

**PA13-128**

HB5617

Higher Education	486-498, 514-522, 537	23
House	2883-2934	52
Senate	4067-4073, 4143-4144	9
		<b>84</b>

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**HIGHER EDUCATION  
AND  
EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT  
PART 3  
484 - 730**

**2013**

Faculty members will be more involved, and invested in the path forward being charted by the board when they are involved in the development of those plans, rather than the passive recipients of such plans. On behalf of the ConnSCU faculty I represent, thank you for your time and attention.

SENATOR BYE: Dr. O'Neil, thank you for your time. And I know -- I know that it's been a whole lot of time and effort. And -- and there's been concerns about being heard. And I think that the way you all have brought forward your ideas and your critiques in -- in a positive way looking to have faculty be a positive voice. Has been really commendable.

So, do any committee members have questions?

No. Thank you so much.

PATTY O'NEIL: Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Next is Matthew Vece followed by Mike Kurland. Am I saying your name correctly?

MATTHEW VECE: It's Vece. But in Italian it's Vece, so.

SENATOR BYE: Vece. Welcome, Matthew Vece.

MATTHEW VECE: Good afternoon, Senator Bye, Representative Willis, Senator Boucher, and Representative LeGeyt and the members of the Higher Education Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in opposition of House Bill 5617, An Act Concerning Membership -- An Act Concerning Student Membership on the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut.

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

My name is Matthew Vece and I'm a junior political science major at UCONN. I'm also interning this semester for Representative Williams in the legislative office building. I sit here today in opposition to this bill because I do not believe it will serve the best interest of my university. If this bill were to pass at is -- as it is written today, it would effectively remove or discourage many of the most qualified students from running for Student Trustee.

The language of this bill would completely eliminate seniors from running and it will limit juniors to just a one year term. While researching this bill, I had the opportunity to speak with Michael Daniels, who was just elected as our next undergraduate student Student Trustee earlier this week. Mr. Daniels was also a junior, told me and I quote, "I certainly do not think I would have been prepared to run last year."

This year he is the External Affairs Chair of the Undergraduate Student Government and he cited this as an invaluable experience towards preparing for the board. Passing this bill would undoubtedly lead to a negative consequences for student representation on the Board of Trustees. My peers and I want to elect the candidate that feel -- we feel will serve us best, like Mr. Daniels.

In the even that this bill gets through legislature, Mr. Daniels would be limited -- limited to just a one year term. So, if he graduated in May 2014 his seat would remain vacant until July 1, when the -- the tenure of the next Student Trustee began. This will also inhibit his ability to form a relationships with other board members so our student representative may consequently have less

influence on the Board of Trustees.

This one year term may also discourage other qualified upper classman from running in an election. As a result we may be forced to chose between younger candidates who are far less qualified. I'm here testifying today because I believe juniors, like Mr. Daniels, can effectively represent the undergraduate student body in their senior year and in their first year following graduation.

In this first year after graduation, former students are still very much in touch with the issues facing the University. In their first experience in the real -- their first experiences in the real world can also be an affective tool when evaluating what is in the best interest of the undergraduate student body. On the other hand, students who are elected in the final semester before graduating may become removed from many important issues that UCONN undergraduates are facing by the end of their two year term.

For this reason, I believe this bill should be amended to prohibit only outgoing seniors from running for Student Trustee. This bill was clearly drafted to protect the interest of me and my peers, but the language of this legislation, as it stands now, would actually serve the opposite purpose. I urge the committee to vote against this bill, or edit the language to allow well qualified juniors, like Michael Daniels, to continue representing UCONN's undergraduate student body.

Thank you very much.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. That was really well done.

MATTHEW VECE: Thanks.

SENATOR BYE: Senator Boucher has a question.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you for being here and your testimony.

MATTHEW VECE: No problem.

SENATOR BOUCHER: You made a mention that it would be beneficial to having someone continue their membership on the board after graduation for a year afterwards. Is that correct?

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Now and -- and I understand your point. Very well made. However, isn't it also true that typically when someone graduates, their situation could change dramatically? They could be employed in or even out of state. And in fact, their situation would be less -- you know -- stable than maybe a younger student that still had a couple of years ahead of them?

MATTHEW VECE: That's a good point. But when going through the responsibilities of one of the Student Trustee's -- of the Student Trustee, they are responsible for attending all their committee meetings and going to university events. And being accessible to the students. So, if they were detached from the students and inaccessible, then they would not be serving their duty as the Student Trustee.

And I don't think -- I don't think that's a major problem for -- that could be solved with this legislation. I think that problem would be better solved within the board itself to take care of situations like that.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Well -- well you actually made

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

another point as well. And that is that the student being on campus would be more accessible to the other students and be able to discuss their issues and bring back the very details of what they were discussing at the Board of Regents level. How would you address that concern?

MATTHEW VECE: I don't think that would be a major factor in this day and age. Just because it's so easy to communicate over the computer, over the phone or in texting, email, anything. So, you -- I'm sure you don't see your constituents on -- all your constituents on a regular basis. But I know you're in contact with them.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Point very well made.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you.

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD: Thank you very much for coming to testify. I think -- it's good to see UCONN's students here, frankly. You know -- whether -- you know -- whether you're for my ideas or against my ideas.

MATTHEW VECE: Yes.

REP. HADDAD: It's good to see UCONN students here. And I appreciate that you're here. And you're probably getting a great experience working in Representative Williams' office.

MATTHEW VECE: Definitely.

REP. HADDAD: Keep your eyes open. There's a lot -- a lot that UCONN students could add to the process. One thing that I do want to mention, a

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

couple of things. One is you were just coming out of a situation, right, with the outgoing Student Trustee. Is -- was in the same position. He -- he graduated a year ago.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

REP. HADDAD: And I think -- has done -- but I want to say I think he's done a great job. I mean, I've known Brian since -- since before he was elected as the Student Trustee. And I think that he works very hard to represent the student body. I also know Michael Daniels. I think he was just elected.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

REP. HADDAD: And will be taking -- I guess this term starts in July? And I think that he'll do a great job. I actually do think that there -- that one of the flaws in the bill, as I proposed it, is that it doesn't recognize that we just had an election. And that the student body has elected somebody with the understanding that they will -- they'll be a graduate of the university for the second half of this term.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

REP. HADDAD: And I think that out of fairness, I think it probably does make sense for us to at least make this bill effective after his term is completed.

MATTHEW VECE: Definitely.

REP. HADDAD: Because -- you know -- the student body made that choice with the understanding that he would be able to serve his full term. And changing that unilaterally, I think is probably -- would do a disservice to the student body.

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

That being said, can you think of -- just a general question -- I mean, I think it's unusual that -- that -- that we have a situation where we're electing somebody to represent a body who is -- who potentially would not be -- continue to be a member of that body for the length of their term.

I mean, just to use us as an example, if I were to move out of my district, I would have to resign my post. You know -- the membership in -- of my -- you know -- I'm elected by people in my district to represent them. If I were to move out of the district at -- you know -- I could probably still do a very capable job. I've certainly seen arguments that you're talking about would apply.

I know my district well. I -- you know -- certainly have a lot of good communications. My -- I visit there regularly. But I'm not part of that group anymore. And -- and I'm curious to know if you think -- if you can think of any other examples where -- where that principle for an elected body isn't upheld? That we elect somebody and then even if they cease to be a member of the -- the body that they can continue to represent -- if we allow them to still represent? Aside from this example, are there any other examples you could think of?

MATTHEW VECE: I actually had the opportunity to talk with a former Student Trustee earlier in the day about that exact issue. And he told me that the Student Trustee's job isn't necessarily to represent the student body. But their job is to represent the University on the Board of Trustees. So I still think they can successfully represent the University while still understanding the issues of undergraduates.

