

## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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Oct. 9, 2012

The Honorable Beth Bye  
Co-Chairman Joint Committee on Higher Education  
Legislative Office Building  
Room 3100  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Chairwoman Bye,

A series of conflicting, confusing and disturbing developments have taken place over the last two weeks that I believe warrant a public inquiry by the Joint Committee on Higher Education regarding the status of the community college presidents, and the salary structure for staff and officials serving the Board of Regents.

I respectfully request that such a public hearing take place prior to Oct. 31, the stated deadline, according to numerous press reports, for the college presidents to respond to "buy-out" options allegedly offered by the Board of Regents.

In order to restore public confidence in our higher education system numerous questions and allegations must be resolved:

- Were, in fact, the college presidents told by a member of the system's central office on Sept. 24 that, "After Oct. 31, a decision will be made to renew or not renew contracts for those presidents who do not accept the buy-out," as stated in an e-mail from MCC President Gena Glickman?
- Have the college presidents been pressured into silence over these issues as alleged by Northwest Community College President Barbara Douglass in a published report Oct. 5 which quoted her as saying, "The other presidents are not coming forward because of fear and intimidation."

- Who authorized the nearly \$49,000 pay hike for the executive vice president of the Board of Regents for Higher Education? It is my understanding that the Board should have voted in an open and public session on compensation issues.

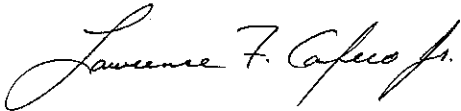
That the executive vice president decided to turn down the \$49,000 pay hike one day after it was disclosed by the press is irrelevant. How did the "pay hike that never was" come to be in the first place?

What, exactly, is going on here? I do not believe the legislature envisioned these developments when it approved higher education "reforms" more than a year ago. The apparent breakdown in oversight of higher education, and the lack of transparency in running these systems are perhaps most disturbing.

As public officials, we have a responsibility to communicate and make ourselves accessible to the public. A week into this controversy all we have are questions left unanswered, press calls unreturned and carefully guarded statements issued that do nothing but add to the confusion.

A public hearing on these matters would clear the air and perhaps make the stated goal, higher education reform, attainable.

Sincerely,



Lawrence F. Cafero Jr.  
House Republican Leader

cc: Chairwoman Roberta Willis