

DRAFT MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Student Life Committee September 11, 2025 Special Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Shari Cantor, Sean Dunn, Bryan Pollard,
Fabio Saccomanno

Other Trustees: Daniel Toscano

University Senate Representative: Tina McCarthy

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Anne D'Alleva, Erin Ciarimboli, Cynthia
Costanzo, Nathan Fuerst, Kelly Gilbert, Jeffrey Hines,
Brandon Murray, Jonelle Reynolds, Tadarayl Starke,
Michelle Williams, Brianna Zecchini

Vice-Chair Trustee Cantor called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1. Public Participation

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

2. Minutes from the June 10, 2025, Special Meeting

On a motion by Trustee Dunn, seconded by Trustee Saccomanno, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, Special Meeting.

Trustee Pollard abstained from voting on the minutes.

3. Standing Updates:

Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Fuerst reported that UConn has reached a record enrollment of nearly 26,000 undergraduates across all campuses. This fall's entering class of about 7,500 first-year and transfer students is the largest in the university's history and includes record numbers of Pell Grant recipients and first-generation students. Housing has also reached record levels, with more than 13,000 students at Storrs and expanded capacity in Stamford and Hartford.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs D'Alleva reported that the Fall Involvement Fair connected thousands of students with more than 500 organizations and departments, and that over 3,600 students are enrolled in First Year Experience courses. The report also highlighted the launch of the First Generation House and the participation of more than 3,000 students in learning communities, including the Honors Program.

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs D'Alleva, on behalf of Dean of Students Hannon, reported that the office has seen strong engagement this fall, offering support through drop-in appointments, rotating hours in the cultural centers, and monthly sessions with the Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs.

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

Undergraduate Trustee Dunn reported that this fall's record enrollment has brought new energy to campuses, with student-led initiatives such as the expansion of the Waterbury Husky Harvest Pantry and efforts in sustainability, affordability, and equity strengthening the UConn community.

4. Spring 2025 Academic Dismissal Update:
Erin Ciarimboli, Ph.D., Director of Undergraduate Advising
Kelly Gilbert, Assistant Director for Engagement, Learning, and Development

Erin Ciarimboli and Kelly Gilbert presented recent updates to UConn's Academic Standing policies. Prompted by student challenges during the pandemic, the review recommended a clearer, more supportive process. Approved by the University Senate in April 2024 and implemented that fall, the changes include: replacing "probation" with "academic notice" to reduce stigma; eliminating the warning status and credit-based criteria to identify students earlier; allowing dismissed students to return after one semester instead of two; clarifying how winter and summer coursework affects GPA; and moving the process into Slate for better tracking, data access, and outreach.

5. Student Organization Constitution Updates (Info.)

Vice President Fuerst shared a brief memo outlining several constitutional changes that have taken place within the Trustee Student Organizations.

6. University Senate Representative Report

Senate Representative McCarthy reported that the Student Welfare Committee has met once this fall, noting enthusiasm about enrollment growth and focusing on new student support, housing developments, and financial assistance for students. The committee also renewed its request for attention to scooter and bike safety at a future meeting.

7. Executive Session

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Saccomanno, the Committee voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 4:58 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes section 1-210(b)(5)(A).

The following Committee Trustees were in attendance: Cantor, Dunn, Pollard, and Saccomanno.

The following Trustee was also in attendance: Daniel Toscano.

The following University staff were in attendance for the entire Executive Session: Maric, D'Alleva, Fuerst, Williams, and Zecchini.

The Executive Session ended at 5:19 p.m., and the Committee returned to Open Session at 5:20 p.m.

8. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Saccomanno, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Zecchini
Secretary to the Committee