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

And the analogy that he gave me for that situation, which I don't think is perfect because it's not necessarily an election. But he gave me the example to say the -- the Governor appoints somebody. Now, that person is not doing -- is not serving for the Governor. But he's serving for the state for whatever instance he was appointed for. So, that would be an analogy.

REP. HADDAD: That's a good point. In fact, when we take office here, even though we're elected from our districts, we take an oath of office, a pledge to the State of Connecticut, not to our districts. I mean -- I mean I guess -- I'll take from your answer that you -- that maybe there aren't other examples of -- to my specific question of a -- of a person who is elected by a body, specific -- from a specific district ceases become -- ceases to be a member of that district. And can continue to serve in their role.

But, -- but let's move on. I think that one of the things that were in the previous discussion. You might have been here when we were talking about the -- the student members of the Board of Regents.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

REP. HADDAD: That there's something valuable, to me, about having a member of the group that's really being affected by the change. So, students pay fees, they pay tuition rates. And that's a current expense. And they expect to pay those expenses. And -- and yet the Board of Trustees is making decisions.

And one of the things I think is really great about having student representation on the board, is that they themselves, unique among all

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

of the other members of the Board of Trustees, are directly impacted by the choices that they're making. And can bring that perspective to them. We have two alumni, Representatives, already on the Board of Trustees. And it seems to me that losing an active member of the student body and having three alumni -- essentially having three alumni trustees, does -- does the student body a disservice.

But I don't know if you have any comments on that.

MATTHEW VECE: What I have to say about that is -- can you repeat the -- can you give me like an -- an elevator picture that, real quick?

REP. HADDAD: I guess -- I guess what I'm saying is that -- that the Student Trustee is unique on the Board of Trustees. And that they are directly impacted by the choices that the Board of Trustees are making.

MATTHEW VECE: All right.

REP. HADDAD: And that they -- they vote and they bring their perspective. And that as soon as -- when they graduate, they -- we lose that.

MATTHEW VECE: Great. I think when we vote as undergraduate students, we assume and hopefully we rightfully assume that the person we are voting for is going to be voting in our -- is going to serve for our best interests and not necessarily what is in their best interest. So, I'd like to believe that the people that we elect are going to out there and try -- I hope that Mr. Daniels will fight for what's in the best interest of the undergraduate student body. Even if he -- even if he has graduated.

So, I don't think him not being directly

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

affected by the decisions will affect the way he makes decisions for the undergraduates.

REP. HADDAD: Thank you for your response. I think you're right when it comes to Michael. I think he'll do a great job. And I think you've done very well in answering my questions --

MATTHEW VECE: Thank you.

REP. HADDAD: -- and in testifying. I appreciate your testimony. Thanks.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. I have a couple of follow up questions.

MATTHEW VECE: Okay.

SENATOR BYE: And first of all, I think this committee with its hearing today is recognizing how important students' voice is in helping us to have improved institutions of higher education. And we've been hearing from students across the state this week at the CSU and community colleges. And we're just so proud about our institutions of higher learning, public and private. And -- and the kind of energy that students bring. And an important perspective.

So, thank you so much for caring about this. I had an idea as I'm listening to you. And I want to get your impression of it. I think you made a really good point about -- you know -- sophomore getting elected to represent -- you know -- on the Board of Trustees, but that they couldn't. I've seen 17 year olds who could probably do a bang up job. Because every kid's different.

But I think you raised a really good point. Do you think there might be a way to structure the

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

language of this bill in such a way that it's -- the two year term unless a student graduates, in which case there will be another election? Because there is also something to having a student on for two years. And being on the UCONN Board of Trustees is something that CEO's come begging to do.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

SENATOR BYE: It's something that people like to do. They want to have an influence on the UCONN and all that it does. And they meet interesting people, and learn interesting things. So, it's really a prestigious thing in the state to be on that board. So, what -- what do you think of that idea? That -- to try to get at the student has two years. Okay. If they're matriculating. Because there is a graduate student rep.

MATTHEW VECE: Right.

SENATOR BYE: And there are alumni reps. But as long as they're an undergraduate, they would fulfill the two year term. But if they're elected to let the students elect whoever they want, if they're elected as an incoming senior, then that term would be one year. And the students would know to have an election before that.

MATTHEW VECE: I think that if we made it clear to the students that the trustees would only be able to serve through the undergraduate tenure at the university, it would be fair for the students. But -- but I don't think it would be fair to the trustee in the sense that they'll lose relation -- lose their relationship with the other members of the Board of Trustees.

And to my understanding, the other members of the Board of Trustees have either a four or six year terms. So, and the students only have two

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

year terms. So, everybody else has a much better opportunity to make relationships with each other. And as long as I've been in this building, people have told me, it's all about your personal relationships. It's all about networking. It's all about who you know.

So, if we're going to limit our best and most qualified students to just a one year term, that would not serve in the best interest of them. And of the undergraduates because they would lose influence.

SENATOR BYE: Well that was quite a good answer, Matthew.

MATTHEW VECE: Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Quite impressive.

Senator Cassano.

SENATOR CASSANO: Yes, your idea is intriguing. There's no question about that. But -- but I really do have concerns. I taught at a community college for 28 years. I was very much involved working with student senate over those years. We would have often times where a student senate president or vice president would transfer, go to the university or whatever it might be. And we have the Board.

You -- you cannot have student leadership for students without the student being visible and present. For the Board of Trustees, the person who was appointed as the community college representative went and visited every community college to make known himself and to learn about that community college. So he could serve them correctly as a member of the Board of -- as the Board of Regents.

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

To have -- let's say your current president. If he goes to graduate school, if he goes on to a scholarship somewhere else or something like that. That presence isn't there. And yet he's elected by student body members who come out in good faith to vote for that person to represent them. That representation is gone if he's gone, or she's gone.

And that's my concern. I would expect, and I don't know if it's the way it works, but I would expect as a student rep that that student rep is going back to the university at least a couple of times a year. And maybe having sessions and discussion about stuff that's going on at the board. And looking for input and so on.

And they would be doing that as a student, not as a graduate. So, that's the difficulty I have. Because I really believe that to represent somebody, you have to -- you have to be a part of that group. Not somebody that was a part of the group. And that's where my difficulty is.

MATTHEW VECE: Right. Yes. That's a fair point. But as I mentioned before, it is the responsibility the Student Trustee to be transparent and to -- or to be accessible. And to have to come to events. And go to -- and to speak with the students. And if they don't do that, that's the failure on the Trustees part. And they should still be able to do that even if they're one year out of college.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. And thank you for your testimony. You did a wonderful job.

MATTHEW VECE: Thank you very much.

SENATOR BYE: Is this your first time?

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

parent lost their job. And they absolutely needed the student health insurance. They had no money. We applied for the student's first fund and -- and they did pay the premium. So, there -- there are safety nets. But I don't -- it really doesn't -- it doesn't cover all of those situations.

REP. SAWYER: And maybe this question isn't for you. But the Medicaid money, how much of that is reimbursed by the federal government? That's one of the good things to know from the state.

MIKE KURLAND: I don't know. I'm under the impression it's close to 80 or 90 percent. But, I -- I'm not the authority on that.

REP. SAWYER: Okay. Thank you so much.

MIKE KURLAND: Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. And -- and thank you for your testimony. I think this is an excellent idea. And so we appreciate you coming and filling us in.

MIKE KURLAND: Great.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you.

MIKE KURLAND: Thanks very much.

SENATOR BYE: Next we have Jigish Patel. Another student. Awesome.

Sorry. Your time is up.

JIGISH PATEL: Thank you so much, Committee members for allowing me this opportunity to speak on House Bill 5617. Before I start, I want to mention two things about me which are personal in affect -- will affect my testimony. I am the

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

student body vice president at UCONN. And I want to say I do not speak on behalf of every single student on this matter. The student government has not passed any legislation supporting or opposing the -- the legislation regarding trustee membership.

