

# Reopening Higher Education in CT

A Presentation for the Higher Education and the  
Employment Advancement Committee

**REOPEN**  
Connecticut

CSCU

# CSCU Overview

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## **Preparing Plans**

The 17 institutions of CSCU are working to prepare their own plans. They conducted initial planning on their campuses as well as participating in system planning processes. Each campus leader will submit a plan that combines their local thinking with information from the system steering committees to outline what will work for their campus and students.

## **Opportunities & Challenges**

The University Presidents and the Community College Regional Presidents led statewide Steering Committees to review initial campus plans, look for opportunities to replicate strategies, identify human resource, fiscal, facilities or other challenges and prepare reports that document our plans for repopulation, monitoring, containment and closure per the Governor's Taskforce.

## **Leadership from All Areas**

The Steering Committees were comprised of campus leadership in the key areas of focus such as provosts and deans, facilities and IT directors, and student services leaders as well as system office personnel. In addition, each Steering Committee had a statewide leader from one of our bargaining units. They worked quickly over the course of a few weeks to develop recommendations to share with the campuses.

# CSCU Overview

## Providing Options

- Our schools are providing a range of course modalities this fall including on-ground/in person courses, particularly in workforce related programs and those with lab sciences, online courses, hybrid courses and HyFlex courses.
- We have reduced occupancy in our residence halls, rethought how dining services are provided and cancelled events that bring the broader community onto campus until it is safe to do so.

## Making Investments

- Invested in PPE and supplies to allow us to keep our buildings clean and our employees and students safe.
- Invested in faculty and staff training to ensure employees are comfortable with technology and tools and that students have a high-quality educational experience.
- Invested in technology for virtual support services for students.
- Replacing our paper processes with digital solutions to ease telework where appropriate and improve efficiencies.
- Invested in classroom technology to support new teaching modalities.

# CSCU Overview

## Support In a New Environment

- Our schools took a hard look at how to support and engage students in this different educational environment. In particular, our steering committees considered the experiences of students with disabilities and those who need face-to-face supports such as tutoring and advising to be successful.
- We also recognize the financial hardships our students and their families are experiencing and are trying to determine the best ways to reopen our food pantries and mental health supports.

# CSCU Overview

## Greatest Challenges

At the university--containment of the virus among residential students, conducting ongoing testing, and contact tracing.

At the community college--ensuring students have access to technology, internet and services they need to succeed in a remote learning environment.

Making physical campus changes and budgeting for reduced student enrollment and dorm capacity has brought unanticipated costs to the institutions.

## Greatest Opportunities

Our system is planning to reopen and move to variety of teaching modalities both because of public health guidance and because many of our students, particularly minoritized students, learn best in face-to-face courses.

Our greatest opportunities are implementing new strategies that can improve students' learning.

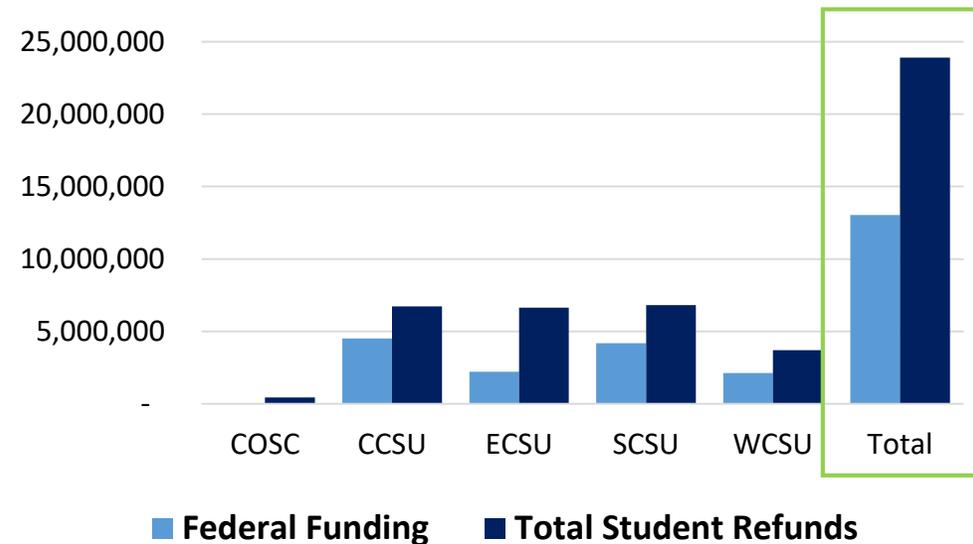
We are introducing new teaching modalities and finding creative ways to engage students with remote events and activities.

