

Hello,

My name is Tess Buschmann and I am a senior Communication major at Southern Connecticut State University. I am writing to you today to beg you to reconsider where budget cuts should come from; higher education is not it. While one can argue higher education is “optional,” many of today’s careers *demand* an undergraduate degree at the minimum. For this reason, our state universities are vital to our state’s future success; the students of today become the professionals of tomorrow.

During my time at Southern, I have greatly enjoyed my small class sizes, my professor’s abilities to meet with me as frequently as I need, and the amazing stories/career experiences I’ve heard from part-time faculty as well. All of these things are being threatened by the Board of Regents proposals. I hope that you listen to the pleas of many as you consider your options and realize how you treat our teachers impacts the quality of our education which impacts the future of our state.

One point I’d also like to make regarding the BOR’s proposal is that they are limiting the control professors will have of their environment. They could be assigned to teach courses in different departments if determined necessary by the Dean and distance learning material would be the intellectual property of the university or CSU. These two ideas seem counterproductive. First, professors

should not be teaching in a department they aren't well-experienced in nor should they be asked to teach something they might be "rusty" on; it will lessen the quality of the course and their ability to truly teach their students. Additionally, professors put a great deal of time and effort into their learning materials so why are they not the owners of it? Not giving them ownership, only discourages them from altering their lesson plans and conducting future courses differently since they'll be giving up more to the university.

Professors came to teach, not to be pawns in a business. We cannot let money take priority over our faculty and students. We need to consider alternatives and continue an open and productive dialogue so we can reach a resolution that is both business, faculty, and student-friendly.

Thank you for your time.