



State of Connecticut
Department of Higher Education

March 9, 2011

Reverend Jeffrey von Arx
President
Fairfield University
1073 No. Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06430-5195

Dear Reverend von Arx:

Connecticut higher education is being affected by our state's budget crisis and will be part of the shared sacrifice everyone is facing to right our fiscal situation. Together with proposed funding reductions averaging 10 percent for public higher education, Governor Malloy has recommended a moratorium on scholarship aid received by new students under the Connecticut Independent College Student Grant Program.

As your institution embarks on issuing award letters to students, it is important to note that the Governor's proposal provides funding for all students who currently receive a CICSIG grant to continue to receive that award over the next two years. The Governor's proposed moratorium holds all current recipients harmless but does seek to reduce funds by 25 percent in fiscal 2012 and by 50 percent in 2013 in an effort to achieve \$12 million in savings to help alleviate the state's \$3.5 billion budget deficit.

Given the intent of this proposal, any institution which is eligible to receive CICSIG funds in the 2011-12 academic year (FY 2012) and 2012-13 academic year (FY 2013) should not award or credit CICSIG funds to any student who did not receive CICSIG funds from the institution prior to 2011-2012 (FY 2012). In short, colleges or universities should not cut future year CICSIG aid to existing recipients based on the Governor's budget proposal.

We hope that your institution will follow this guidance so that all students who currently receive CICSIG grants will remain confident in their ability to complete their college studies with the aid promised them by the State of Connecticut. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Meotti".

Michael P. Meotti
Commissioner

cc: Governor Dannel P. Malloy
Ben Barnes, Secretary, OPM
Financial Aid Directors