



2020 CSCU LEGISLATION

We encourage legislators to support the following bills that will enhance the credibility, accountability and transparency of the CSCU system moving forward.

- *An Act Requiring Training for the Members of the Governing Boards of the Institutions of Higher Education in the State*
 - Regents are responsible for setting tuition, approving programs, deciding on construction projects that will change the faces of our campuses, and most recently, moving forward towards merging 12 colleges into a single institution with one accreditation.
 - Mandating training for all members of Governing Boards for institutions of higher education will increase the **credibility** of the boards.
- *An Act Requiring Legislative Approval for the Merger or Closing of Institutions Within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities*
 - The General Assembly used to have oversight of mergers and closures of higher ed institutions.
 - If a closure was ever proposed, members of the public would want to voice their concerns to an official that can be held **accountable** for their actions.
 - There is no accountability for decision made by the Board of Regents.
- *An Act Concerning the Budget of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities*
 - Public higher education receives a block grant appropriation, which is crucial to our operations
 - The BOR receives its own block grant, which totals approximately \$400,000 and covers the CSCU President's salary and benefits.
 - However, the BOR spent over \$47 million in FY20.
 - The block grant appropriation for the BOR, CSU, Community Colleges, and Charter Oak should reflect what those institutions spend. CSCU should not have the authority to spend what the legislature appropriated to the colleges and universities. Revoking this authority would increase financial **transparency** in the CSCU budget.
- *An Act Requiring Financial Transparency of the "Students First"/Consolidation Plan*
 - At its February meeting, the BOR claims to have saved \$11 million so far from this plan.
 - It assumed that these savings largely stem from attrition of faculty and staff positions and not direct savings from Students First, even though Students First is not supposed to impact the classroom or direct student services.
 - There have been several consultant firms hired in relation to the planning and the costs are unknown.
 - Monthly reporting would help the financial **transparency** of the Students First/Consolidation plan.

Good government relies on the basic principles of transparency, accountability, and credibility. Without them, there is no trust.