

AGENDA

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Virtual Meeting

Public Streaming Link (with live captioning upon request): <https://ait.uconn.edu/bot>

(A recording of the meeting will be posted on the Board website, <https://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/>, within seven days of the meeting.)

Call to order at **8:30 a.m.**

1. Public Participation*

* Individuals who wish to speak during the Public Participation portion, of the Tuesday, August 5, meeting, must do so 24 hours in advance of the meeting's start time (i.e., 8:30 a.m. on Monday, August 4) by emailing BoardCommittees@uconn.edu. Speaking requests must include a name, telephone number, topic, and affiliation with the University (i.e., student, employee, member of the public). The Committee may limit the entirety of public comment to a maximum of 30 minutes. As an alternative, individuals may submit written comments to the Committee via email (BoardCommittees@uconn.edu), and all comments will be transmitted to the Committee.

ACTION ITEMS

2. Minutes from the June 24, 2025, Meeting (Attachment 1)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

3. 2024-2025 Year in Review (Attachment 2)
4. Review of Program Completions Update (Attachment 3)
5. Presentation: Proposal for Task Force on Program Approval
6. University Senate Representative Report
7. Other Business
8. Executive Session (as needed)
9. Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE: *If you are an individual with a disability and require accommodations, please e-mail the Board of Trustees Office at boardoftrustees@uconn.edu prior to the meeting.*

ATTACHMENT 1

DRAFT MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee June 24, 2025 Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Jeanine Gouin, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Sean Dunn, Philip Rubin

University Senate Representatives: Karen Bresciano, D. Betsy McCoach

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D'Alleva, Laura Burton, Sarah Croucher, Nathan Fuerst, Amy Gorin, Philip Hunt, Gladis Kersaint, Rachel Rubin, Daniel Schwartz, Tadararrayl Starke, Michelle Williams, Reka Wrynn

Vice-Chair Trustee Gouin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Public Participation

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

2. Minutes from the April 22, 2025, Meeting (Attachment 1)

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2025, Meeting.

3. Recommendations for Designation as Board of Trustees (Attachment 2) Distinguished Professors, Academic Year 2024-2025

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #3, to the full Board for approval.

4. Tenure Recommendation (Attachment 3)

5. Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 4)

6. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 5)

On a motion by Trustee Dunn, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #4, Agenda Item #5, and Agenda Item #6 to the full Board for approval.

7. Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law (Attachment 6)

8. JD Certificate in Health Law (Attachment 7)

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #7 and Agenda Item #8 to the full Board for approval.

9. Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in School Law (Attachment 8)

10. Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Addiction Sciences (Attachment 9)

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #9 and Agenda Item #10 to the full Board for approval.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

15. Academic Centers & Institutes (Attachment A)

This item was provided to the Committee as an informational item.

18. Provost's Report

Provost D'Alleva presented initiatives and priorities within the Division of Academic Affairs aimed at streamlining and optimizing academic programs and curriculum as well as academic operations and resource allocations.

19. University Senate Representative Report

There was no University Senate Representative Report.

14. Other Business

There was no Other Business. Vice-Chair Gouin noted the Committee will meet in August even if the full Board reserve date is not held.

15. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

16. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Dunn, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Lohrey
Secretary to the Committee

ATTACHMENT 2

August 5, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D. 
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Year in Review: September 2024 – July 2025

The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees provided essential oversight and approval on matters critical to UConn's academic mission during the 2024–2025 academic year. This included faculty appointments and recognitions, the establishment and revision of academic programs, and major initiatives focused on academic quality and operational efficiency. Below is a summary of key actions and updates presented to the committee over the course of the year.

Faculty Appointments, Promotions, and Recognitions

- Promotion and Tenure: 104 faculty members were granted promotion and/or tenure, reinforcing UConn's commitment to academic excellence and long-term faculty development.
- Tenure at Hire: 14 faculty received tenure as part of their initial hiring package, ensuring UConn continues to attract top scholars.
- Emeritus Status: 22 retiring faculty were honored with emeritus status in recognition of their lasting contributions.
- Sabbatical Leaves: A total of 121 sabbatical leave requests and modifications were approved, supporting faculty scholarship and professional renewal.
- Board of Trustees Distinguished Professors: Three faculty members were designated as BOT Distinguished Professors for exemplary achievements in research, teaching, and service.

