

**BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
CT STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (CSCU)
Minutes of Finance & Infrastructure Meeting
October 7, 2024
Conducted Via Remote Participation**

REGENTS - PARTICIPATING (Y = yes / N = no)	
Richard J. Balducci, Committee Chair	Y
Marty Guay, BOR Chair	Y
Ari Santiago	Y
Erin Stewart	N
Ted Yang	Y
*Charlene Casamento	Y
*Brendan Cunningham, FAC Chair	Y
*Colena Sesanker, Vice Chair FAC	Y
<i>*ex-officio, non-voting member</i>	

CSCU STAFF:

Zulma Toro, President, Central CT State University
 John Maduko, President, CT State Community College
 Lloyd Blanchard, VP of Administration / Chief Financial Officer
 Keith Epstein, VP for Facilities, Real Estate & Infrastructure Planning
 Adam Joseph, Vice Chancellor of External Affairs
 Kerry Kelley, VP of Finance & Administration, CT State Community College
 Melentina Pusztay, Director of Budgets and Planning
 Rachel Cunningham, Admin Assistant to Lloyd Blanchard (recorder)
 Pamela Heleen, Secretary of the Board of Regents

GUESTS:

Michael Piscitelli, Economic Development Administrator, City of New Haven

CALL TO ORDER:

Committee Chair Balducci called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. Following the roll call, Rachel Cunningham recorded a quorum present. Prof Sesanker joined at 11:07 a.m.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Chair Balducci requested a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2024 meeting, moved by Regent Santiago, and seconded by Regent Yang, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Update on Reinstatement of Student Services

Chair Balducci welcomed Pres Maduko & CFO Kelley to provide an update on the progress and steps currently underway (Attachment A). Presentation & discussion are highlighted from the YouTube recording [timestamp 2:35-22:19](#).

Q: Chair Balducci & Chair Guay asked for the presentation to be shared via email.

Pres Maduko stated they will share the presentation and there will be a dedicated public webpage with all the shared governance information.

Q: Prof Cunningham commended the shared governance efforts and asked when the adjustments of reinstatement of services would take place.

Pres Maduko responded CT State will act as fast as possible once the plan is adopted; they plan to implement it between the end of the Fall semester and the beginning of the Spring semester.

Chair Balducci suggested implementing it in January to ensure services are rolled out properly.

C. Casamento commented that a CCSU emergency student funding process was implemented predominately funded by the foundation, which may be a helpful tool, and that during her 10 years working in the system funds paid by students in the UPass program were intended to further develop routes that serve the students.

Pres Maduko responded they will continue conversations with each of the 12 foundations to develop partnerships; they are having conversations with ride-share programs like Uber to pilot discount rides to meet the needs of the students.

Regent Yang & Chair Guay summarized the importance of sustainability for the services being reinstated.

CFO Kelley provided details about the process of development surrounding the sustainability of the recommendations in compliance with the deficit mitigation plans for student-facing services.

P. Heleen provided an update that there will be a Special ASA & Finance Committee added to review the final plan before it is presented to the full board in November.

Long Wharf MOA

K. Epstein highlighted the background of the legislation passed by the CT General Assembly, the status of the MOA for Long Wharf, and the planned development with the State and City of New Haven. ([timestamp 22:20-26:04](#))

Accountability Report

CFO Blanchard described what the report shows for the entire CSCU system and each institution. ([timestamp 26:15-50:24](#))

Q: Chair Balducci asked if the \$14.4 million was given to us from the state based on the SEBAC contract.

CFO Blanchard explained the funds are a portion of the SEBAC wage increase. The Accountability Report will be updated to reflect the funds, but the baseline report needed to start with what had been approved.

Q: Chair Guay asked about the timing of when the money comes in from the state as it relates to a contract period vs. the timing of our allotments and costs.

CFO Blanchard responded that the CSCU system is always operating in 3 fiscal years, currently auditing FY24, in FY25, and planning 9 months for approval FY26 and FY27.

C. Casamento provided an update on the actual timing from OPM regarding the distribution of funds.

Chair Guay thanked C. Casamento for the update and stated they were verbally provided the information at the June 12th Finance meeting after all the materials had been distributed.

Q: Chair Balducci asked if OE/other expenses can be shown in more detail to explain what it's made up of.