So, I don't speak on behalf of my constituents. I speak as a UCONN student. And second, I did serve on campaign of Mr. Michael Daniels. I was the -- the top leadership in his campaign to get him elected. So, I -- I come from that perspective. Currently I'm a -- I'm majoring in chemistry political science and history. And I'll be graduating this year.

The reason why I skipped my Renaissance Italy class and come here right now is because I feel as though Board of Trustee position for students is very important position where not only can you advocate for decisions, but you could actually vote on those decisions itself. It's not like being vice president of student body, very -- you know -- you just try to voice your opinions but don't have a vote on what actually ends up happening. Where on the Board of Trustees, that does happen.

The reason why I support this legislation and the concept of it is because I wouldn't want Governor Malloy to be elected in Connecticut and tomorrow move to New Jersey, and still be able to make decision. And -- and still -- you know -- voice his concern on behalf of Connecticut residents. I -- I don't question -- you know -- in that situation -- you know -- capability of -- of that Governor. But it does change that person's perspective on how they look at legislations any item that -- that affects that constituency.

For example, board -- you know -- every other

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

year looks at tuition increase. And if I am not a member of -- of the student body, if I have graduated and I'm still on the trust -- Board of Trustees, I'm not going to be able to make a very passionate -- you know -- I'm not going to be able to -- to connect to students because I'm not going to be paying that bill. So, if I'm trying to negotiate what the increase should be, I want to be -- you know -- I'm not going to be affected by that increase. And I'm not going to be as passionate about trying to get -- get it lowered to -- to be as low as possible. Or increase it if that needs to happen to maintain student services.

And for that reason, I think the member of Board of Trustees, and especially the student representative, should be a student throughout their tenure. You know -- be an undergraduate student. I think one change that I do support and the previous speak, my fellow UCONN student, has mentioned, is that because this legislation comes at a time where a new trustee has been elected, I don't think it would be fair to place a burden on that person and say that -- you know -- I know you were expecting to -- to be able to serve for two years. But now you are not able to.

So, I think that that amendment -- this is a very good legislation. And if I'm -- if I may just say one more thing. To make it even stronger in the future, I hope you'll consider adding another student trustee -- you know -- just to make sure that student -- students have more voice on the board. And -- you know -- if they're more -- I think there are more than 20 members on the board, and one is a student.

I don't -- that shows the lack of -- you know -- student representation, in my opinion. So, I hope that's the next step. But this is the

first one. Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. And you could still purpose that as an amendment to this bill. Which I think is sort of done. And -- and I think we'll take that under advisement as well. Thank you. I -- I think your -- you must be very busy with those three areas of focus?

JIGISH PATEL: Yes.

SENATOR BYE: But thank you for coming before us.

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD: Jigish, thank you very much for being here and testifying on the bill. And -- and as I understand that there's a new vice president and president of the student body recently elected as well. And your term is coming to a close. But I guess congratulations on a successful tenure as vice president of the student body. And good luck in whatever you decide to do next.

It's interesting that you were a supporter of the incoming trustee who was obviously in a position where he's likely to graduate. And my understanding, is he going to stay on as a graduate student. And so perhaps that mitigates somewhat the concern. But -- but he won't be an undergraduate student any more. About your -- your comments about additional student representation on the board. Can -- can you tell me -- do you know for a -- how much of the overall budget of the University of Connecticut is paid for by student tuitions -- tuition as opposed to state funding?

JIGISH PATEL: I think from my -- very generally, I can't go into specific percentiles. But it's about one third paid by student tuition, one

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

third by the State of Connecticut and one third by UCONN foundation and -- and through fundraising. So, that's my general understanding. I've been trying to make sure that that is the ratio that maintains. But -- you know -- with tough time at the state capital, that ratio has been -- you know -- the state level has been decreasing while the student one is going up.

So, --

REP. HADDAD: Yes. That -- that's my understanding as well. The reason why I ask the question, I guess, is just to help you make a point about student representation. Which is that I think for the first time in -- in the last few years, for the first time, the amount that students were paying in terms of the overall budget of the university, eclipsed the state's contribution to the university.

And still the state -- you know -- through the Governor's appointment -- you know -- maintains the huge majority of representatives of the Board of Trustees. But students have -- undergraduate students have one, and graduate students students have one other. So -- so, I think your point is well taken about the importance of student representation on -- on the Board of Trustees.

The -- and -- just the last question. Do you have a recommendation if there is a vacancy -- if a student were to graduate, how -- how should that vacancy be filled? The bill is silent on the issue. But it doesn't have to stay that way. Should -- should that vacancy be -- could that vacancy be easily filled by an election of the student body to fill the unused term? Or are there other mechanisms that could be used?

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

JIGISH PATEL: I think in my -- you know -- I haven't sat on the Joint Elections Committee, which takes care of all the student elections on campus in the spring semester. So, let's say a student is -- is -- has announced. So, if I'm an outgoing senior this year. And I have announced that I will be graduating and my term will -- will be coming to an end. In that situation, in that spring semester -- so currently, there could be election that could be held to -- to end that individual's term to one year. And then elect someone else during that joint election session.

So, I -- I don't think it's very difficult. If a student were to say that they are graduating and their term by state statute is -- you know -- is required to end. In that situation, it's pretty simple. The only situation where it gets tricky, is someone decides to -- you know -- end their term halfway through the semester at point where it's not supposed to end. And -- but that doesn't really matter because anyone could -- could do that at any point.

So, it's tricky in no matter what. If you have that legislation -- if you have that mandate or not. But -- but, in generally, if it's supposed to end in one year instead of two years, I think it's pretty simple to fill -- fill that term.

REP. HADDAD: Thank you.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you.

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you, Madam Chair.

And thank you very much for your presence as well. I think you made a very interesting and compelling argument as the other student also

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

was very articulate. And -- and made a very good statement on behalf of the support. But your point was very well taken about the kind of interest and passion that someone would have if they're fully matriculated and are having to pay the cost of that education.

And you're going through that and being very sensitive to that. And you feel that once you left, essentially, you're moving on to different responsibilities. And maybe in the private sector. But if you continue on at the university, then you would continue to have those same interests. Is that what I'm hearing from you?

JIGISH PATEL: Yes. And -- you know -- I'll talk about my story. You know -- yes, you -- you need a lot of experience to be able to talk to student, to the board members about figures -- you know -- I said what the ratios. And most students wouldn't know. They -- they would think that it's all paid by students. And it's not the case. And so, yes you do need a lot of experience -- you know -- at the beginning of this year, I was like -- I told myself, I said I ran a campus wide election -- you know -- I managed my campaign. I was really really happy the fact that I won.

Michael Daniels was my campaign manager. So, I said why not run for trustee -- you know -- I -- state statute doesn't require me to be undergraduate. But then I decided that it was unethical for me to do that because my -- what I'm looking at next year after graduation, is teaching in Mississippi Delta somewhere through Teach for America. Or being in England to complete a Master's Degree through -- through the full rate scholarship.

So, I don't think -- you know -- it's

## EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

communication is great. But then I walked through my office, and I see -- you know -- trustees office closed every single day. I don't think that that's what we need at this University of Connecticut. I don't want that door to be closed. I want that door to be open for every single student. Because I could send you a written testimony. But it's not the same thing as me coming to you and expressing my anger or support. It's not the same thing.

SENATOR BOUCHER: Thank you very much.

And thank you, Madam Chair.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. You're a big proponent of democracy and representative government.

JIGISH PATEL: Yes.

SENATOR BYE: We love that.

JIGISH PATEL: And I think by experience of shaped by the fact that I moved from India in 2003. So for me being -- I never realized that I could be a student body vice president at UCONN. And being able to testify at a state capital and be heard, even as a student not knowing -- not -- not knowing much about legislation and how it functions. But -- but the fact that -- you know -- you guys that are here to -- to welcome us as students and -- and hear us, and hear our concerns. So, thank you so much.

