

**From:** Ojakian, Mark

**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2017 2:05 PM

**To:** 'Tapia, Elena (English)' <[TAPIAE@easternct.edu](mailto:TAPIAE@easternct.edu)>

**Cc:** BOR-Members <[BoardofRegents@ct.edu](mailto:BoardofRegents@ct.edu)>; Pritchard, Alice M <[APritchard@commnet.edu](mailto:APritchard@commnet.edu)>; Fitzgerald, Erin A <[EFitzgerald@commnet.edu](mailto:EFitzgerald@commnet.edu)>

**Subject:** RE: CSU Faculty Leadership Group Statement on President Ojakian's "Students First" Proposal

Dear Elena,

Thank you for sending the response from the CSU Leadership Group. I always appreciate the input from you and your colleagues as we work together on behalf of all of our students at CSCU.

When you invited me to the CSCU Leadership meeting at the end of March to discuss both our fiscal challenges and our looming structural deficit, I found our conversation to be very productive. During our over two hour meeting, we reviewed the prospect of the administrative consolidation, the resulting organizational changes that would be needed to put our system on healthy, stable path forward, and frankly, I was thankful for the feedback provided by you and your colleagues.

As I stated then, this plan was developed to preserve and ultimately enhance teaching, learning and the high quality academic programs we provide our students. I was especially grateful to hear from CSU Leadership that we share in the common goal of putting our students first.

I want to reiterate what I said then and have been saying all along: our biggest assets are students and faculty and I believe this plan prioritizes both. As we move forward, we hope to be able to direct more resources to teaching, learning, and critical student services that your colleagues provide.

I intend to announce the structure of the implementation process very soon and fully expect to have participation from CSU Leadership. The goal is to begin implementation on July 1. While not all will be ready by this date, it's important to act expediently. As stewards of our students' and state's investment in our schools, we must be conscientious and responsible. We have asked our students and families to invest more in their education, now it is our turn to address our challenges so we can continue providing affordable, innovative and rigorous programs that our students deserve. I look forward to continuing to work with you and the entire CSU Leadership as we progress forward.

I would appreciate it if you shared my note with your colleagues.

Sincerely,

Mark