CFO Blanchard stated that per institution it can be drilled down to show what the larger OE costs such as IT and utility costs.

C. Casamento commented it would be beneficial for the report to re-forecast enrollment based on where each institution will end up after the Fall semester as adjustments are made.

Q: Regent Yang asked if the report could show run rates based on enrollment, personnel headcount, and budgeted tuition revenue.

CFO Blanchard stated they can continue to update the report for the Regents.

Chair Guay & Regent Santiago commented that they don't want to add too many things to the original intent of the report and if there is a desire to see more, it can be applied when needed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Telecom License Agreement - CT State, Manchester

K. Epstein summarized the proposed resolution to enter a 5-year license agreement with Cingular Wireless for a 37-foot cellular antenna at CT State Manchester, with Cingular funding all costs and infrastructure improvements, including a 4% annual rent escalation and a potential 15-year extension. The project is part of the state's efforts to promote 5G installation on public land. ([timestamp 50:25-1:04:54](#))

Q: Regent Yang asked how the appropriate rate for the rental was determined.

K. Epstein responded that all cellular providers have a basic rate, and if escalation is necessary, it can be negotiated up to 4% on the term extension or terminated.

Q: Regent Santiago asked about the difference between the two installations and the amount of rent being charged.

K. Epstein compared the differences between the agreements due to the size of the infrastructure. At Manchester, it will be approximately the size of a light pole, while at

Eastern, it is a much larger space that includes the use of an air-conditioned 10x20-foot building previously used by Nextel.

K. Epstein confirmed Regent Santiago's statement that the difference in the two contracts is that Cingular is doing the installation and maintaining it, essentially leasing the land; while the other lease is a pre-built capital infrastructure that CSU maintains and therefore, they are paying a higher amount.

Chair Balducci made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Regent Yang, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

Telecom License Agreement – CSU, Eastern

K. Epstein Eastern Connecticut State University seeks approval from the Board of Regents to enter into a 20-year licensing agreement at 5-year increments with Verizon Wireless for the installation of nine-panel antennas and related equipment on its telecommunications tower. Verizon will fund all installation costs and improvements, paying an annual base fee starting at \$30,000 with a 2% increase each year. The agreement is expected to generate revenue for the university while improving cellular and data services on campus.

Prof Cunningham commented that there is a bandwidth congestion issue at Eastern in academic buildings when the students are on campus during peak times; the campus network can't handle the demand for Wi-Fi which forces students to rely on their personal cellular data who essentially pay for internet access. Furthermore, he asked for the tower space to go out to auction to yield better financial returns for the university.

Chair Guay thanked Prof Cunningham for his feedback and will have Regents Santiago and Yang take the conversation to the IT Committee emphasizing the need for improvements to both Wi-Fi infrastructure and cellular tower management to better support students and faculty at Eastern as well as all the CSU institutions.

Regent Santiago accepted the request for the IT Committee's review and clarified that the comment regarding the cell tower lease doesn't have any direct bearing on the Wi-Fi speeds at Eastern.

Chair Balducci requested and K. Epstein accepted that for future opportunities they will seek a competitive option via auction.

Chair Balducci made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Regent Santiago, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

FY26/FY27 Biennium Operating & Capital Budget Request

CFO Blanchard summarized the Biennium Request as submitted every other year on Sept 1st for the Current Services Budget and Oct 1st for the Policy Options Budget (Attachment B) ([timestamp 1:05:01-1:49:19](#))

Q: Chair Balducci asked for clarification on the explanation in the Staff Report of the RSA (Reserve for Salary Adjustments) received after the board approved the Spending Plan and where the Baseline Operating Budget numbers come from.

CFO Blanchard explained that as with the Accountability Report, the RSA is highlighted to

show it was received after the budget was approved and that the \$14 million RSA is included in the Biennium Request. For the Baseline Budget Request numbers in the Staff Report, adjustments were continually being made up until last week as the work continued about what to ask for and what to mitigate, it should be stated as \$23 million and \$22 million.

CFO Blanchard provided a summary of the Capital Budget Request items that should essentially be funded for deferred maintenance for the facilities across the state and some special projects.

Q: Chair Balducci asked for a breakdown by institution for the \$233 million to be distributed for the CSUs and \$264 million for CT State.