SENATOR BYE: Thank you. And like the other students you have represented your university quite beautifully today. And we thank you for coming before us. So, have a great afternoon. You better get back. You must have a lot of homework with your --

JIGISH PATEL: Thank you so much. Have a nice day.

72

March 14, 2013

tmd/gbr

HIGHER EDUCATION AND

1:00 P.M.

EMPLOYMENT ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE

SENATOR BYE: Thank you.

Is there anyone else who wishes to testify today? Is there anyone else who would like to testify?

If no one else wants to testify, I declare this hearing closed. And thank you committee members, that was very illustrious.

UConn Student Matthew Vece Testimony in Opposition HB 5617  
Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee  
March 14, 2013

Senator Bye, Representative Willis, Senator Boucher, and Representative LeGeyt and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB 5617, An Act Concerning Student Membership on the Board of Trustees for the University of Connecticut.

My name is Matthew Vece and I am a junior political science major at UConn. I sit here today in opposition of this bill because I do not believe it will serve in the best interest of my university. If this bill were to pass as it is written today, it would effectively remove or discourage many of the most qualified students from running for Student Trustee. The language of this bill would completely eliminate seniors from running, and it will limit juniors to just a one year term. While researching this bill, I had the opportunity to speak with Michael Daniels; who was just elected as our undergraduate Student Trustee earlier this week. Mr. Daniels, a junior, told me, "I certainly do not think I would have been prepared to run last year." He is currently the External Affairs Chair of the Undergraduate Student Government and he cited this as an invaluable experience towards preparing for the Board.

Passing this bill will undoubtedly lead to negative consequences for student representation on the Board of Trustees. My peers and I want to elect the candidate that we feel will serve us best, like Mr. Daniels. In the event this bill gets through the legislature, Mr. Daniels would be limited to just a one year term on the board. This will inhibit his ability to form relationships with other board members, so our student representative may consequently have less influence on the Board of Trustees. This one year term may also discourage other qualified upperclassmen from running in an election. As a result, we may be forced to choose between younger candidates who are far less qualified.

I am testifying here today because I believe juniors, like Mr. Daniels, can effectively represent the undergraduate student body in their senior year and in their first year following graduation. In this first year after graduation, former students are still very much in touch with the issues facing the university. Their first experiences in "the real world" can also be an effective tool when evaluating what is in the best the interest of the undergraduate student body. On the other hand, students who are elected in their final semester before graduating may become removed from many important issues that UConn undergraduates are facing by the end of their term. For this reason, I believe this bill should be amended to prohibit only outgoing seniors from running for student trustee.

This bill was clearly drafted to protect the interests of me and my peers. But the language of this legislation, as it stands now, would actually serve the opposite purpose. I urge the committee to vote against this bill, or edit the language to allow well-qualified juniors like Michael Daniels to continue representing UConn's undergraduate student body. Thank you again for giving me the opportunity to testify.

**H - 1158**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
HOUSE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL.56  
PART 9  
2743 - 3085**

pat/gbr

141

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

families, and for his loving wife and family, so I ask for a moment of silence. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Members all please stand for a moment of silence.

(MOMENT OF SILENCE.)

Thank you. Thank you, Representative Boukus.

And another Member of that great Caucus, I believe was John Hoyer, back in that time. So, (inaudible) will certainly be missed.

Will the Clerk, are there any other introductions or announcements? If not, will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 316.

THE CLERK:

Yes, Mr. Speaker. On Page 16 of today's Calendar, Calendar Number 316, Favorable Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement, Substitute House Bill 5617 AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The distinguished Representative from Mansfield, Representative Haddad, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

142  
May 8, 2013

Yes, Mr. Speaker. I move for the acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The question before the Chamber is on acceptance of the Joint Committee's Favorable Report and passage of the bill. Representative Haddad, you have the floor.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Yes, Mr. Speaker. This is a very simple bill. It simply requires that the student trustees who are elected to the Board of Trustees at the University of Connecticut remain as students for the duration of their term of service. I urge my colleagues to support it.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Will you remark further on the bill?

Representative LeGeyt of the 17th.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon, sir.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

143  
May 8, 2013

I have a couple questions for the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I understand that this bill reflects only full-time students as potential members of the Board or Trustees. Is that correct? Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker. Representative LeGeyt is correct. The current statute requires that students be full-time enrolled students at the University of Connecticut to be eligible to run for the Board of Trustees and this bill does not change that requirement.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And what does change is that they have to be full-time students to be eligible to run for a seat on the Board, but under this bill,

pat/gbr

144

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

they will now have to be full-time students for the duration of their term on the Board, and there are two seats out of 21 members on that Board that will be filled by students, one undergraduate and one graduate.

Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in Lines 61 to 62 and then in 65 to 67 it lays out details about the students that would be eligible to run for a seat on the Board, specifically the graduate student, of which there must be one, and lays out the various graduate courses of study that that student can come from and the method whereby those students in those graduate programs would select their representative to the board. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

145  
May 8, 2013

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Yes, that appears to be correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative LeGeyt.

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

I think this is a, I very much think this is a good bill, and have supported it. I do have a concern, though, in that while it makes abundant sense that for a student to be on the Board of Trustees that he or she should be an enrolled student and not an alumna or alumnus of the institution.

It does tend to disenfranchise the seniors or the third or fourth year graduate students because all they can propose is that they would represent their constituency if you will, for half a term since they would only have a shortened time to serve.

I would ask, through you, is that the way Representative Haddad sees it as well?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad, is that the way you see it as well?

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

146  
May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I do not see it quite that way. I think when we set aside two voting positions on the Board of Trustees for students, it was to fill a particular role of making sure that the student voice is heard as the University is making important decisions.

I would say that there's nothing in this bill that would prohibit a student who is close to the end of their term from running for the position and students would be entrusted to use that information when they're making their choice about who they should select to be their student trustee.

It may be that a student is well qualified enough that the suggestion that they would only serve for part of their term, one year of their two-year term would carry the day and that they would be elected. In the event that they graduated, there would then be a special election to fill the unexpired term.

So it doesn't prohibit individual students from making a case for their inclusion on the Board of Trustees, but it does require that the trustee remain a student for the duration of their term.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative LeGeyt.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

147  
May 8, 2013

REP. LEGEYT (17th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I appreciate that perspective from the Vice-Chair of the Higher Education Committee. I'm totally supportive of this bill and I think that any concerns that might be raised about the candidacy of juniors and seniors, well seniors specifically, is not nearly as expensive as the benefits of this bill in that we don't want a graduate of the University to be still holding on to their seat, which is the case at, the potential case at present.

So I'm supportive of this bill and encourage my colleagues to support it as well. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, sir. Representative Cafero of the 142nd.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a few questions, through you, to the proponent of the bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my understanding through the Q and A with Representative LeGeYT that it

pat/gbr

148

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

has always been the case that the two student members upon election, one must be a full-time undergraduate student and one must be a full-time graduate student. Is that correct? That has not changed in this bill. That has always been the case. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Yes, through you, Mr. Speaker, that is correct. One undergraduate student and one graduate student.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. And it has been the case, I presume, that there are instances wherein either an undergraduate or a graduate student having been elected to the Board for a two-year term, at some point during their term, stopped being a full-time student. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

149  
May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think that could happen. I'm not aware that that has happened. The more common circumstance and the reason why the bill was introduced is because in particular, the undergraduate student representative would typically graduate and serve the final year of their term as an undergraduate student body representative on the Board of Trustees, but in fact they were an alumni.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, what defines a full-time student? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, a twelve credit load.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That typically is about four classes per semester. Is that correct?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

150  
May 8, 2013

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Yes, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. And through you, Mr. Speaker, is that full-time determination made each semester or annually?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (142nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, at present it's made at the time of the election and that determination is not remade through the term of the student trustee. This bill would change that and it would require that the student remain a full-time student for the duration of his term or would become ineligible to continue to serve on the Board of Trustees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

pat/gbr

151

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Thank you. So, through you, Mr. Speaker, hypothetically. Let's assume that a full-time undergraduate student was elected to the Board of Trustees in his or her junior year and then in their senior year, which would be their second year of their two-year term.

