



Testimony by Ernestine Weaver, Counsel
Board of Regents for Higher Education
Connecticut State Colleges & Universities
Presented to the Higher Education and
Employment Advancement Committee
February 11, 2014

Senators Cassano and Boucher, Representatives Willis and LeGeyt, and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments for your consideration on **House Bill 5028, An Act Concerning Revisions to the Higher Education Statutes**. For the record, my name is Ernestine Weaver and I am Counsel for the Board of Regents for Higher Education, which governs our state's four state universities, 12 community colleges and Charter Oak State College. Collectively, we are known as the Connecticut State Colleges & Universities.

The Board of Regents has submitted three minor revisions to the Committee for consideration. Unfortunately, they were not submitted in time for this first draft. I would like to call them to your attention for inclusion as you continue to refine this bill. Your legislative attorney has received these proposals and I have attached them for your review.

First, we request a modification to section 10a-1 of the Connecticut General Statutes for the purpose of classifying the system of the Board of Regents of Higher Education as a constituent unit. Prior to consolidation, the system office for each constituent unit was considered part of the constituent unit. As a result, the system was able to contract on behalf of its constituent unit. Moreover, the system as a constituent unit was able to form a foundation, such as the CSUS Foundation, on behalf of the system. The current system office functions similarly to the manner in which the previous system offices operated. Labeling such system as a constituent unit is consistent with past practice. It appears that the reason that the system office is not currently considered part of the constituent units is because the nomenclature Board of Regents for Higher Education is used to refer to the Board of Regents as it assumes the role of the former Board of Governors as well as to refer to the consolidated system.

Though we previously submitted this change to the legislative attorney, we request the following language be substituted for our original request:

Sec. 10a-1: There shall be a state system of public higher education to consist of (1) The University of Connecticut and all campuses thereof, (2) the state colleges, which shall be known collectively as the Connecticut State University System, (3) the regional community-technical colleges, (4) the Board for State Academic Awards, and (5) [the staff of the Board of Regents for Higher Education] the Board of Regents for Higher Education consolidated system for the regional community technical colleges, Connecticut State University System, and Charter Oak State College as established pursuant to section 10a-1a. "Constituent units" as used in the general statutes means those units in subdivisions (1) to [(4)] (5), inclusive, of this section.

Second, subsection (c) of section 10a-1b requires the Board to appoint a vice-president for each constituent unit. Constituent unit as defined in the state statutes includes the University of Connecticut. In practice, the Board appoints one vice-president for the Connecticut State University system and one for the community college system. Language is attached in the supporting materials.

Finally, to clarify powers that exist within Charter Oak State College and powers that are held by the Board and the system office, we have submitted a request to eliminate the use of the term "Board for State Academic Awards." Our request reassigns the powers and responsibilities of the various statutes using this name to either the Board or the College as appropriate. Language for this change is also included in the supporting document.

Please contact Kyle Thomas, Legislative Program Manager, at 860-692-2350 should you have any questions regarding this testimony or the attached language.