



THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS, INC.

Appropriations Committee Hearing Testimony  
February 18, 2020  
Michael Bailey

Co-Chairs Osten and Waker, Vice Chairs Hartley, DiMassa and Horn, Ranking Members Formica and Lavielle, and members of the Appropriation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of the continued biennium appropriations to the University of Connecticut.

My name is Michael Bailey and I am the Executive Director for the University of Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (UConn-AAUP)

These are exciting times at the University of Connecticut. Within his first year, Tom Katsouleas has begun to build momentum toward the bold challenges he made for the University of Connecticut's community, including the Connecticut State Legislature.

One of the highest priorities for the president is to grow the research potential of the university through strategic investments in faculty and facilities, in fact doubling this current capacity over the next 10 years.

The potential benefits to the Connecticut economy for this initiative are staggering. Presently, as reported by a UConn faculty study, the total impact to the state's economy include \$5.3 billion input on the statewide economic output; 26,00 jobs supported through \$2.6 billion in labor income from UConn and other business to business and household spending; for every dollar spent by UConn, 77 cents were generated elsewhere in the state economy.<sup>1</sup>

Imagine the potential impact to the state's economy if President Katsouleas is successful with his initiative. Support from the legislature is critical for his success, and for the state of Connecticut.

I urge the Appropriations Committee to maintain the FY 21 appropriations to UConn and UConn Health as approved in the biennium budget. I also urge the Committee to allow the planned and approved capitol projects to move forward with no deferrals or cut to the UConn 2000 Capitol Program. These appropriations are significant for hiring the necessary faculty and support staff and for infrastructure improvements of UConn facilities.

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<sup>1</sup> Lopez, R., Fallahi, and M., Lanza, S.; *State Economic Impacts of the University of Connecticut*, January