

Questions for the Board of Regents for Higher Education Nominee

By: Marybeth Sullivan, Senior Legislative Attorney
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Board of Regents for Higher Education ([CGS § 10a-1a](#))

The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) makes policies and rules for governing the Connecticut State University System, the community-technical college system, and Charter Oak State College, and prepares a consolidated budget request for these constituent units, collectively known as the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU). For each institution under its jurisdiction, the board appoints and removes a chief executive, sets tuition and fees, and develops a mission statement, among other responsibilities. It also appoints the CSCU president.

BOR consists of 21 members, 15 of whom are voting members. The governor appoints nine members to staggered six-year terms. The top four legislative leaders each appoint one member to staggered four-year terms. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of BOR's student advisory committee also serve as board members and are elected to one-year terms by the advisory committee. The commissioners of economic and community development, education, labor, and public health, as well as the chairperson and vice-chairperson of BOR's faculty advisory committee, are ex-officio non-voting members of the board.

Questions

1. BOR currently has two student members among its 15 voting members and 21 total members. If appointed to the board, how do you intend to work with the student members?
2. The board has a faculty advisory committee that it must meet with at least twice a year by law ([CGS § 10a-3a](#)). What is your vision of the ideal relationship between the board and this committee?

3. Some states, such as [Massachusetts](#) and [Virginia](#), have passed laws requiring training to prepare college and university governing board members for their duties. Are there any types of training that would assist you with your effectiveness as a member of the Board of Regents?
4. What is your position on the Students First consolidation plan for the state's regional community-technical colleges?
5. Last December, BOR approved the guidelines for a free community college program, which it named "Pledge to Advance Connecticut" (PACT). The legislature required BOR to develop such a program in last year's budget implementer ([PA 19-117](#), § 362). What do you think needs to happen in order for this program to be a success?
6. Connecticut's 12 community colleges are currently the focus of two prominent initiatives (Students First and PACT). Do you think this focus on two-year schools will be to the detriment of the four state universities, or do you predict that the universities will experience a tangential benefit?
7. Student loan debt has become increasingly burdensome for college graduates. What is your assessment of the amount of debt that CSCU students have? What steps can BOR take to mitigate student debt levels?
8. Last session, the legislature created a task force to recommend a statewide policy for student mental health services at higher education institutions ([SA 19-14](#)). One topic the task force was asked to study is the level of engagement that institutions have with community or nonprofit organizations that provide mental health services. What level of involvement do you think campuses should have with these types of off-campus organizations?
9. In the near future, CSCU administrators may have to make difficult decisions about how to keep students, faculty, and staff safe in the wake of the coronavirus epidemic. What role should the Board of Regents have in this important process?

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