Let us assume in the last semester of their senior year, so now three-quarters of their term has expired, with a quarter left. They were in the enviable position to have applied advance placement credits toward their caseload and for their last semester of their senior year they only needed to enroll in classes that gave them a total of 10 credits as opposed to 12 or 15.

It is my understanding under current law that would not be a problem, but if this law passes it would be a problem and prohibit that person from continuing to serve. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that would be correct if the student didn't choose to take an

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

152  
May 8, 2013

additional course to pick up the extra credits, which they could always do.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, currently, let us assume that an undergraduate senior, full-time student is elected and in the course of their senior year they've applied for and have been admitted to a graduate school program as a full-time student at the University of Connecticut. Is there anything under current law or under the proposed law that would prohibit that individual from serving his or her two-year term?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, just so I understand the question. You're talking if this bill were to be adopted, would an undergraduate student government elected trustee who then became a graduate student trustee be able to continue to serve as long as they were a full-time student?

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

153  
May 8, 2013

Is that the question?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Not really. Let me try. It might be confusing.  
Let's just take current law before this law is passed.

Under current law, could an undergraduate student, because it's at the time of their election they must be an undergraduate full-time student, and even the proposed law just requires that they're a full-time student thereafter, for the duration.

But the first year of their service as a senior, they're an undergraduate. But in the second year of their service they're a graduate student at the University of Connecticut. Is there anything first under current law that would prohibit that scenario and anything under the proposed law that would prohibit that scenario?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

154  
May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Under current law there is no prohibition and under this law as I read the language carefully, I see no prohibition.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, let us assume that scenario was the case and in that senior year of that person's tenure they were not admitted to graduate school. They were denied admission. What happens then?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if they're no longer a full-time student at the University of Connecticut they would become ineligible to continue to serve as a student body trustee on the Board of Trustees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, does the underlying statute or the current law provide how that actually

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

155  
May 8, 2013

-takes place? Are they notified by the executive director of the Board of Trustees? Does there, in other words, obviously there's summers between semesters where obviously a student at that current moment isn't a full-time student, but anticipates being one in the fall.

In other words, in accordance with the law that's being proposed here, what exactly happens procedurally when one no longer becomes, or no longer is a full-time student?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I mean, currently there is no provision for that to happen because the current law doesn't prohibit you from continuing to serve.

I would say that the University, well, there's two things. One is that, if you give me just a moment.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, in Lines, I guess it starts on Line 49 and continues through Line 52, the bill indicates that the students of the University of Connecticut, shall in a manner, in such a manner as

pat/gbr

156

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

the Board of Trustees and the University shall determine, elect two trustees.

So the procedures for running that election and for, which govern the qualities, or the qualifications of candidates for the Board of Trustees are actually designated by the Board of Trustees. They do that through a set of by-laws. The Board of Trustees has established a student trustee election committee, which has a set of by-laws, and that is what governs the election and the qualifications for a student trustee.

If this bill were to pass, those by-laws would have to be amended to ensure that the intent of the legislation is followed through by the University, and in doing so, I would imagine that the University would develop the procedures that you're referring to.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern, and I certainly understand that, but it seems like the lines that you referred to deal with the election, with the Board of Trustees formulating procedures with regard

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

157  
May 8, 2013

to the election, not necessarily the resignation or  
ineligibility while once in office.

Would you agree with that? Through you, Mr.  
Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would agree.  
However, I would just point out that the University's  
by-laws that would govern the election of a student  
trustee also has in it, in the by-laws, a section,  
Article II, Section A, which details the minimum  
requirements for candidacy and it seems to me that  
this is where the procedures for determining whether  
or not a student trustee remains to be eligible to  
serve in this role could be outlined and the procedure  
that the University would use to notify a student of  
whether or not his qualifications were to continue  
would lie.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

158  
May 8, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I say this with all due respect. It's a little sloppy. A little confusing. A little vague. Just sort of ain't there.

And I totally understand the intent of this, but again, sometimes there are unintended consequences to what we do.

Let me ask another question, through you. I presume that a student, full-time student of any of the branches of the University, undergraduate branches, would be eligible for election. Is that correct? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, that's correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If somebody were to avail themselves of a junior year abroad, having been elected in their sophomore year, serving that as their first year. Second year would be their junior year. They are getting full credits, but they are serving in

pat/gbr

159

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Italy, Florence. Any rules with regard to what happens to that person?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I believe that students that are enrolled in foreign study through the University of Connecticut are considered to be full-time enrolled members of the student body.

Fortunately, the Board of Trustees does participate, I mean, does allow trustees to participate in board meetings by conference call, and so I imagine that that's how that particular student would fulfill his duties.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, what time, point of the year is full-time student status determined? Obviously, I ask that question because we have a start of an academic year, starts usually end of August or September, there's a winter break. They

pat/gbr

160

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

come back in January. They go to May. There's a summer break. They pick it back up in September. Obviously, during the summer they are not enrolled in the University technically. They're not taking any classes.

So at what point of the year is it determined whether someone is a full-time student or not?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the University runs on a two-semester process. They have a fall semester and a spring semester. To be regarded a full-time student, prior to graduation, you have to enroll in at least 12 credits in both of those two semesters. And so, if a determination were to be made on an ongoing basis, I think that the student would become ineligible when he fails, when he or she fails to enroll for 12 credits at the, for the duration of either of those two semesters.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

161  
May 8, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So my hypothetical of that senior who applies for grad school finds out that unfortunately didn't get there, he has another year left on his term. He finds this out on May 1st. He graduates undergrad in mid-May I guess.

Would he be deemed not to be a full-time student enrolled in the University that August?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think when the degree is conferred to the student, that's when he would lose his status as a full-time undergraduate student and by that point, the enrollment is already under way for the graduate student, for graduate students in the fall semester.

And so, I think the answer to the question is that when an undergraduate student graduates in May, that is when his full-time status ends unless he's been accepted as a graduate student in the fall.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

162  
May 8, 2013

Representative Cafero. I'm sorry, sir.

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, as we all know, there are waiting lists. Many students apply for University. They don't get admitted. They don't get denied. They're put on a waiting list. Some of those waiting lists are sort of rolling admissions and some students don't find out that they've finally been admitted until say just prior to the semester starting.

In the case of grad school, typically the fall semester starts in August. Some grad students are awaiting and aren't granted admission until right up to the end.

If I was a senior serving my first term, applied to UConn Law School, was put on a waiting list, graduated undergrad in May, but then potentially could be admitted as late as August, would I have to give up my post in May?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

163  
May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think the answer would be yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, can I have the good gentleman point to me in what part of the statute you would make that interpretation?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I'm just looking at Lines 72 to 74, which is the crux of the bill, which says that any student member elected after July 1, 2013 shall be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of his or her election and for the duration of his or her term of service.

And so I think so long as a student is not enrolled as a full-time member, a student, then he becomes ineligible to serve, continue to serve on the Board of Trustees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

164  
May 8, 2013

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to the good Representative, that seems to contradict a previous statement because we all concede, first of all it was conceded that if you were elected as an undergrad and you are accepted in a grad school, you could do your first year in undergrad and your second year if you're a full-time grad student.

We also conceded the fact that during the summer months one may or may not be considered enrolled in the University. They are not at that time a full-time student but with the anticipation they will be in the succeeding semester, we certainly don't require them to give up their post.

