



F.T.C.T

1942

## Testimony of Dennis Bogusky

President, Federation of Technical College Teachers, Local 1942, AFTCT, AFL-CIO

### Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee February 27, 2020

Good morning Senator Haskell, Representative Haddad, and member of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. My name is Dennis Bogusky and am the President of the Federation of Technical College Teachers AFT Local 1942. We represent faculty both teaching and non-teaching at the 5 merged Community Technical Colleges (Norwalk NCC, New Haven GWCC, Hartford CCC, Norwich TRCC, and Waterbury NVCC). I wish to give support to four bills that are in front your committee today:

**HB 5113 Act Requiring Legislative Approval for the Merger or Closing of Institutions Within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.** This proposal to get legislative approval is good business, it assures for, healthy and reasoned discussions before any of these extreme actions could take place. It also returns the authority regarding these actions to the citizens of our state, through you, our elected representatives. Any good business has a set of checks and balances, the intent being to achieve the best overall result. Currently there are no checks and balances regarding mergers and closings. The sole authority is the current Board of Regents, no citizen input and no Legislative oversight. It is imperative that you The Legislature regain your right and proper authority. Regaining your right and proper authority is not new nor novel. Prior to the merger of the State Universities and the Community Colleges, less than a decade ago, this authority rested solely with you, the Connecticut General Assembly. Again I strongly urge your support for HB 5113.

**HB 5114 An act Requiring Training for the Members of the Governing Boards of the Institutions of Higher Education in the State.** The development of and the requiring the Board of Regents members to complete appropriate training to be able to carry out their duties will enhance their roles as Board members. Regent members have many responsibilities including: program approval, System and College budgeting, setting tuition one fee rates, oversight on building and construction projects, governance etc. They should be provided all the tools necessary to be successful regarding these responsibilities. After all we are in the business of educating and training students for success, so why not do the same for our Board members. I urge your support for HB 5114.

**HB 5112 An Act Concerning the Budget of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.** This bill attempts to make sense of the present budget situation. Currently the CSCU system receives a block grant. The Board of Regents receives a block grant as well. The current grant for the BOR WAS \$400,000.00. However, the BOR spent over 47 million dollars in fiscal year 2020. These dollars came from the colleges, dollars that were earmarked for faculty and student support now evolved into system office expenditures. We believe this bill will stop this unintended reallocation and will return some integrity to the process. I urge your support of HB 5112.

**SB 104 An Act Requiring Financial Transparency of the "Students First"/Consolidation Plan.** To date many questions have arisen as regards to claims of savings. It seems that any savings are the result of not filling Faculty and Student Services positions. This has a direct impact on students. Additionally a significant amount of expenditure has gone to the hiring of administration: Regional Presidents, Campus CEO's, Consultants etc. Monthly reporting as required by this bill would go a long way to assuring fiscal transparency and integrity of the

Students First Plan. I urge your support of SB 104.

In summary the FTCT is urging your support of all four of these bills. We are not a " lone voice in the wilderness" we are joined by our colleagues in the unions that represent members in the CSCU system. Additionally, our voices are joined by many parents, students, retired faculty, staff and retired College Presidents. To say we are opposed to the current "Students First Plan" is an understatement. WE ARE EXTREMELY OPPOSED and look to you our elected officials for help. Let me close by saying "Students First" has a nice ring to it, however "you cannot and should not judge a book by its cover."

Thank you  
Dennis J Bogusky