

Questions for Nominees to the Board of Regents for Higher Education

By: Sarah Tata, Legislative Analyst II
March 25, 2026 | 2026-R-0039

Board of Regents for Higher Education ([CGS §§ 10a-1a & 10a-6](#))

The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) makes policies and rules governing the Connecticut State University System, CT State Community College, 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 23 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 Office of Workforce Strategy's chief workforce officer, the chairperson and vice-chairperson of BOR's faculty advisory committee, and the Office of Policy and Management's secretary are ex-officio non-voting members of the board.

Questions

1. CSCU continues to conduct a national search for a permanent system leader. What skills and attributes should be prioritized when selecting this new leader and what vision should they have for the future of CSCU?
2. According to [Hartford Business](#), 2025 saw a boost of enrollment across Connecticut's public higher education institutions, with CSCU reporting a 6.7% increase in total enrollment for fall 2025. What anticipated challenges and opportunities come with this increased enrollment, and how can CSCU plan to take advantage of these opportunities and mitigate any challenges?
3. Connecticut's community colleges have now been consolidated into CT State for almost three years. How do you see the role of CT State within the greater CSCU system developing in the future?
4. Given reductions in federal funding and state budget constraints, what ideas do you have to make CSCU sustainable and thriving over the next five years?
5. BOR currently has two student members among its 23 total members. If appointed to the board, how do you intend to work with the student members? Do you think students should have a different level of representation?
6. Student loan debt has become increasingly burdensome for college graduates, in part due to recent changes to federal student loan borrowing and repayment. What is your assessment of the impact of this recent federal loan legislation on CSCU students and CSCU's institutions? What steps can BOR take to mitigate student debt levels?
7. The state's budget allocates CSCU \$480 million for the current fiscal year and \$500 million for the 2026-27 fiscal year, substantially less than CSCU's requested \$555.4 million for each fiscal year. The governor has proposed additional budgetary changes this session and CSCU likely will need to use reserves to supplement its budget. What are the anticipated impacts of these budgetary constraints, and how should CSCU plan accordingly?
8. CSCU's online Charter Oak college recently began offering courses through their new AI academy, which provides students with an overview of AI's impacts across various industries along with in-demand AI skills. How do you see AI playing a role in higher education currently and how do you anticipate that role may change in the future?
9. In recent years, audits raised questions about the use of purchasing cards (P-Cards) by CSCU executives. Legislation last session led to policy changes about P-Card use at CSCU. Do you think these changes are sufficient or should more be done to ensure that P-Cards are used properly?

ST:ms