In my hypothetical, if somebody was elected in their senior year, served that year, applied to a grad school, was put on a wait list, and was subsequently admitted to say, law school in July or August of that year, according to what you say, they would have already deemed to be ineligible upon their graduation. That seems to contradict the preceding statement. Do I have that wrong?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

165  
May 8, 2013

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think the key difference is whether or not the student has been accepted as a student in the graduate school or not, and the differences are quite dissimilar in that respect, that the University, the Board of Trustees, the student body, the student themselves expects to be enrolled, has been enrolled as a full-time student for the fall semester, I think makes the circumstances different than what the kind gentleman is suggesting.

In the event that he hasn't gained acceptance into the graduate school, I think that that's when the trigger would be implemented. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker, is it possible that if the Board of Trustees of the University as a body, determine that you and I are wrong, and they want to establish their own rules, which would allow for someone who might be on a wait list to see whether or not he or she makes it, and therefore keep their post as a trustee, they could

pat/gbr

166

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

pass regulations that would allow them to do that and not be contrary to the bill that's before us.

Would you agree with that statement?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think that the underlying bill does give some discretion to the Board of Trustees around the election and the qualifications of student trustees. Some of that authority is granted to the Board of Trustees itself.

It may be possible that they could exercise that responsibility as is being suggested by Representative Cafero, given that he sees some ambiguity in the legislation in front of us.

However, I will say that I think that what is perfectly clear by this legislation that what we are attempting to fix is the instances when a student has been elected to the Board of Trustees, is serving to represent the undergraduate or the graduate student body and they are no longer a student.

So I guess my interpretation of this bill may be a little bit more rigid than what is contemplated by

pat/gbr

167

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Representative Cafero's question, but I would concede that there is some discretion given to the Board of Trustees and that they may, using their own by-laws address the situation that he's referring to.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Cafero.

REP. CAFERO (142nd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the good gentleman for his answers. Ladies and gentlemen, the reason I am asking several questions about this is this whole subject matter is very near and dear to my heart.

I ran twice for the student Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut and I lost both times. My brother ran for the student trustees of the University of Connecticut and he won. And the point is, I know how hard it was and what a sacrifice it was to even run for the office, let alone as in my brother's case, serve for that office, and it was something that I think those who seek the office and serve in the office take very seriously and take as a privilege, and I totally understand the underlying intent of this bill, which is to make sure that if

pat/gbr

168

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

you're no longer affiliated with the University in a full-time status as a student that you're term should appropriately come to an end.

What I'm concerned about is, those situations of being given the benefit of the doubt to that student if in fact there's questions pending with regard to his or her full-time status, whether they're on a wait list, et cetera, when their term would end, when it would start, and those kind of questions.

I don't believe this bill addresses any of that. It gives the general purpose of the bill in the lines that are underlined on Line 72 through 74, but those very, it might seem specific but important questions go unanswered.

And though I would trust and hope that the Board of Trustees would adopt regulations and policies that would handle those situations, a strict reading of this statute would say that they have no right to do so because all they have a right to do so is talk about procedures and regulations as to the elections of those students and not, certainly, their departure, their resignation or the timing thereof.

I think it is another example of a well-intended bill that is incomplete on its face and could have,

pat/gbr

169

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

without change or further clarification, unintended consequences.

Once again, it is something that we must strive, as a General Assembly, to avoid. We should make sure that bills say what we want them to say, that they are as clear as concise as possible, that there is the least ambiguity, whatever that word is, vagueness, because people rely on this stuff.

There's, you know, we have thousands of students at the University of Connecticut, many of whom take very seriously the role of student government and representing their fellow students. The rules should be clear. They should be given the benefit of the doubt in the kind of circumstances that I described, but most importantly, the bill that controls it, the very bill that we are passing here today should be clear and this one is not.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Mr. Minority Leader. Representative Aman of the 14th.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I do reading through the bill and then listening to the Minority

pat/gbr

170

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Leader's discussion of it, I do have several questions on the underlying bill and how it relates to the changes in the bill.

So through you, Mr. Speaker, I do have some questions.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, sir.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. In looking at it, it talks about two students to be elected by the other students within the University. I'm looking at the early part of the bill, Lines 7 and 8 and I'm wondering from your experience and the school's experience, how many people are actually involved in the process and how are the students nominated for these important positions? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, when candidates, when students decide that they want to run for the position of the student trustee, they have to submit a number of different pieces of information to the Student Trustee Election Committee, which has been established

pat/gbr

171

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

to run, to initiate, administer and supervise these elections. Those qualifications are listed in their by-laws and that board is also responsible for running the election concurrent with other student elections for things like the undergraduate student body.

Typically the election happens in March and again, is in conjunction with the elections that happen for other officers of the student body.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, following up on that. If there are a dozen, two dozen candidates for the office who all meet the Board of Trustees qualifications that they say to be able to run, you must have these certain qualifications and there are numerous members of the student body who want to run and also have the qualifications.

Are all of them placed on the ballots?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr

172

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, the answer is yes.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

And so it's my understanding from the answer that there's nothing like a primary or a run off for this election? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, no.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

In the prior discussion there was a lot of discussion regarding a student who graduates, goes into graduate school, and whether they could continue or not and it seemed like the answers coming out of the proponent of the bill was that it would be possible for a student who graduates from the University, was going into graduate school to continue on in the Board of Trustees, and I'm wondering how that squares with the fact that you're supposed to have one graduate and one undergraduate trustee and it

pat/gbr

173

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

would appear that under that circumstance you would have or could very possibly have two graduate students and no undergraduate and so what again would happen to that student who was graduating as to who would continue to serve? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I would say that a previous iteration of the bill attempted to address that more particular concern in that it tried to, the language of that would have limited the undergraduate student body trustee to serve only while they were an undergraduate and the graduate student body trustee to serve only while they were a graduate student.

But, however, the new language of the bill does not make that distinction and so the distinction is not here in this bill.

I think what's important is that the underlying statute really considers making sure that there are two student voices on the Board of Trustees and that while one is elected by the undergraduate student body and the other is to the graduate student body, the

pat/gbr

174

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

purpose is still served well by having two students, enrolled students on the Board of Trustees.

I would also mention that there's, the underlying statutes also allow for the election of two alumni to the Board of Trustees. This doesn't change those elections, but the underlying bill and the intent of the legislation is to ensure that the student body is well represented and that even after they become alumni that the student body is represented by one of their own. Thank you.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes, it does in reading the underlying bill, I find that answer a little difficult to follow because my reading of it does call for one undergraduate and one graduate student, but if that's not what it says, I'm willing to go along with the proponent of the bill.

I'm also looking at part of the bill that talks about it's being, Line 36 and there's several other areas it says for instance, conducted by mail prior to September 1st, et cetera and especially on the alumni

pat/gbr

175

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

part, I think I heard at one point that there is somewhere around 80,000 or 90,000 UConn graduates somewhere in existence.

I'm wondering, do they really notify by mail 80,000 or 90,000 people that an election is forthcoming?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, of course this legislation does not address the election of alumni trustees. Although the language of that entire section of the law is in this bill, this bill addresses only the underlying portions in Line 62 and 72 to 74.

But as a way of answering the question, I think the University does have the obligation to do its best to provide ballots to all of the alumni for the election of the alumni trustee. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Could I just say that the noise level in here is rising. It's becoming

pat/gbr

176

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

difficult to hear Representative Haddad bringing out his bill. If I could ask Members to take their conversations outside it would certainly be appreciated. Thank you.

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. The reason I'm bringing that up about the mail and then there's other places where people are entitled to sign ballots, et cetera, is that I wish that when we updated this legislation that some of the other things were done.

When this was written in 1975, notification by mail, return by mail probably was the only way to do it. Under current circumstances I've got to believe that there would be a much other, a much better other ways to do it.

Going on to definition of full-time, there was a lot of discussion about credit hours, 12 being the magic number that you had to have.

