

MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Student Life Committee Thursday, February 20, 2025 Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Shari Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Sean Dunn,
Joy Hamer, Bryan Pollard

Other Trustees: Daniel Toscano

University Senate Representative: Tina McCarthy

University Staff: Anne D'Alleva, Nathan Fuerst, Nicole Gelston,
Fany Hannon, Jeffrey Hines, Philip Hunt, Rachel Rubin,
Tadarrayl Starke, Michelle Williams

Vice-Chair Trustee Cantor called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public signed up to address the Committee.

2. Minutes from the December 5, 2024, Special Meeting

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2024, Special Meeting.

3. Standing Updates:

Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Fuerst provided updates on the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan, the March 1st release of admissions decisions following a record number of applications, strong spring enrollment numbers, and the permanent appointment of Cyndi Costanzo as Assistant Vice President for Student Life.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs D'Alleva highlighted strong support systems for graduate students and collaboration between various units and the Graduate School, as well as a productive meeting with the Director of Academic Affairs from the Undergraduate Student Government on initiatives to support undergraduate academic success.

Dean of Students Hannon provided updates on increased faculty-staff collaboration, expanded drop-in hours at the cultural centers, growth of programs like "Protect Our Pack" and Campus Change mentoring, the success of the family engagement portal, the expansion of faith-based partnerships, and ongoing support for off-campus students.

Trustee Dunn highlighted the vibrant undergraduate campus atmosphere with student activities and academic pursuits, emphasized the importance of supporting students' mental health and basic needs as midterms approach, and noted the Undergraduate

Student Government's collaboration with Goodwill to open a professional clothing closet on March 3rd.

Trustee Hamer shared updates on the graduate student experience, including plans for the inaugural Graduate Student Symposium to foster community and showcase research across all campuses, as well as addressing concerns regarding the snow cancellation policy.

4. Student Success Update:

Vice Provost for Undergraduate Student Success Starke shared key initiatives to enhance student success at UConn, focusing on improving academic support, fostering a sense of belonging, and increasing access for underrepresented students. These efforts include consolidating academic services, expanding resources, developing learning communities, especially at regional campuses, and promoting collaboration to support student engagement, personal growth, and inclusion.

5. University Senate Representative Report

Senate Representative McCarthy provided an update on efforts to support students through outreach events, preparing for admitted students, and addressing their needs early to ease their transition.

6. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

7. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Zecchini
Secretary to the Committee