

Institutional Advancement Committee Meeting-20260218_124147-Meeting Recording

February 18, 2026, 5:41PM

1h 31m 53s

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 0:00
Afternoon. OK. You know, yeah, you know, I'd like to start on time and I think it's gonna be, I'm getting notifications here about recording. I'm an attendee. All right. So then I'll, I'd like to.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 0:01
Good afternoon.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 0:02
Hi, hi.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 0:17
I can let's let's call the meeting to order. It's 1:00 PM here on the 18th of February 2026. Just going to remind folks, I know if we can try to remember to mute and unmute and I'm the worst at that instruction.
And because again, we do have this as a recorded meeting for our public participation, I'm going to ask Jen Cody to take the attendance, Jen.

 **Cote, Jen** 0:45
Sure. OK, we have Vice Chair Dennis Levine, Trustee Cantor, Trustee Pollard, Trustee Whitney, Professor Fultow, President Maric, Nicole Gelston, Mike Kirk, John Heinlein, Amy Yancey, Mirinda Reynolds, Rachel Marshall, Craig Ashmore, Stephanie Reets and.
Daniel Sullivan.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 1:07
Excellent. I know Trustee Brunnell will be joining us. He may be a little bit late, but if you can just kind of give me a heads up when he's here, I appreciate that. OK. So then it does look like we do not have public participation based on no one has signed up and it's been 24 hours before our meeting.

So I'd like to first, if we can, welcome people. You know, we're doing it informally, but right at the top left is Diane Whitney, who she is our relatively new alumni trustee. She is an alum from the UConn Law School.

And again, I always impressed when I say she's former Assistant Attorney General and she is a very active participant on the Board of Trustees. And I know it's just been a little while, but you you've made sure your voice has been heard on several issues. So welcome to the.

Institutional Advancement Committee.

DW **Diane Whitney** 2:08

Thank you. I'm very happy to be here.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 2:12

And another new face is Craig Ashmore, who is our former CEO of the UConn Board of Directors of the Foundation. And Craig, you and I have worked on many different projects over the years. So it's really nice to have you as the liaison from the foundation to participate in.

In our meeting. So we really appreciate you being here, Craig Ashmore.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 2:36

Great. Well, thank you. I love working with all of you.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 2:39

Now, and we may, I'm not sure John Greenblatt may was going to join. I'm not sure if he's here yet, but if that indeed is case, I know Jen will send me a text and we'll make sure of it, yeah.

JG **Jonathan Greenblatt** 2:49

Yeah, I'm here, Andrew. I can cut. Let me figure out how to work this, but I'm here.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 2:55

It's OK. Well, this is great. Well, it's nice to have you here. John is serving as the chairman of the UConn Board of Directors and the Foundation Board. And so, John, this is fantastic to have you here as well.

JG Jonathan Greenblatt 3:09

Thank you. It's great to be there. Hey, Craig.

CA Craig Ashmore 3:12

Hey, John, how you doing?

JG Jonathan Greenblatt 3:14

Good.

AD Andrea Dennis-LaVigne 3:15

Great. If I could draw your attention to attachment one, just more informational that we do have a our meeting scheduled. One of them had to be changed. I think we were conflicting with another trust, another trustee committee group. So if there is any issues.

On any of these dates, please let me know. As you know, we have, we're almost certain to have items that we have to vote on on this committee and so having a quorum is also important.

And so again, let me know or Nicole or Jen, just let us know if there's an an issue. Then let's go to the start with the meat of the meeting. I'd like to call for a motion and a second to approve the November 12th, 2025 meeting minutes. May I please have a motion?

PB Pollard, Bryan 4:09

So moved.

SC Shari Cantor 4:09

So move that second Cantor.

AD Andrea Dennis-LaVigne 4:12

Thank you. Are there any corrections? Are there? If not, I'd like to call for that vote. All those in favor, please say aye, aye.

SC Shari Cantor 4:22

I.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 4:23
Alright.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 4:23
Alright.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 4:24
Any opposed? Are there any abstentions?

DW **Diane Whitney** 4:28
Abstaining.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 4:30
OK. Thank you very much, Trustee Whitney. Appreciate that. Then note that motion carries. And I'm gonna ask then Amy, Nancy, if you can kind of get us started here with our naming resolutions.

AY **Amy Yancey** 4:46
Thank you, Madam Chair. Would you prefer me to go through these individually or or to go through all of them and then and then open it up for questions or comments?

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 4:59
Yeah, I I like taking them individually. I think we talked about this maybe the last meeting about the the generosity of our donors. I I really like the idea of identifying them and giving them the time and space that that's deserved.
So individually.

