



Connecticut General Assembly
SENATE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

April 13, 2015

Dr. Gregory W. Gray
President
Connecticut Board of Regents for Higher Education
39 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06105

Dear Dr. Gray:

We are writing to you regarding the recent action of the Connecticut State Senate to block closures of campuses within the Board of Regents and the response to that action in the media by you and other representatives of the Board of Regents.

The financial decisions facing the General Assembly are most serious, and we fully understand the impact that they will have on residents of the State of Connecticut. We also appreciate the difficult decisions facing the Board of Regents in light of declining enrollment and tightening budgets. We have made it clear in our discussions with you and members of the Board of Regents that students in the Board of Regents system are our primary concern. We have asked that every effort be made to minimize the impact of budget reductions on students both in terms of tuition increases and access to classes.

The closure of the Meriden branch and the effective abandonment of almost 650 tuition-paying students, without full action of the Board of Regents, appeared to violate that objective. The State Senate took action on April 8, 2015 to clarify that balancing the budget of the Board of Regents system solely on the backs of vulnerable students will not be tolerated.

It is troubling to read news accounts that indicate that the message is still not being heard by the administration of our 17-member higher education system. We urge you to reconsider your position. We urge you to begin to put the needs of students first.

Sincerely,


Martin M. Looney
President Pro Tempore




Bob Duff
Majority Leader