CFO Blanchard stated the CSU projected distributions and that CT State's will be based on requests per campus, which can be provided at a later date by CFO Kelley.

Q: Prof Cunningham asked for clarification if the drawdown of reserves means the balance will go down.

CFO Blanchard confirmed the reserve balance will go down to the extent that surpluses are to be used.

C. Casamento asked if the use of reserves is a planful bridge to sustainability or a plug that will need to be addressed in the next biennium request.

CFO Blanchard confirmed the use of reserves is a bridge to address the shortfall in the temporary support from the state, in preparation for the expiration of ARPA dollars, and through deficit mitigation to get on track for sustainability in FY28 and beyond.

Regent Yang commented that the Capital Budget list has multiple items with a technology component that the IT Committee should review as part of the strategic planning they are in the process of developing.

CFO Blanchard highlighted the report was submitted on Oct 1st contingent on board approval and emphasized the timing is a challenge for these types of submissions and committed to a review with the IT Committee moving forward to reconcile the budget requests based on their recommendations.

Regent Yang commented he has not had the time to read through the items and/or discuss them in any detail and is not going to approve.

Chair Balducci stated the approval requested today is to move forward to the full board meeting on October 24th and that the committee has up until then to make suggestions on additions, deletions, or amendments.

Regent Santiago stated that this is a process issue, which the committee needs to address in advance of bringing it to the full board meeting.

CFO Blanchard explained that the Capital Budget list comes from master planning and projections with modifications submitted directly from the institutions based on their priorities in terms of Capital investments.

Regent Yang reiterated any information being submitted that requires approval from the board needs to happen earlier than the submission date and is requesting an additional meeting to be added for more time to review the information before going to the full board.

CFO Blanchard stated he will work to revise the process.

P. Heleen proposed adding this item to the Special Finance Committee to be scheduled in November and asked if there are any timing deadlines that need to be adhered to as the submission has already gone to OPM contingent on BOR approval.

Regent Santiago commented he is supportive of delaying the item as long as it doesn't have any negative consequences to the system either in terms of our inclusion in the appropriate OPM budget, or critical infrastructure support delays that would damage the ability for students to get services or faculty to deliver classes.

C. Casamento recommended that an official request be sent to Mike Izadi's attention at OPM, who can provide a due date for how late any proposed changes to the report can be submitted.

Chair Balducci accepted the recommendation to move the item to the next meeting and encouraged further discussion with CFO Blanchard to resolve any questions before moving to the full board.

Chair Balducci requested a motion to move the Budget item to a future meeting, seconded by Regent Yang, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

Chair Balducci requested a motion to adjourn, Regent Santiago seconded, and following a unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.



Progress Report on Board Resolution to Restore Student Facing Services

October 7, 2024

Your Community. Your College.



CT STATE | WHO WE SERVE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

In July of 2023, CT State became the **LARGEST COLLEGE** in Connecticut. Currently enrolling **64,883** students.

