



Testimony by David G. Carter, Chancellor
Connecticut State University System

Before the
Committee on Appropriations
Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Good morning Senator Harp, Representative Merrill and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. For the record, I am David G. Carter, Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System. With me today are the Presidents of our Universities: Jim Schmotter from Western, Cheryl Norton from Southern, Elsa Nunez from Eastern and Jack Miller from Central. I am also accompanied by a number of staff who will assist me with answers to specific questions.

Additional Full-Time Faculty

- CSUS is requesting \$20 million and 275 full time faculty over the next 5 years to fund additional faculty to address enrollment growth and key workforce shortage areas.
- There is a heavy reliance on part-time faculty in the System; approximately 56% of CSUS's faculty are part-time, teaching only 1-2 courses each.
- The current shortage of full-time faculty adversely affects retention rates and graduation rates, and will impact CSUS's ability to effectively meet the State's workforce development needs.
- Students today come to our Universities with problems and issues (such as depression and other emotional difficulties) that were not necessarily prevalent in the past. As a result, CSUS full-time faculty members not only teach, they also serve as counselors, mentors, advisers and more.
- More CSUS students are taking more courses than ever before. With more students taking more credits, we should see more students graduating in less time.
- One challenge of this increased credit load is the demand it places on full-time faculty and existing resources. More students taking more courses requires that CSUS respond with more full-time faculty to meet this need.
- The ability of our Universities to offer upper-level courses is enhanced by having more full-time faculty, which will, in turn, improve student graduation and retention rates.

- Lower student/faculty ratios have been shown to increase retention and graduation rates.
- Faculty are not interchangeable. For example, a philosophy professor cannot be reassigned to the biology program.
- In nursing, in particular, the number of students we can admit at any one time is limited by the number of faculty available to teach the courses, since the number of students per cohort is capped.
- New faculty are being requested not only for areas the State has identified as key workforce shortage areas (such as nursing, bioscience, manufacturing, engineering, teaching, business, and technology) and other areas perceived to be in high demand; but also to address required general education courses that give students the foundation necessary to become flexible, lifelong learners, with the agility needed to adapt to the workforce needs of tomorrow.

Governor's Current Services Proposal for CSUS

	07-08 CSUS Request	07-08 Governor's Budget	08-09 CSUS Request	08-09 Governor's Budget
State Support – Prior Year	153,553,590	153,553,590	156,487,499	156,819,592
Adjustments:				
Current Services				
Collective Bargaining	2,338,225	3,092,594	868,711	1,085,161
New Facilities O&M	457,883	173,408	1,965,960	744,541
Inflation on Tuition Freeze	137,807	0	140,695	0
Current Services Subtotal	2,933,909	3,266,002	2,975,366	1,829,702
Budget	156,487,499	156,819,592	159,462,865	158,649,294

Note: The impact of SUOAF and AAUP collective bargaining agreement settlements recently achieved are not included in the budget numbers; these dollars will be provided from the State Reserve for Salary Adjustments Account.

Note: New Facilities Operations and Maintenance funded at 37.9% of requested amount.

Funding for Operations and Maintenance of General Fund Buildings Not Received Previously

- CSUS has added 783,737 additional square feet in General Fund buildings since FY1997.
- Funding for operations and maintenance of these facilities has not kept pace with the capital side. We have requested \$11.2 in required operations and maintenance funds over this same time period, and received \$4.0 million, or approximately 35%. This has made it difficult, if not impossible, to maintain our buildings properly. In fact, some buildings have already suffered in terms of cleaning and scheduled maintenance. It is important to maximize and prolong the taxpayers' investment to the fullest.
- If these unfunded operations and maintenance costs were to be absorbed by our students, they would add approximately \$190 per full-time student (3% of total) to annual tuition and required fees.
- Therefore, we are requesting an additional portion of these previously requested monies that we have not received in the past, in order to fund at the 70% level the necessary maintenance staff and other operating costs to properly maintain the buildings that the State has so generously provided.
- The total amount of this portion of our request is \$4.4 million in FY2008 and FY2009.

Permanent Increase to Base Energy Costs

- CSUS's energy costs in FY06 increased by over 35% (\$4.9 million) from FY05 levels.
- CSUS has not received any additional funding from the State in recognition of these costs.
- The entire burden must be borne by our students, either in the form of increased fees or reduced services.
- The spike in energy costs is not a short-term phenomenon; it will likely continue for the long run. While some have predicted that increases will moderate in the coming biennium, this projection is questionable at best, given the ongoing global unrest and third world development which will continue to put increasing demands on the world's supply of oil.
- While all new buildings costing \$5 million or more must as of January 1, 2007 be built to LEED Silver standard or equivalent, this does not guarantee short-term relief from increasing energy costs; indeed, our (and the State's) very first LEED Silver-certified building, WCSU's Science Building, exceeded its anticipated energy budget by over \$75,000 in the first year.
- Even if increases do moderate over the coming biennium, the base over which they will be applied remains permanently inflated, as nowhere is it anticipated that energy costs will decline.

- In addition, these funds will enable CSUS to step up its investment in clean energy and energy-efficient technology, in concert with the Governor's energy vision.
- Because of these factors, we are requesting an addition to our base General Fund appropriation in FY08 and FY09 (over FY07) of \$4,900,000 to reflect the permanent increase in base energy costs.

CSUS is Committed to Energy Efficiency

- CCSU is exploring cogeneration of electricity through their new energy center.
- ECSU makes use of both Geothermal and Biodiesel sources of energy for selected buildings.
- SCSU's new West Campus Residence Hall received a noteworthy Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building certification.
- WCSU's new Science Building is the first state facility to earn LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.
- New buildings at all four universities will meet LEED standards in the future.

Energy Costs

- Energy costs have risen exorbitantly over the past two years, with no sustained reduction or abatement in sight and no guarantee that a permanent reduction will occur that will offset these increases to base costs.
- Little funding is available to pursue desirable "green" technology.
- While it is difficult to accurately forecast such a volatile economic sector, our latest projections indicated that actual energy costs in each year of the biennium are anticipated to exceed 10% annually.
- It will be important to continue and increase our investment in clean energy and energy-efficient technology in concert with the Governor's Energy Vision.
- We are requesting \$2.4 million in FY07-08 and \$4.8 million in FY08-09, the total expected energy costs over and above the original submission.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.