,536	\$148,053,670	\$180,673,615
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- **PACT Expansion:** Providing free college to all community college students and more than 7,000 university students per year, to matriculate in high-demand, state-priority programs and fields.
- **Student Supports and Wrap-Around Services:** Addressing the most prevalent barriers to student success with academic and professional support, and mental health, transportation, food, and housing services.
- **Workforce and Academic Innovation:** Prepare students to help fill Connecticut's 100,000 job vacancies by expanding existing programs and developing new credentials to match industry demands in key areas as outlined by the Governor's Workforce Council report.



- Our plan seeks to provide CSCU's students with modern facilities and updated technology, laboratories and classrooms.
- The CSCU 2030 capital project program proposes \$2.138 billion in investments over seven years to make all CSCU campuses safer, more accessible, and more sustainable.
 - Expanded Transportation Jobs Center at Gateway.
 - Updated facility for Capital.
 - Upgrades to buildings at Middlesex and Naugatuck Valley.
 - Improvements to academic and student support buildings at all state universities, including Welte Hall at Central, the health and wellness center at Eastern, Morill Hall at Southern, and the Berkshire Hall Innovation Center at Western.
 - Technology upgrades to increase productivity, innovation and security.



CSCU 2030: Total 7-year Investments in Physical and Technological Facilities	
	\$ million
Technology	273
Infrastructure Projects	365
Advanced Manufacturing	26
Green Energy / Conservation	20
Renovation / Replacement / New Construction	1,454
Seven-Year Total	2,138



2030

Our students and employees
are worthy of this investment.



We welcome your questions and support.

Comments by Prof. David Blitz concerning
The Governor's Budget Proposal and CSCU 2030

I think it important to recognize both the budgetary increase for CSCU proposed in the Governor's budget, as well as the significant gap between that and the CSCU 2030 proposal. What follows is how I intend to explain this to the Faculty Advisory Committee and I invite any suggestions for improvements or corrections. At the outset I note the increase included in the Governor's proposed budget: the Continuation of Temporary Operating Support to the extent of 50% of FY23 federal covid one-time funds, for a total of \$97.7 million in FY24, and 50% of that for FY25, or \$48.8 million (p. 25). Added to the FY23 general fund allocation of \$317.8 million, that should make for a total of \$415.5 million for FY24, though the Governor's budget figure is slightly lower \$414.8 million, a discrepancy \$0.7 million. Moreover, this is considerably lower than the General Fund \$543.1 million proposed in CSCU 2030, a difference of \$128.3 million. The difference is even greater when additional funds required in CSCU 2030 are taken into account (p. 7 of CSCU 2030 pamphlet)

Perusing the Governor's 311 page initial proposal for references to CSCU I note the following proposed new budget commitments: (1) \$6.5 million for Guided Pathways advisors, which up to now have been funded only from one time federal emergency funds, (2) \$15 million for PACT, for a 66% increase over previous funding and making that funding permanent, and (3) a \$4 million increase in the Roberta Willis Scholarship, for a 12% increase, including a \$15 million "reallocation" of unexpended monies from that fund for CSCU (p.51) – though I note that the total scholarship fund is not just for CSCU and that there are significant problems in how it can be accessed.

There are three areas that need further elucidation: (1) The Governor's budget clearly indicates support for SEBAC wage increases (p. 40), but it isn't clear to me how the \$40.2 million for FY24 and the \$45.5 million for FY25 CSCU component (p.204) is factored into those respective year budgets; (2) the issue of funding for fringe benefits remains unclear to me, and perhaps to you. The slogan of a revenue neutral policy shifting from state funding for all fringes for some employees to state funding for some fringes of all employees needs to be elucidated, especially as concerns expectations for future years as fringes increase more rapidly than budget allocations; (3) The Governor's budget proposes only a \$8.6 million budget increase from FY 24 to FY 25, or just over 2%, which is clearly inadequate even to take into account inflation.

I note that the staff in the Governor's Office who prepared the proposal focus on three aspects of CSCU: (1) the 29% decline from 89 thousand full time/part time head count in FY 14-15 to 64 thousand in FY22-23. (p. 31), (2) the increase of unrestricted reserves from FY20 to FY22 of \$33 million to \$100 million for the community college system, and from \$126 million to \$201 million for the university system. (p.25), and (3) the decline in

CSCU overall share of higher education headcount from 49% to 34% and an equivalent increase in share for the privates (p. 31) from Fall 03 to Fall 21. Evidently, this plays into their thinking on the scope and extent of budget needs for our system.

That said, it is unfortunate that the Governor's budget, despite its proposed increases, remains far from the objective stated in CSCU 2030. I can only hope that the legislature acts to significantly decrease that gap, taking into account measures other than head count, budget reserves and the public/private ratio. In particular we have the high return on investment afforded by public higher education, as stressed by Pres. Cheng in his presentation to the appropriations committee, and the value added by our system for college and university graduates who become not only productive workers in the state economy but just as importantly, constructive members of our Connecticut society, as evidenced by further testimony of students and faculty at the same hearing.

I know that Gov. Lamont appreciates the importance of public higher education in the state, having served for over a decade as a distinguished faculty member at my university, during which time he organized many dozens of presentations, panels, and debates on public policy and peace studies. For our part we need to recognize his priorities as he has stated them, including the need to balance the budget without accounting tricks, pay down the accumulated pension debt to reduce the burden on future generations, maintain and increase the rainy day fund in expectation of difficult days ahead, provide income tax relief especially for the less wealthy, and increased funding for early childhood care. We can significantly help by meeting the needs of business and society for qualified college and university graduates. It is my hope and indeed expectation that Gov. Lamont will support increased funding for CSCU beyond his office's current proposal, as CSCU makes more explicit its 2030 proposal and provides additional needed details of priority projects.

That concludes my comments, and I welcome any suggestions for improvements or corrections.

David Blitz, vice-chair of the Faculty Advisory Committee to the
Board of Regents, and ex-officio member of the Board
Feb. 16, 2023