

DRAFT MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Student Life Committee

June 10, 2025

Special Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Shari Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Sean Dunn,
Fabio Saccomanno

University Senate Representative: Tina McCarthy

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D'Alleva, Morgaen Donaldson,
Nathan Fuerst, Fany Hannon, Jeffrey Hines, Eric Loken,
Jonelle Reynolds, Rachel Rubin, Michelle Williams

Vice-Chair Trustee Cantor called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Public Participation

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

2. Minutes from the February 20, 2025, Meeting

Vice-Chair Cantor asked if there were any corrections or objections to the minutes of the February 20, 2025, Meeting. Hearing none, Vice-Chair Cantor declared them approved by general consent of the Committee.

Trustee Saccomanno abstained from voting on the minutes.

3. Standing Updates:

Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Fuerst provided updates on the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan, outlining its six core goals and strategies. These initiatives are closely aligned with the university's broader strategic plan to support long-term institutional growth and student success.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs D'Alleva noted that the University celebrated a successful commencement week, recognizing the achievements of the graduating class. In May, the University also hosted several impactful professional development events, including conferences focused on student success, the first-year experience, and digital content accessibility.

Dean of Students Hannon provided updates on efforts to support student transitions, including orientation programming for new students and families, as well as services for international students. The office is also actively engaging with and supporting students facing academic dismissals.

Graduate Trustee Saccomanno shared recent highlights and accomplishments from the UConn School of Law and the School of Medicine.

Undergraduate Trustee Dunn reflected on undergraduate academics and student engagement across all campuses, such as the growth of the Husky Harvest Pantry at Avery Point, record participation in entrepreneurship programs at Storrs and Stamford, and major celebrations, including HuskyThon and athletics championships.

4. Test Optional Update:

Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment

Morgaen Donaldson, Associate Dean for Research, and Philip E. Austin Endowed

Professor of Public Policy and Educational Leadership

Eric Loken, Associate Professor, Educational Psychology

Vice President Fuerst introduced Professors Morgaen Donaldson and Eric Loken, who presented key findings from the University's six-year test-optional pilot study, focusing on its impact on student behaviors and student success. This topic will be raised with the full Board of Trustees for discussion in the fall.

5. University Senate Representative Report

Senate Representative McCarthy reflected on a successful year in addressing key University priorities and emphasized the continued importance of supporting students amid enrollment growth.

6. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Cantor motioned to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Zecchini

Secretary to the Committee