



Testimony by
Vijay Nair, CSU-AAUP President
Finance Committee's Public Hearing on S.B. 6388

March 7, 2011

Senator Daily, Representative Widlitz, and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors (CSU-AAUP) strongly opposes Sec. 15 subsection (g) of House Bill 6388, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations Concerning OPM*. This proposal would allow more positions within the institutions of higher education to be categorized as managerial, including chairs of academic departments and many other employees who are now represented by AAUP and other collective bargaining units. Academic department chairs are elected by their colleagues for a period of one or two years and serve as liaisons between their departments and university management. Under the proposed language of this Bill, they could be construed as having "responsibility for direction of a subunit [or facility] of a major division of an agency..."

In addition, consistent with long held traditions of university governance, many faculty members participate in the "development, implementation or evaluation of goals and objectives consistent with agency mission and policy" through various committees which serve in an advisory capacity to university management. Further, Departmental Search Committees and Evaluation Committees regularly participate in recommendations for hiring, renewal, tenure, and promotion, due to their specialized knowledge and areas of expertise. Institutions of higher education, by their very nature, depend on such collaborations between faculty and management. While participating in such collaborations does not give faculty managerial authority, the language in the proposed Bill could be interpreted otherwise, to the detriment of not only the faculty members, but also their institutions.

This bill contains no explanation or rationale for the proposed changes and it is questionable as to where the cost savings would come from. HB6388 will have many unintended consequences, among which will be to strip the rights of many employees to continue to belong to collective bargaining units.

It is for this reason that CSU-AAUP strongly opposes this bill and asks that it not be approved by the Finance Committee.

Sincerely,

Vijay Nair
President, Connecticut State University American Association of University Professors