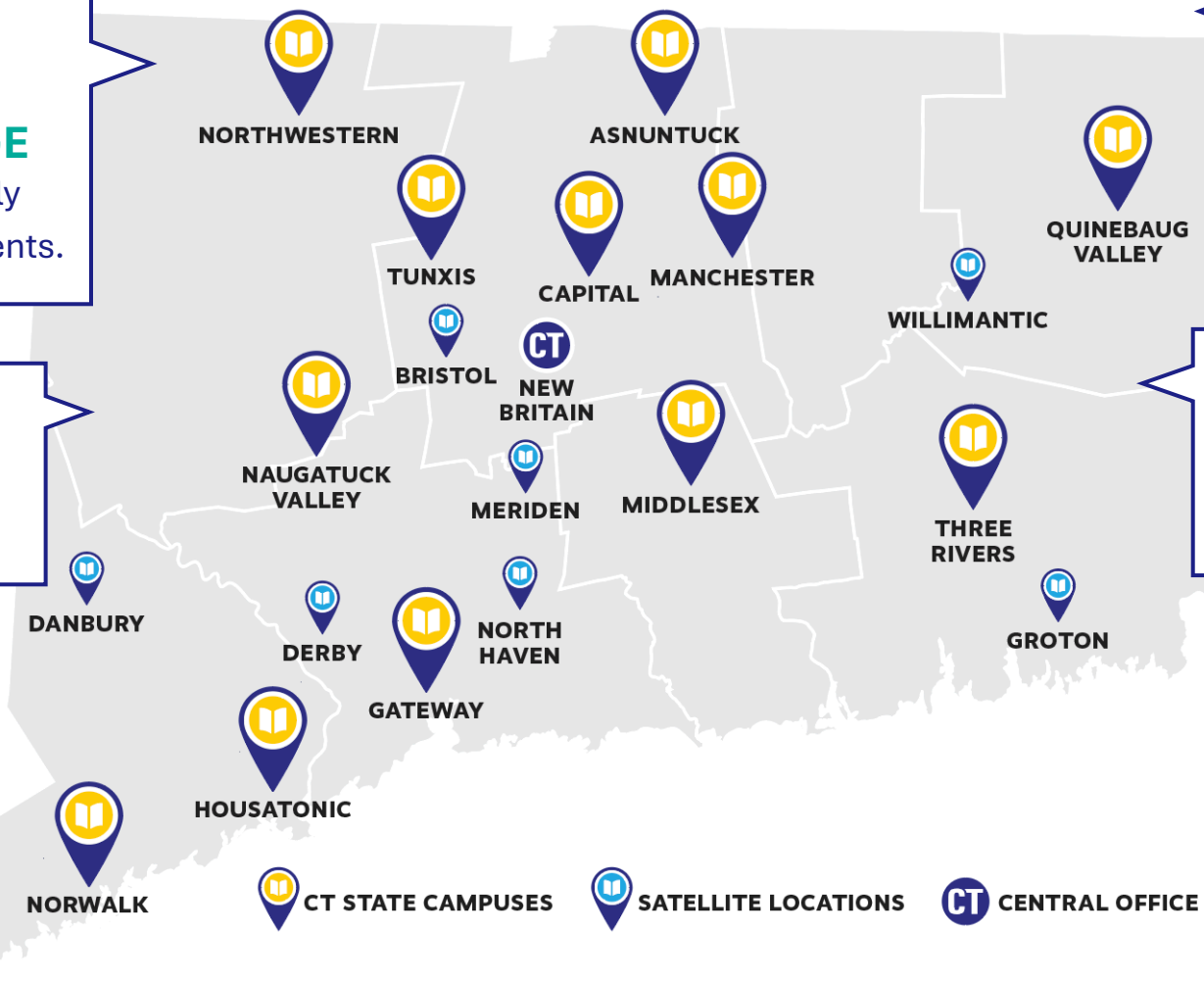
Connecticut's community colleges have a 60-year history of educating **250,000** alumni.

We serve **25%** of all undergraduate students in Connecticut.

Over **90%** of our alumni remain in Connecticut and are Connecticut taxpayers.

We serve over **5,000** dual-enrolled high school students.

57% are students of color; we are a minority-majority institution.



 **Credit Student Profile**



300

Credit Programs

15:1

Student to Faculty Ratio

221:1

Student to Advisor Ratio

40,320

Are Degree-Seekers

Others are pursuing a certificate or short-term workforce training.

27,166

Are First Generation Students

38,829

Attend Part-Time

27,952

Are Students of Color

We are a minority-majority institution.

30,000

Work While Going to School

6,300 are parents attending school.

11,000

Are Latine

Five of our campuses are Hispanic-serving institutions.

15,071

Attend Classes at More Than One CT State Campus

(up from about 600 per term pre-merger)

