

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee
Students First Consolidation Invitational Forum

Testimony of Dr. Richard L. Judd
President Emeritus
Central Connecticut State University
March 26, 2019

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding the "Students First" consolidation plan. I am Dr. Richard L. Judd, President Emeritus of Central CT State University. Though retired, I continue to teach Emergency Medical Technology as well as Introduction to Philanthropy. I contribute my salary for these courses to the CCSU Foundation, Inc.

Let me first say that I support oversight by a governing board composed of trustees representing the citizens of the state. Such boards are important for the governance of the institutions and responsible for the making of rules and financial decisions of the community colleges and state universities. It is the trustees that makes decisions taking into consideration the best interests of all stakeholders, notably the students, faculty, alumni and the general public. Simply put, the Board of Regents (BOR) of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities is too large to manage its responsibilities. The BOR expends somewhere between \$85 million and \$300 million in its annual budget. There has been no cost benefit analysis ever provided for the expenditure of these funds. The system office is nothing but an enlarged bureaucracy. Its President and Chief Financial Officer have no background in higher education and are ill prepared to lead the system. The staff of the BOR provides unnecessary duplication of the functions of the executive administration of each of the state universities. **Combining some of the financial operations of all the colleges, e.g. purchasing, and will result in savings and is sound business practice.**

The community colleges and the state universities require management oversight that can be responsive to their needs which are regional in nature. Central Connecticut State University serves a geographic cohort representing central Connecticut. Of its 70,000 living alumni 80% or more live within 30 miles of the main campus. This is not necessarily their origin, but they are working and living in the region serving business, industry, the not-for-profit sector and schools among other employers. CCSU needs to be responsive to the needs of these entities. A board of trustees composed of the stakeholders of each public university makes abundant sense. Staffing of the board of trustees would be minimal and probably at no more than a cost of \$500,000 to include legal counsel, auditors and minimal support staff. The university would provide all other services required by the boards related to the operation of Central CT State University. The same would be true for the other three state universities. A statewide council consisting of the board's chairs would provide the necessary coordination required by the General Assembly and other state agencies.

I will be pleased to respond to your questions. Thank you again for this opportunity.

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