

## Proposed Resolution on Tuition/Fee increases for FY25

Whereas in 2017 the Board of Regents implemented a plan known as “Students First” to both decrease costs and improve services to students;

Whereas in 2023 after consolidating the 12 community colleges into one institution, and failing to supervise that all university budgets were balanced, the Board now reports A deficit of over \$125 million for the community college and \$10 million for one of the universities, WCSU;

Whereas, the Connecticut State Community College deficit mitigation plan proposes to cut 776 additional sections for FY25. thereby reducing educational opportunities rather than increasing them;

Whereas essential services to the community college students have been reduced by the elimination of hundreds of Educational Assistants, who provided up to 75% of the staffing of student-facing offices;

Whereas the System Office and the Board failed to assure sufficient state assistance for FY 25 year by proposing an inflated CSCU 2030 plan which was countered by an inadequate offer by the state Office of Planning and Management, as incorporated in the Governor’s Budget and approved, with improvement only for FY24, by the legislature;

Whereas the Board approved a 5% tuition/fee increase for FY24, and now is proposing another 5% (on average) increase for FY25, without having provided, as previously requested by FAC representatives and at least one voting Board member, evidence that such increases do not reduce enrollment and retention rates;

Whereas this increase applies to both community college and university students, in an attempt to remediate, in part, the system-wide debt incurred by a failed policy of Students First and the concomitant failure to supervise all member institutions in CSCU for balanced budgets;

Be it resolved

That the CCSU Senate considers that Students First has failed to achieve its twin goals of reducing costs to the state while improving educational opportunities and services to the students and has contributed to a financially perilous situation for the CSCU System as a whole;

That the CCSU Senate notes the balanced budget at CCSU and its increased reserves as a positive example of institutional planning and shared governance;

That the CCSU Senate rejects the proposed average 5% tuition increase for students as detrimental to the goals of recruiting and retaining students for graduation at reasonable cost;

That the CCSU Senate communicates this resolution to the Finance and Infrastructure Committee of the Board of Regents, CSCU leadership and to the next meeting of the Board.