2,500

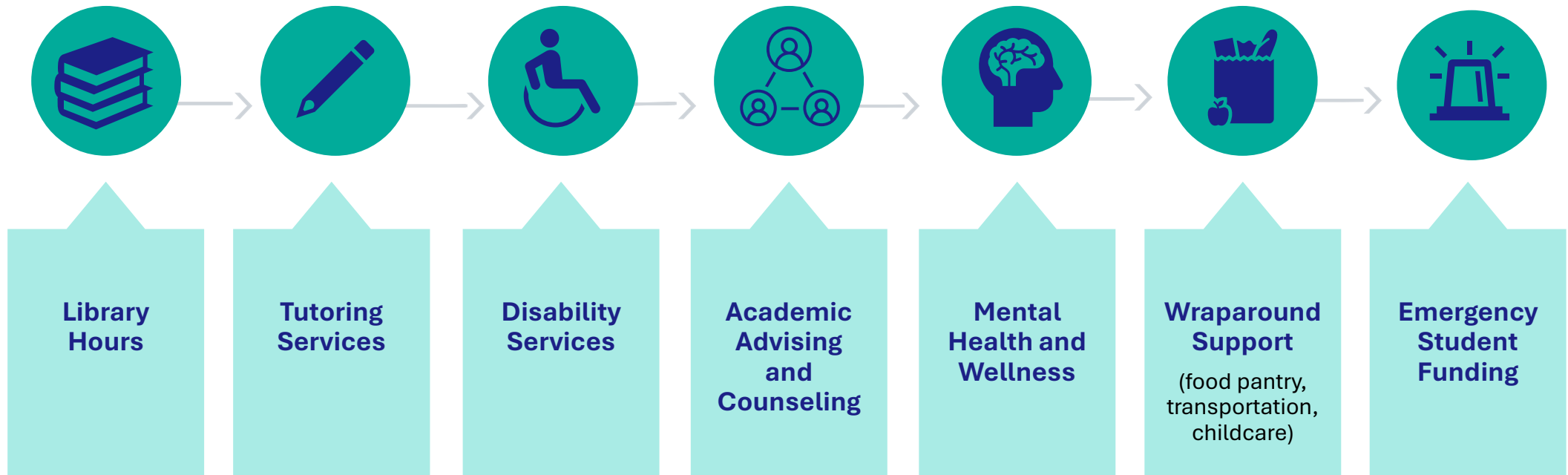
Have a Disability or Accommodation Needs

98% of CT State students are from Connecticut, representing all CT school districts.

Resolution to Restore Student Facing Services

The Board directed CT State to develop a plan to strategically restore student services affected by the FY 24 & 25 deficit mitigation

Plan should prioritize the key student services such as:





The CT State Plan Will

- Align with CT State's strategic priorities and goals
- Leverage the Holistic Student Support Surveys on student needs & challenges
- Recognize that no two years are the same & analyze the makeup of the student body and how they access our campuses/offerings
- Honor our Principles of Shared & Participatory Governance
- Provide a timeline for implementation
- Identify a funding source
- Be transparent

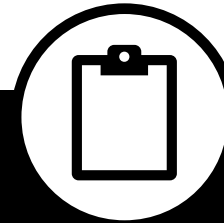
▶▶ CT State Progress in Developing the Plan



Campus leaders have engaged with local stakeholder groups to identify student needs



Initial recommendations submitted on 9/27/24
Finance Division is analyzing the cost for each



