

## **ISSUES CSU-AAUP HAS LOBBIED IN SUPPORT OF:**

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- Funding for additional full-time faculty at all public institutions of higher education in Connecticut
- Current services budgets for CSUS
- Approval of a four-year collective bargaining contract for the CSU-AAUP membership
- *CSUS 2020* Bonding Package

## **ISSUES CSU-AAUP HAS LOBBIED AGAINST:**

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- Closing one of the four CSU campuses
- Gubernatorial proposal to freeze tuition at the state's public universities and colleges without funding the difference, which in effect would have decreased CSUS' budget
- Merging the Connecticut State University and Community College Systems
- Attempt to pre-select, limit, and regulate professors use of textbooks

## **BETTY GALLO & CO. LOBBYING FIRM**

Betty Gallo established the firm Betty Gallo & Co. in 1981. Her firm has represented the CSU-AAUP since 1986. Betty, Kate Robinson, Joe Grabarz, and other part-time lobbyists at Betty Gallo & Co. monitor the work of the General Assembly on a day-to-day basis to ensure that union officers know about issues that will impact their members, the CSU system, or its students. They read every bill filed and scrutinize documents such as the budget, contracts submitted by other unions, CSU's budget proposals, testimony from CSU, and any bonding proposal affecting the System. Then they follow the issues through the legislative process, alerting union officials to public hearings on important issues, committee action, and vote counts.

A member of Betty's lobbying team attends every committee meeting, hearing, subcommittee meeting, special commission or study group involved with issues of interest to CSU-AAUP. They alert the union if there is a problem and identify swing votes on the issue that can be moved by calls, letters or e-mails from our members.

Betty also acts as an advisor to the union on many issues. Betty, or someone from her staff, usually attends monthly meetings of the CSU-AAUP Council.

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## **Political Advocacy**



What is political advocacy?

What are the benefits?

How involved is AAUP in political  
advocacy?

Questions? Call AAUP: (860) 832-3790

## ADVOCACY DEFINED

Political advocacy is the process of influencing the political realm, whether it be at the local, state, or national level or in support of or in opposition to a particular legislative action. Advocacy, also known as lobbying or government relations, involves gathering information, monitoring issues coming up for debate or vote, and disseminating an organization's or individual's opinion on a legislative matter.

## WHO PARTICIPATES IN ADVOCACY?

Public participation and influence in the legislative process is extremely important. Any individual, corporation, or organization can lobby. Large lobbying groups have significant influence in the legislative process due to the sheer number of individuals they represent. However, a phone call from a constituent can sometimes be more powerful than contact from a well-funded and organized group. An effective lobbying campaign convinces legislators that their constituents, not simply a handful of union leaders, support a certain position and that the position has widespread public support.



## WHY ADVOCATE?

Adequate funding for public higher education has eroded significantly over the past 20 years. The only way to reverse this trend is by lobbying to make funding higher education a priority for the CT General Assembly.

## WHAT DOES CSU-AAUP ADVOCATE FOR?

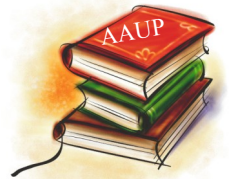
As the collective bargaining agent for the full- and part-time faculty, coaches, librarians, and counselors at Connecticut State University, CSU-AAUP monitors all political matters that could potentially affect the wages, fringe benefits, or working conditions for the membership. In addition, CSU-AAUP works to ensure that the principles of academic freedom and shared governance are safeguarded. CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm, Betty Gallo & Company, also make a significant effort to educate the members of the Connecticut General Assembly on matters such as teaching load, tenure, shared governance, and student financial aid, among others.

## HOW DOES CSU-AAUP ADVOCATE FOR THESE ISSUES?

In addition to meeting with legislators and providing testimony in support of or in opposition to legislative bills, CSU-AAUP uses a number of different forms of lobbying, including:

**Coalitions:** CSU-AAUP lobbies with other organizations who share similar interests. CSU-AAUP is part of a larger state employee coalition called SEBAC (State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition), which advocates on behalf of all Connecticut state employees on health and retirement benefit matters. CSU-AAUP also partners with UConn-AAUP and the 4Cs (Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges) on issues that affect all public higher education faculty in Connecticut.

**Political Action Committee (PAC):** CSU-AAUP uses a Political Action Committee to endorse candidates who are willing to support or sponsor our legislative priorities.



**Faculty Advocates:** No one is better at advocating on your behalf than **YOU**. AAUP leaders regularly meet with legislators and testify on legislative matters, and they will be encouraging and training more faculty members to perform these tasks. The more constituents legislators hear from, the more they pay attention. It is important that members speak out on issues important to them, their colleagues, their institution, and their students. In addition, CSU-AAUP regularly asks for faculty support in calling or writing to their legislators at key times during the legislative session.