# CSCU Overview: Fiscal Challenges

The sudden shift to on-line instruction in March was costly to CSCU Institutions:

- Universities refunded \$23.9 million to students because of early closure of residence halls, and the \$13 million in Federal institutional aid for Universities was NOT ENOUGH to cover these losses
- Federal funding under the CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund provided for \$27.3 million in direct grants to students, and \$27.3 million for institutional aid
- Universities have so far reported an additional \$10.3 million in COVID-related expenses on top of refunds
- Community Colleges have already reported \$3.2 million in COVID-related expenses
- Charter Oak not eligible because they are on-line, but they lost \$450,000 in tuition because students had to withdraw to deal with COVID-related concerns

**Student Refunds in Excess of Federal HEERF Funding**



# CSCU Overview: Fiscal Challenges

The state has already awarded CSCU \$5.5 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund:

## CSCU COVID-19 Relief Fund Reimbursements from State as of 6/30/2020

| Category              | CCC's          | CCSU             | ECSU           | SCSU           | WCSU           | COSC          | Grand Total      |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|
| Cleaning/Supplies/PPE | 483,835        | 238,687          | 54,276         | 332,512        | 75,479         | 3,465         | 1,188,255        |
| Computer Hardware     | -              | 929,610          | 45,629         | 150,947        | 343            | 53,786        | 1,180,316        |
| Facilities            | -              | 771,445          | 134,866        | 152,051        | 152,134        |               | 1,210,495        |
| Instruction           | 467            | 474,875          | 711,425        | 68,000         | 696,290        | 527           | 1,951,583        |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>484,303</b> | <b>2,414,617</b> | <b>946,196</b> | <b>703,510</b> | <b>924,246</b> | <b>57,778</b> | <b>5,530,650</b> |

# CSCU Overview: Fiscal Challenges

## CSCU Expenses Reported so far but NOT Yet Reimbursed

| Category              | CCC's            | CCSU             | ECSU           | SCSU             | WCSU           | COSC         | Grand Total      |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|
| Cleaning/Supplies/PPE | 492,797          | 337,966          | 405,574        | 917,305          | 110,234        | 2,369        | 2,266,244        |
| Computer Hardware     | 1,996,198        | 648,179          | 201,045        | 427,990          |                |              | 3,273,412        |
| Facilities            | -                | 287,078          |                | 768,572          | 4,540          |              | 1,060,191        |
| Instruction           | 132,185          |                  | 3,030          |                  |                |              | 135,215          |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>2,621,180</b> | <b>1,273,223</b> | <b>609,648</b> | <b>2,113,867</b> | <b>114,774</b> | <b>2,369</b> | <b>6,735,061</b> |

# CSCU Overview: Fiscal Challenges

CSCU institutions are planning to use **\$48 million of reserves in FY 2021**, but there are significant risks that revenue will be even lower than assumed:

|                       | 5% reduction in State Appropriation* | Housing and Meal Revenue at FY 20 Actual levels | Additional drop in enrollment: 5% on Tuition and Fees** | Additional drop in enrollment: 20% on Tuition and Fees** | Compare to projected Reserves as of 6/30/21*** |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| CT State Universities | \$ (12,594,760)                      | \$ (16,167,661)                                 | \$ (16,851,215)   | \$ (67,404,860.99)                                       | 105,516,147                                    |
| CT Community Colleges | \$ (14,879,232)                      | na  | \$ (8,885,203)  | \$ (35,540,813.40)                                       | 17,144,218                                     |
| <b>CSCU Total</b>     | <b>\$ (27,473,992)</b>               | <b>\$ (16,167,661)</b>                          | <b>\$ (25,736,419)</b>                                  | <b>\$ (102,945,674)</b>                                  | <b>\$ 122,660,365</b>                          |

\* assumes Fringe rate of 70%; includes CC Fringe Support

\*\* compared to proposed FY 21 levels

\*\*\* totals include system office reserves (CSU SO: \$22.4m; CCC SO: \$11.3m)

# CSCU Overview

## **Steering Committee Reports**

Steering Committee reports along with all of the ReOpen CT higher education reports and updates can be found on our website [www.ct.edu/covid19](http://www.ct.edu/covid19).

## **Weekly Updates**

In addition, President Ojakian issues weekly updates to CSCU community which are also available on the website.