



**CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY  
PROFESSORS**

September 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Barnes,

Here are my thoughts regarding your request of 9/23/2020:

1. Any cuts should safeguard the core mission of the institutions and maintain the integrity of instruction and research
2. The expenses being incurred to implement Students First should halt and a suspension of Students First should occur immediately to further delineate the full cost
3. Revenue from outside the system should be identified to fund the tuition free program and to expand it to the State Universities
4. A more permanent solution to funding legacy costs carried over from previous decades should be sought and should be a request to the Governor's Office to include CSU in any efforts to provide alternate funding for pension costs in any other part of State government
5. Shifting current benefit cost to the Comptroller's budget should be a priority
6. In recent years, the legislature provided a supplemental budget line for the community colleges to compensate for the use of the operating fund to pay for the unfounded liability in the pension. The BOR and the system office should be advocating for a similar budget line for the CSUs.
7. The percentage of expenses of State funding to the institutions through the block grant has steadily declined over the past several decades and the BOR should immediately pass a resolution calling on Governor Lamont and the General Assembly to reverse this trend
8. The BOR and the Administration should prioritize achieving maximum funding possible from Federal COVID19 related grants and should call on the Governor and OPM to designate the maximum funding possible from these sources to the system
9. The immensity of this problem going forward needs the efforts of the entire CSU community and to develop the best opportunities it is essential that the BOR create a committee that will help guide the system's response to this huge problem into the future. To that end it is necessary to involve all campuses and tap into the talents of the faculty and staff in seeking the best ideas.
10. Preserving the talent that has been already assembled on the faculty and attracting new talent to the faculty is essential to maintaining the system's place in the State's economic recovery and future prosperity and to the core mission and as such should be the first goal in maintaining student services.

11. The BOR legislative goals being submitted to Governor’s Office now should reflect the priorities stated above. This will insure the active advocacy of the whole CSU community and increase the success of your efforts.

Finally, you asked the unions to suggest cost savings that can be achieved under the contract, specifying that *“The recommendations should focus on actions that generate savings and can be implemented in this fiscal year and/or next fiscal year. Our priority is to identify savings that have as little impact on student success as possible.”*

We have found a single item that would save more than a third of the projected deficit of 91 million dollars without impacting a single student.

STAFF REPORT FINANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Community College Budget Changes, FY 2021 compared to FY 2020 Budget				
	FY2020 Budget	FY 2021 Budget	FY2020 budget to FY 2021 Budget Change \$	Change %
System Office	35,250,568	2,853,947	(32,396,621)	-92%
Connecticut State Community College	-	35,757,489	35,757,489	na
12 Campuses	461,730,719	479,734,811	18,004,092	4%
Total Expenditures	496,981,287	518,346,247	21,364,960	4%
Major Categories of Expenditure Change				
			SEBAC Raises	9,045,487
			Fringe Benefit Increases	14,222,561
			COVID-related (CARES Act)	12,325,512
			Guided Pathways	3,166,259
			Spending Reductions, including Students First	(17,394,859)
			Total Expenditure Change:	21,364,960

The increase in overall expenditures between the FY 2020 budget and the spending plans for FY 2021 reflects the major categories listed above. In addition to the SEBAC raises and changes in Fringe benefit costs, which are beyond the system’s control, the increases include the use of \$12.3 million in federal funds for COVID response, \$3.2 million for the roll-out of Guided Pathways, and a net reduction of \$19.8 million including savings related to Students First, which includes attrition offset by one-time technology costs and some limited new hiring for CSCC, described below.

For FY 2021, funding of \$35.7 million is provided to establish the CSCC and build academic and student supports. This budget includes \$11.9 million for 28 staff, and \$23.8 million for other expenses. This budget reflects a holdback of \$2.9 million, or 7.5%, that will be accomplished by deferring hiring of 52 out of 80 planned CSCC positions pending reconsideration in October based on updated information regarding revenue and operations. If circumstances allow the release of that holdback by the BOR, the CSCC will employ 80 staff members with personnel and fringe benefit costs of \$14.8 million. The \$23.8 million in Other Expenses is to develop IT supports for a single instance of Banner and other enrollment management and student advising IT systems necessary to achieve Students First’s student success goals.

Of the 80 CSCC positions included in the budget, 13 key positions are in place, 15 will be hired or re-allocated to CSCC from elsewhere in the system by September 2020, while 52 will be hired after reconsideration in October. These staff are organized into four main areas:

CSCC has no students. Its budget pays administrators without an institution and invests in technology to support a college that does not yet exist but will consume more resources in FY2021 than seven of the community colleges.

Respectfully,

Dr. Patricia O'Neill, President, CSU-AAUP