But I'm looking at the graduate students and saying, a student who has finished up their course work, working for a PhD and was working on their thesis, which for most of the people I have talked to that are working on a thesis considers that very much

pat/gbr

177

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

full time but it isn't necessarily a 12 credit hour  
thesis that they're writing.

Is that classified as part time, full time or  
some other category? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad, could you hear the  
question?

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes, I did.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Okay, you have the floor, sir.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Barely. But I would say that the University  
does, in fact, designate graduate students as full  
time or part time. You are correct. In our  
discussion of the undergraduate student body we were  
talking about 12 credit hours. I don't have at my  
fingertips the exact way that the University  
determines what a full-time graduate student is, but I  
think in the instance that you're talking about they  
are considered by the University to be full-time  
students. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

178  
May 8, 2013

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. And the final, the Board of Trustees, both the students and the graduates, alumni, et cetera, are they paid for their service or do they get any expense reimbursement, mileage, et cetera, or is it a completely volunteer sort of position? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge there is no compensation for service on the Board of Trustees.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Aman.

REP. AMAN (14th):

Yes. I thank the proponent for the bill. I think this does address one of the problems. I just wish that this and other pieces of legislation that have come forward when we're changing one part of a bill that we would look at all of the other underlying sections of the bill and say, okay, if we're going to update one part, why don't we do a complete job and update everything?

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

179  
May 8, 2013

Again, this bill is just one of the many that I think we're looking at this Session and others that need updating and should have a more thorough analysis, but I thank the proponent for being able to intelligently answer the questions that we had forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Lavielle of the 143rd.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Good afternoon, ma'am.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

I have also a few questions for the proponent, if I may.

To begin with, as I understand it and as I understood it in Committee, this applies only to the UConn Board of Trustees, not to the Board of Regents, not to any other higher education institution?

Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

180  
May 8, 2013

Through you, that is correct.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And I know that the good Representative made some reference before to the original impetus of the bill, but I wondered if he might be good enough to elaborate on what exactly prompted the need for generating a change to this statute? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, the last few student trustees elected from the undergraduate student body had graduated before the end of their term and have served the second half of their term as alumni.

This has been of some point of concern for many members of the student body at the University of Connecticut. The student trustee is required to have an office on campus where they can listen to the concerns raised by students, and unfortunately in the second half of the term, after students have graduated and taken jobs, oftentimes in remote areas of the

pat/gbr

181

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

state or the country, the student trustee is no longer available to hear directly from students on campus.

And so the concern here I guess is that to effectively represent the student body, we feel like it would be appropriate to ensure that the student trustee remains as a member of the student body.

It is, I'm hard pressed to think of another elected office, frankly, that elects a representative, who subsequently no longer becomes part of that constituency, but gets to continue to serve in the capacity.

Here in the Chamber for example, if we were to move out of our districts, we would no longer become, be eligible to continue to serve in the General Assembly and similarly, I think when the students graduate and are no longer a member of the constituency that they're elected to represent, the effectiveness of that representation declines just because their presence oftentimes is not on campus.

And so, as a result of conversations that I had with members of the student body and the undergraduate student government, we introduced the legislation to address that circumstance. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

pat/gbr

182

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Thank you, Representative. Representative

Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much and I thank the Vice-Chair for his answer. How, just for clarification, how long is the term of the student board member. It is two years. Am I correct?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, yes. The term is two years.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

And the terms of all of the other board members are four?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think it depends on what kind of a board member you're referring to. I would note that there are several ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees who serve, I think for the

pat/gbr

183

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

duration of their position. For example, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Education are ex-officio members of the board.

I seem to recall reading this earlier that other members are elected for six-year terms and I think the alumni representatives are elected for four-year terms.

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you. And is the role of the student members the same as that of all the other not ex-officio, but all the full board members? Do they have a full vote? Do they have the same requirements for attendance? Is their role in all other respects the same, or is it different?

: Through you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, their responsibilities are the same as for other members of the Board of Trustees. They are full voting members with the

pat/gbr

184

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

responsibility to attend all of the meetings. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Lavielle.

REP. LAVIELLE (143rd):

Thank you very much. I have, just to note, and I have to admit, I did not notice this before when we were doing this in Committee, but I have the same impression as Representative Aman about the intent of the characteristics of the two students, whether one for the duration is supposed to be a grad student and one is supposed to be an undergrad for the duration, not only at the time of election, but also for the duration of the term, and it doesn't destroy the intent of the bill for me, but I have to say in the Lines 60 to 72 where there's a discussion of what stage of education those students have to represent, the way that the tenses are used and the descriptive clauses and so on, you can't actually tell whether the original intent was through the duration of a term or not, and then when we get to the underlying portion, it does say for the duration of his or her term of service, but there it only says must be a full-time student.

So I'm not clear and I do think this is a deficiency of clarity in the bill as to whether, with this change, whether there was ever an intent for there to be one graduate student and one undergraduate student and whether that is perpetuated with the change.

I don't think we can actually tell, and it would be nice if we could remedy that.

The other point that I would bring up is that I've served on quite a number of boards, whether educationally related, nonprofits, what have you, and town boards, and part of the dynamic of a board is the ability of its members to work together.

In fact, I've had that brought up in the context of the current Board of Regents that it will not really fully realize its potential until the members begin to work together on a much more collaborative basis.

And I think that the intent of this bill, if it really does result in every elected student member, who has only two terms to serve as opposed to the other members who have four or more, the intent is to ensure that those students have long enough time to build a relationships to work collaboratively.

pat/gbr

186

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

I'm not sure that it's quite organized well enough to deliver on that because of some of the exceptions that Representative Cafero raised and there are so many cases in which a student having served a year, a half a year, 18 months, might suddenly find him or herself in a case where he or she has to go, and it's sort of a double-edged sword.

On the one hand if they're not there, well, they shouldn't be serving and on the other hand, if they have to go, it does disrupt the continuity of the Board, and I think there are probably some modifications that could be made further that would make the bill stronger and that would get rid of that disruption possibility.

So I am not, I'm not going to change my prior vote on the bill, which was to support it, but I do think it could be improved and hope that we will look at that in the future and try to make it a little bit more vigorous. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the time.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, Representative. Representative Buck-Taylor of the 67th, ma'am, you have the floor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

pat/gbr

187

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I'd like to ask some questions to the Vice-Chair Representative Haddad.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Please proceed, ma'am.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Representative Haddad, could you explain to me what is the purpose of having two student members on the Board of Trustees?

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think the purpose of adding two students to the Board of Trustees or having two students on the Board of Trustees is to ensure that the students have a voice in the governance of their University. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, if they are appointed to the board to represent the student members of the college, can you tell me how many student members are

pat/gbr

188

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

part time and how many student members are full time?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't have those figures with me today. I'm sorry.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to Representative Haddad, so at this time we don't know the demographics of the students who go part time, whether it has to do with their racial, ethnic or financial demographics? Is that true? Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad. Excuse me. Sorry.

REP. HADDAD (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I don't have demographic information with me. Thank you. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

189  
May 8, 2013

Through you, Mr. Speaker. Representative Haddad, do you think it's important to have that demographic information so that we will know whether or not a significant portion of the population is not represented because they are part time because of these issues?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that as the Representative that, whose district includes the University of Connecticut that it's my observation that the full-time student body at the University of Connecticut is extremely diverse, has a significant number of a lot of different kinds of students, both traditional and non-traditional, older, younger, people of various races and so I'm not concerned, through you, Mr. Speaker, that the diversity of the part-time student body is significantly different than the diversity that would be embodied by the full-time student body, the full-time student body at the University of Connecticut. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

pat/gbr  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

190  
May 8, 2013

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, Representative Haddad, you have no statistics at this point to determine the difference, if any, in the diversity between students who may have to work their way through college and students who are able to go to the school full time? Is that true?

Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Haddad.

REP. HADDAD (54th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, I think I've answered that question as a no. I do not have the demographic information with me today. Through you, Mr. Speaker.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Representative Buck-Taylor.