Academic Programs

The committee reviewed and acted on a range of program changes designed to strengthen UConn's academic offerings in alignment with student interests and workforce needs:

New Programs:

- Bachelor of Music in Jazz (School of Fine Arts)
- Advanced Business Certificate in Financial Reporting (School of Business)
- Advanced Business Certificate in Taxation (School of Business)
- Advanced Business Certificate in Social Responsibility & Impact in Business (School of Business)

- Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Behavioral Health (School of Social Work)
- Graduate Certificate in Insurance Law (School of Law)
- JD Certificate in Health Law (School of Law)

Program Modifications:

- Master of Social Work program expanded to the Stamford campus
- Online tracks added to the Executive LLM and the LLM in Energy and Environmental Law

Program Closures:

- Graduate Certificate in Global Health (Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy)
- Graduate Certificate Obesity Prevention and Weight Management (Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy)
- Graduate Certificate in School Law (Neag School of Education)
- Graduate Certificate in Addiction Sciences (School of Medicine)
- B.A. and B.S. in Applied Mathematical Sciences, BS in Mathematics-Physics (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
- M.A. in Politics and Popular Culture (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
- MA and PhD in Medieval Studies (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)

Endowed and Named Chairs

Endowed chair appointments and reappointments across the university were approved, recognizing academic leadership and supporting research in priority fields. Highlights include:

- Doris and Simon Konover Chair in Judaic Studies (Jessica Cooperman)
- George F. Cloutier Professorship in Forestry (Robert Fahey)
- Raytheon Technologies Chair in Fuel Cell Technology (Ji-Cheng "JC" Zhao)
- Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering (Song Han)
- Toscano Family Chair in Finance (Yiming Qian)
- Charles H. Knapp Associate Professor in Electrical Engineering (Sung Yeul Park)
- Arden Chair in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Daniel Bolnick)
- Alan R. Bennett Honors Professorship in Political Science (Virginia Hettinger)
- Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair in the School of Fine Arts (Louis Hanzlik)
- Harold S. Schwenk, Sr. Distinguished Chair in Chemistry (Daniele Fabris)

Additionally, the committee approved the honorary naming of the Alice Murray Heilig Music Chair.

Informational Reports and Strategic Oversight

- NECHE Accreditation: A briefing on the university's preparation for the 2026 NECHE reaccreditation cycle. Members of the Board also participated in a preparatory visit with NECHE leadership.

- Review of Program Completions : The Provost's Office presented the outcomes of the low-completion review, resulting in multiple program closures and consolidations and on-going monitoring.
- Test-Optional Policy Update: Research findings on UConn's test-optional admissions pilot were presented and discussed.
- Academic Centers & Institutes: Ongoing reviews to assess mission alignment and return on investment.
- Faculty Consulting Report: Annual review of faculty consulting activity and compliance with state statutes.
- Provost's Academic Efficiencies Update: Reports on operational improvements, including Interfolio implementation, dashboard development, and curriculum governance reforms.

Leadership Transitions

The committee was introduced to three new permanent deans and one interim dean, strengthening leadership capacity across UConn's schools and colleges.

The Academic Affairs Committee's work over the past year reflects a continued emphasis on academic excellence, strategic program development, and efficient resource management. These efforts ensure UConn remains responsive to student needs, workforce trends, and its mission as a public flagship research university.

ATTACHMENT 3

August 5, 2025

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Anne D'Alleva, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



RE: Review of Program Completions Update

Overview

As part of UConn's commitment to academic excellence and resource stewardship, the Provost's Office refreshed the policy on the formal review of academic programs with completion rates at or below a specified threshold and relaunched this iterative review of program completions (sometimes called the "low enrollment" or "low completion" program review) in Fall 2024. Programs were flagged for review based on the below established thresholds of completions between AY 2018–19 and AY 2022–23:

- 100 or fewer undergraduate degree completers;
- 50 or fewer master's degree completers;
- 25 or fewer graduate certificate completers; or
- 10 or fewer doctoral degree completers.

The goal of this process is to identify programs that may no longer align with student interest or workforce needs and determine whether such programs should be revitalized, consolidated with other offerings, or phased out with the appropriate teach-out plans as necessary.

Faculty, department heads and deans conducted a comprehensive review of each flagged program, considering student demand, enrollment and completion trends, curricular alignment, financial sustainability, and market relevance. The outcomes reflect a strategic effort to ensure that all programs contribute to the vitality of UConn's academic mission. Below is a summary of actions taken to date and programs that are actively being monitored as part of this ongoing review.

Programs Closed

Following a review, the following programs were approved in 2024-25 for permanent closure:

- Graduate Certificate in Global Health (Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy)
- Graduate Certificate Obesity Prevention and Weight Management (Institute for Collaboration on Health, Intervention, and Policy)
- Graduate Certificate in School Law (Neag School of Education)
- Graduate Certificate in Addiction Sciences (School of Medicine)
- B.A. and B.S. in Applied Mathematical Sciences, BS in Mathematics-Physics (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
- M.A. in Politics and Popular Culture (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)
- MA and PhD in Medieval Studies (College of Liberal Arts & Sciences)

These closures were made after careful consideration of factors such as persistent low enrollment, limited demand, and lack of alignment with current university priorities, along with the review and approval of the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee. Others, including the Math programs, were consolidated with other existing math degree pathways as detailed below.

Programs Consolidated

The Department of Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences consolidated its undergraduate offerings by discontinuing three majors: Applied Mathematical Sciences (B.A.), Applied Mathematical Sciences (B.S.), and Mathematics-Physics (B.S.). The final term for new admissions to these programs is fall 2025. These changes streamline the department's offerings, align more closely with peer institutions, and strengthen the core mathematics major, which now includes tracks in Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, and Mathematics Teaching.