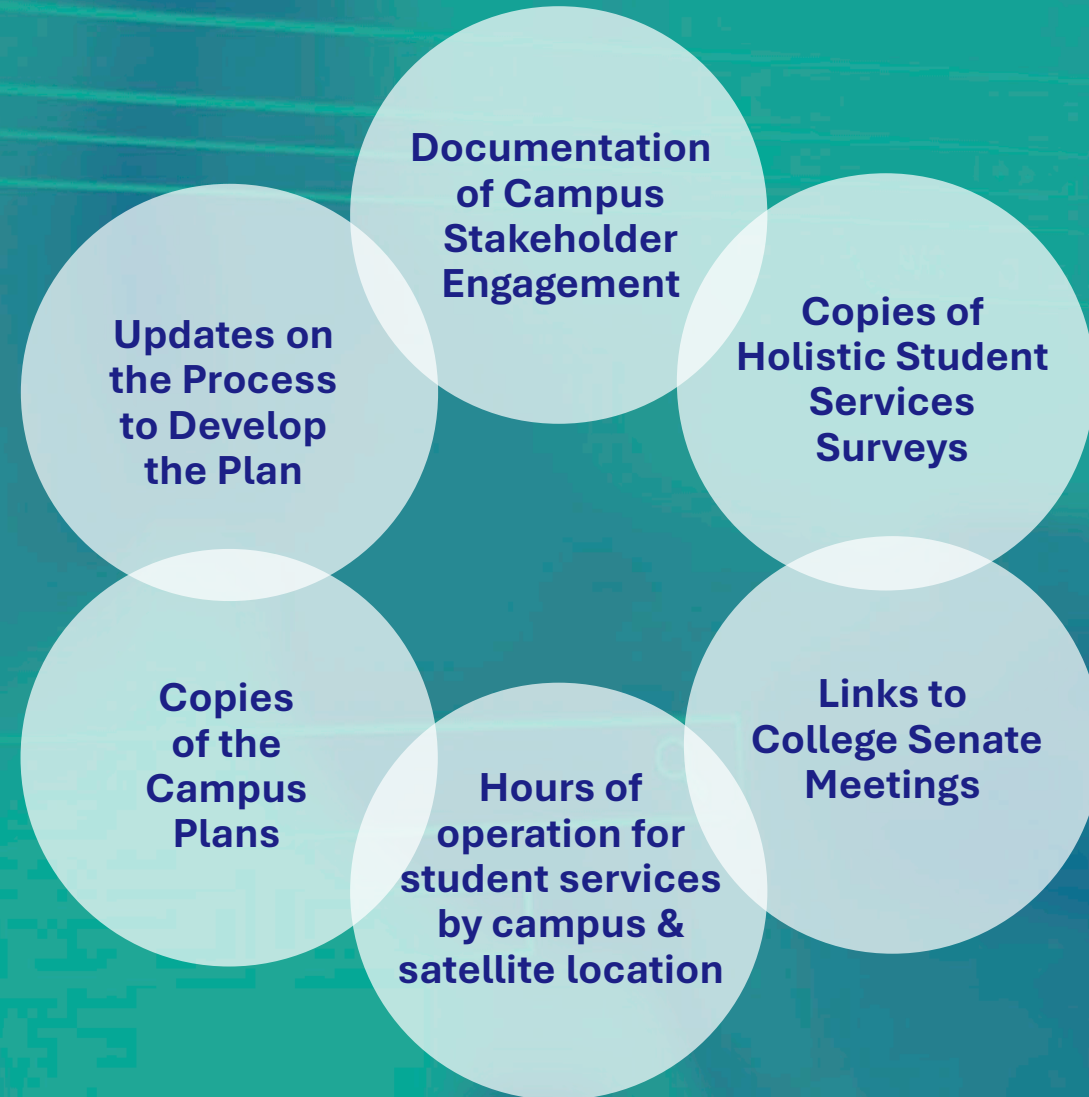
CT State completed a survey on the Hours of Operation by for student facing services by campus and satellite location



With support from College Senate leaders, the timeline to develop the plan was extended to allow for statewide shared governance

CT State is Committed to Transparency

The college has established a webpage that will contain:





Thank You

CT STATE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



FY26/FY27 Biennium Request

- Our request is \$60M less than what we received in FY25.
- FY25 appropriations include block grant, legislative initiatives, and temporary support.
 - We expect reduction of \$156M in temporary support based on OPM guidance.
- SEBAC wage increases for FY26 & FY27 are not included.

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY25	FY26	FY27
CSUs	185.1	233.8	233.8
CT State	225.3	264.6	264.3
Charter Oak	3.3	5.4	5.4
BOR	.5	.5	.5
Developmental education	10.2	10.2	10.2
Outcome-based funding	1.4	1.4	1.4
O'Neill chair	.3	.3	.3
PACT	28.5	34.2	34.2
Other	-	.7	.7
Temporary support	156.3	-	-
Total Baseline Budget Request	610.9	551.1	550.8



Deficit mitigation

- Planned deficit mitigation is \$95M.
- FY26
 - Expenditure reduction = \$39.7M
 - Reserves = \$55.2M
- FY27
 - Expenditure reduction = \$37.0M
 - Reserves = \$58.1M

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY26	FY27
Central	7.0	5.8
Eastern	2.1	2.1
Southern	8.6	7.8
Western	11.4	11.2
CT State	60.0	62.9
Charter Oak	1.8	1.3
System Office	4.0	4.0
Deficit mitigation	(94.9)	(95.1)



Projections

- We are asking the State to cover remaining projected deficits after mitigation.
- FY26
 - Request \$23.0M
- FY27
 - Request \$21.6M

<i>(\$millions)</i>	FY26	FY27
Central	-	-
Eastern	(6.4)	(7.3)
Southern	(9.8)	(6.4)
Western	(10.8)	(12.1)
CT State	-	-
Charter Oak	-	-
Project deficit after mitigation	(23.0)	(21.6)