REP. BUCK-TAYLOR (67th):

Through you, Mr. Speaker, Representative Haddad, having attended college on a part-time basis and having to work my way through college, there definitely was a difference between most times the

pat/gbr

191

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

people who were able to attend full time and the  
people who were able to attend part time.

So my concern is that we're going to have the unintended consequence of having students representing only a portion of the student body and not the full student body, which will have different concerns envisioned in the fact that they're working part time,, so that at this time, Mr. Speaker, I will not be able to support this bill. Thank you.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you, ma'am. Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further on the bill?

If not, will staff and guests please come to the Well of the House. Will the Members please take your seats. The machine will be opened.

TRE CLERK:

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.

Members to the Chamber.

The House of Representatives is voting by Roll.  
Members to the Chamber please.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Have all Members voted? Have all Members voted?  
Have all Members voted? Will the Members please check  
the board to see if their vote is properly cast.

pat/gbr

192

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2013

If Members have voted, the machine will be locked and the Clerk will take the tally. The Clerk will announce the tally.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, House Bill Number 5617.

Total Number Voting 143

Necessary for Passage 72

Those voting Yea 133

Those voting Nay 10

Those absent and not voting 7

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

The bill passes.

Are there any introductions or announcements?

Hearing none, will the Clerk please call Calendar Number 492.

THE CLERK:

Mr. Speaker, on Page 33, Calendar Number 492,

Senate Bill 967 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENSES RELATED TO THE USE OF NONPROFIT HOSPITALS, THE SALE OF NONPROFIT HOSPITALS. Excuse me.

DEPUTY SPEAKER RYAN:

Thank you. Representative Johnson of the 49th.

REP. JOHNSON (49th):

**S - 664**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL. 56  
PART 13  
3813 - 4129**

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

Yes, we will -- we will consider that in the fringe benefits as well, and I thank Senator Kissel for his question.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL:

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Will you remark further? Will you remark further?

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Madam President, if there's no objection, I ask that this be moved to Consent.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so ordered.

Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

On page 17, Calendar 563, substitute for House Bill Number 5617, AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENT MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark, ma'am?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes, Madam President.

This bill accomplishes something quite clear and simple, I believe, though there -- there is some complexity to it. But the simple point of this bill is to say that the student members on the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees need to be current students while serving as a student representative on the UCONN Board of Trustees.

I think this is an important point, and one that Representative Haddad brought to us, and I urge passage.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark?

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

Madam President, I do rise to support the bill. However, it did get some reaction, not just by students but by others that had a number of questions about this, since it did affect the current practice that we have in place today.

So in order to -- to fully understand the bill and to answer some of those questions that are still out there, through you, Madam President, a question.

If a student is currently a member of the board, but yet they would be graduating this -- say this, this time period, would they be able to finish out their term if they've only served a portion of that term or would they have to resign?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

The way we structured this bill recognized the most recent election, because University of Connecticut students are elected for two-year terms to the Board of Trustees. The current president, who was just elected, is entering his senior year.

So he will serve out his two-year term, recognizing that he was elected with those who voted for him perhaps, being aware that he was going to serve a two-year term. But after that, everyone will be clear that you can only serve while you are a student.

So if a student ran, for example, as a junior, they could be on the board their senior year, and if they elected to stay at Yukon, for example, to get a Master's, they could stay on as a student representative.

But if they left the University of Connecticut and were no longer a matriculating student, then they would have to resign their seat and the university students would have another election to fill that seat with an attending student.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

If I understand the good Chairwoman correctly, then those currently serving would be grandfathered until their term was concluded, and then the rules would apply to the next election.

And through you, just for further clarification, then if there was a senior that was being encouraged to run, then they would know in advance that they would not be eligible to participate in that election given that they would be graduating midterm going forward.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

And I appreciate the question and the clarification. Yes. That student could run for a graduate student position on the board, but they could not run for the student body president for the undergraduate position.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

That is very, very helpful. And further, would this, through you, then preclude someone that is taking classes part time. Is there a minimum number of

courses one has to be taking at one time to be eligible to run for office?

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

If the Senate could stand at ease for one moment.

THE CHAIR:

The Senate will stand at ease.

(Chamber at ease.)

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

The Senate will come back to order.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you. Thank you, Madam President.

If I can point Senator Boucher to line 72 through 74, the bill is clear that it shall be a student enrolled as a full-time at the University of Connecticut.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you very much, Madam President.

I think that absolutely makes it clear. I believe the last time I could recall that full-time was more than 12 credits or 15 credit hours, I think.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you, Madam President.

I'm not 100 percent clear whether it's 12 or 15 credits, but I believe it's clear to students who are enrolled and who are running for office that they need to be a full-time student. And they can check exactly what that credit hour limit is.

Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Boucher.

SENATOR BOUCHER:

Thank you, Madam President.

I'm hoping that this dialogue has exhausted the topic of whether or not they should be full-time or not, and that certainly the rules that would apply that whatever UCONN considers a full-time student would certainly apply to the election, and I thank her for her patience in answering all of these questions. And I believe this is a good bill that should be supported.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark?

Seeing none -- Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Through you -- through you, Madam President.

If there is no exception, I ask that we move it to the Consent Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objection, so -- so ordered.

Mr. Clerk

THE CLERK:

On page 26, Calendar 637, House Bill number 6292, AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS. Favorable report of the Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Bye.

SENATOR BYE:

Thank you, Madam President.

Through you I move acceptance of the joint committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

The motion is on acceptance and passage.

Will you remark?

SENATOR BYE:

Yes. Madam President --

THE CHAIR:

In concurrence with the House?

SENATOR BYE:

**S - 665**

**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2013**

**VOL. 56  
PART 14  
4130 - 4472**

Calendar page 29, Calendar 653, substitute for House Bill Number 6699. And, finally, Madam President, on Calendar page 31, Calendar 664, substitute for House Bill Number 6689.

I would like to add those items to our Consent Calendar and, and now call for a, I would ask the Clerk to list all of the items on the Consent Calendar and then proceed to a vote on that first Consent Calendar.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

Today's first Consent Calendar, on page 5, Calendar 341, House Bill 6364; Calendar 343, House Bill 5425; Calendar 346, House Bill 6322; Calendar 347, House Bill 6547; and on page 6, Calendar 349, House Bill 5513; page 9, Calendar 450, Senate Bill 921; on page 13, Calendar 506, House Bill 6491; Calendar 515, House Bill 6235.

On page 14, Calendar 524, House Bill 6380; on page 16, Calendar 559, House Bill 6508; page 17, Calendar 563, House Bill 5617; Calendar 569, House Bill 6485; and on page 19, Calendar 588, House Bill 6549; on page 23, Calendar 614, House Bill 6587; Calendar 616, House Bill 6678; page 25, Calendar 629, House Bill 6662; on page 26, Calendar 633, House Bill 6576; and on page 27, Calendar 640, House Bill 6550; on page 28, Calendar 650, House Bill 6659.

And on Page 29, Calendar 653, House Bill 6699; Calendar 655, House Bill 6339; page 31, Calendar 664, House Bill 6689; Calendar 665, House Bill 6355; page 34, Calendar 201, Senate Bill 911; and on page 40, Calendar 514, House Bill 5725.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you call for a roll call vote on the first Consent Calendar. And the machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate roll call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Senators please return to the Chamber. Immediate roll call in the Senate on the first Consent Calendar of the day.

THE CHAIR:

Yeah, thank you. Good. There we go.

If all members have voted, all members have voted, the machine will be closed.

Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally.

THE CLERK:

On the first Consent Calendar,

Total Number Voting 34

Necessary for Adoption 18

Those voting Yea 34

Those voting Nay 0

Those absent and not voting 2

THE CHAIR:

Consent Calendar passes.

Senator Looney.

SENATOR LOONEY:

Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Looney.