This is a strong example of preserving robust academic options while eliminating unnecessary duplication and creating greater clarity for students, thereby supporting student success. We expect additional consolidation efforts of this kind in the upcoming academic year.

Continued Programs with No Additional Actions

Over 100 programs that fell below the initial threshold reported that the program is offered concurrently with one or more other programs, or was a master's degree offered as part of a Ph.D. program. In such cases, program completions fell below the identified threshold, but were healthy in the context of the concurrent nature of the program or as a component of an

overall Ph.D. program. A smaller number of programs were reported as limited in size as course or cohort size was limited by accreditation or other requirements. In such cases, the limitation has been noted and no further review is anticipated.

In all cases where programs provided adequate discussion of size and program health, or documented size limitations, there was no further requirement to identify any actions to increase enrollment, implement curricular changes, or to undertake any other structural changes to the program. These programs will remain subject to regular academic program review cycles, ensuring ongoing evaluation of quality, relevance, and performance.

Programs Being Monitored or Expected to Have Future Action

Approximately seventy programs were approved to continue with focused monitoring and development of action plans aimed at improving enrollment and completion rates. These programs will undergo regular review to evaluate the success of strategies such as revised curricula, enhanced marketing, and partnerships that may increase visibility and student interest. The Provost’s Office, in partnership with the deans, will track outcomes for these programs and assess progress annually, beginning in AY 25/26.

This list of programs is heterogenous, and includes programs had the potential to be approved to continue without changes (e.g., master’s programs offered as part of a Ph.D.), but identified plans or a growth trajectory that will be reviewed in future reporting. The list includes recently established programs that are being monitored for success, have administrative complications, or are otherwise still under discussion.

As of Spring 2025 the list of programs identified for future review or monitoring includes:

College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	Environmental Sciences*
Bachelor's	Environmental Studies*
Bachelor's	Sustainable Plant and Soil Systems
Master's	Animal Science+
Master's	Exercise Prescription
Master's	Natural Resources+
Master's	Nutritional Science+
Master's	Pathobiology+

College of Engineering

Credential Level	Degree Name
Master’s	Regenerative Engineering

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	African/Africana Studies
Bachelor's	Engineering Physics*
Bachelor's	Environmental Sciences*
Bachelor's	Environmental Studies*
Bachelor's	Latino and Latin American Studies
Bachelor's	Linguistics/Philosophy*
Bachelor's	Linguistics/Psychology*
Bachelor's	American Sign Language Studies
Bachelor's	Arabic and Islamic Civilization
Bachelor's	Chinese
Bachelor's	Classics/Ancient Med. Studies
Bachelor's	French
Bachelor's	German
Bachelor's	Italian Literary & Cultural Studies
Bachelor's	Judaic Studies
Bachelor's	Marine Sciences
Bachelor's	Maritime Studies
Bachelor's	Structural Biology/Biophysics
Bachelor's	Philosophy
Graduate Certificate	Cognitive Science
Graduate Certificate	Literary Translation
Graduate Certificate	Logic
Graduate Certificate	Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*
Graduate Certificate	Health Psychology
Graduate Certificate	Occupational Health Psychology
Master's	Environmental Earth Science
Master's	Race, Ethnicity & Politics
Master's	Latina/o and Latin Amer Studies

Neag School of Education

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	Biology Education*
Bachelor's	Chemistry Education*
Bachelor's	Earth Science Education*
Bachelor's	English Education
Bachelor's	French Education*
Bachelor's	General Science Education*
Bachelor's	German Language Education*

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	History/Social Studies Education
Bachelor's	Mandarin Chinese Language Education*
Bachelor's	Mathematics Education
Bachelor's	Music Education
Bachelor's	Physics Education*
Bachelor's	Spanish Language Education*
Bachelor's	Special Education*
Graduate Certificate	Literacy Leadership
Graduate Certificate	Licensed Professional Counselor

School of Business

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	Health Care Management
Bachelor's	Real Estate/Urban Economics
Master's	Financial Technology*

School of Fine Arts

Credential Level	Degree Name
Bachelor's	Acting
Bachelor's	Design/Technical Theater
Bachelor's	Puppetry
Bachelor's	Theatre Studies

School of Nursing

Credential Level	Degree Name
Graduate Certificate	Health Care Innovation*
Graduate Certificate	Pain Management*

Interdisciplinary (within The Graduate School or a University Center/Institute)

Credential Level	Degree Name
Graduate Certificate	Systems Genomics: Clinical Communication and Counseling
Master's	Genetic Counseling
Master's	Polymer Science
Master's	Materials Science
Master's	Health Care Genetics
Doctoral	Systems Genomics

UConn Health

Credential Level	Degree Name
Graduate Certificate	Disabilities Studies in Public Health

* *Concurrent with one or more programs*

+ *Master's within a Ph.D. program*

The Provost's Office will continue to engage the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee as this work evolves and will provide timely updates on future program evaluations and decisions.