

A Resolution Concerning Institutional Consolidations

Connecticut State Conference-AAUP

Annual Spring Meeting, May 10, 2018

WHEREAS the Connecticut Board of Regents has proposed a consolidation plan for Connecticut's Community colleges that would involve massive curriculum changes, personnel changes, and new governance structures and that could lead to program and campus closures and increased student tuition, and

WHEREAS the proposed time frame for these numerous and complex changes has been viewed by faculty as unrealistic and impracticable, and

WHEREAS faculty inclusion in this planning by the Board of Regents and its agents has been minimal and belated, and

WHEREAS the resulting proposal drew serious criticism from substantial numbers of faculty members as a threat to academic freedom and shared governance, and

WHEREAS the NEASC accrediting body has subsequently rejected the BOR consolidation plan on the grounds that "the potential for a disorderly environment for students is too high for it to approve the proposed Community College of Connecticut as a candidate for accreditation based on this proposal," and

WHEREAS the NEASC has suggested that the nature of the proposed changes constitutes not so much a "consolidation" as rather the creation of a new institution, requiring not approval of a reorganization but new accreditation for a new institution not yet in existence, and

WHEREAS the NEASC has observed that the consolidation proposal ignored the historic and vital relations between the existing community colleges and the communities that they were established to serve,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Connecticut State Conference-AAUP (a body that speaks on behalf of 4500 faculty members at 24 colleges in the state) hereby commend NEASC for its wise and thoughtful ruling,

AND THAT the CSC-AAUP hereby urges the Board of Regents to guarantee that any consideration of reorganization plans include the meaningful and ongoing participation of experienced and knowledgeable faculty, including faculty leaders from the AAUP and the 4 Cs, as well as student representatives from the entities affected.

_____ **APPROVED** this tenth day of May, 2018.