AY **Amy Yancey** 5:15
Beautiful. So first naming resolution and that is the recommendation for the Lisa Lavarato 85 Exercise Lab. The recommendation is that the Board of Trustees authorize the naming of the exercise lab located on the 5th floor.
Floor and the Nursing Research Center of DeLuca Hall within the Elizabeth DeLuca School of Nursing, located on the Storrs campus. The exercise lab will be 670 square

feet and it will provide an ideal setting for hands-on training, clinical evaluations, scientific studies.

Related to physical activity, health and Wellness, Lisa Lorato graduated in 85 with a bachelor's in nursing. She worked at the Stanford Hospital as a critical care nurse and nurse educator with a passion for helping others and advancing nursing knowledge. Physical fitness was central to Lisa's life. She passed away in 2021 at the age of 58. Her family, Julie and Vincent Cavaleri, chose to honor her by naming the exercise lab after her.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 6:20
Mm.

AY **Amy Yancey** 6:27
They have pledged a gift in the amount consistent with the university's named gift guidelines and the naming of this area. Neither Julie or Vincent or Vincent is a graduate, but Julie, her sister is not, and she approached us. After seeing the the new building was going up.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 6:50
Excellent. May I have a motion followed by a second to accept the recommendation that the Board of Trustees authorize the naming of the exercise lab within the Elizabeth Deluca School of Nursing, the Lisa Lavarado, 80, Class of 85 Exercise Lab. Motion please.

DW **Diane Whitney** 6:56
Mhm.
I so move Diane Whitney.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 7:11
Thank you, Trustee Whitney. Trustee Bunnell, is that you?

CA **Craig Ashmore** 7:13
2nd.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 7:17

It was not. I would do it, but it might have been Trustee Pollard. I don't know. It's not on my screen.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 7:18
Who said second?

CA **Craig Ashmore** 7:20
Ha ha.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 7:25
Is that you, Trustee Pollard?
Sure. Yeah, I'll talk. Yes. OK. Thank you. So, OK, then are there, are there any, is there any questions, any comments?

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 7:30
It wasn't me.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 7:45
All those in favor, please say aye, aye. Any opposed?

DW **Diane Whitney** 7:47
Hi.
Hi. Hi.

SC **Shari Cantor** 7:48
Hi.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 7:51
OK.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 7:53
Then motion carries. Alrighty, next one.

AY **Amy Yancey** 8:00
Yes, the next recommendation is for the Birdie 82 and Doctor Jackie Chong Faculty

Office. The faculty office is a planned 90 square foot space in the Simulation Learning Center at Indaluca Hall.

In the Elizabeth DeLuca School of Nursing, it provides A dedicated space for faculty to work and to meet with students. Roberta Birdie Chong graduated with a Ms. from the Elizabeth DeLuca School of Nursing in 1982 after earning her bachelor degree from Cornell. Birdie served at Yale New Haven Hospital for.

Over 40 years in various leadership roles, and she is now retired. She received the 1997 Elizabeth Deluca School of Nursing Alumni Award, and she served on the school's Alumni Advisory Board, her husband.

Jack Chong was a senior partner in Digestive Disease Associates and is a clinical professor at Yale University School of Medicine. There are avid UConn women's basketball fans. Jack passed away in July 2020 and Birdie continues to support women's basketball.

And UConn nurses. They have a long history of philanthropic support, and the pledge gift amount is consistent with the university's named gift guidelines.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 9:19

Excellent. We seem to always have some naming that is being brought to this committee having that's associated with the DeLuca School of Nursing, which is so exciting and people are doing a fantastic job. So then I'd ask for a motion filed by a second.

That the Board of Trustees authorize the naming of the Simulation Director's Faculty Office within the Elizabeth DeLuca School of Nursing as the Birdie 82 and Jack Jackie Chong Faculty Office Motion.

AY **Amy Yancey** 9:42

OK.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 9:49

So moved by now. Oh, sorry.

SC **Shari Cantor** 9:50

So moved.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 9:51
Yay. Thank you. Second. OK. Thank you. Second.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 9:53
I'm trying to get anyone in there, but I I can second.

SC **Shari Cantor** 9:54
Second Cantor.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 10:01
I thought I heard a second so.

SC **Shari Cantor** 10:04
Yeah, it was, yeah, Shari Cantor, yeah.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 10:06
We'll get this right. I'm sorry. Then are there any discussion with the motions on the table? Then all those in in favor, please say aye, aye.

SC **Shari Cantor** 10:16
I.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 10:17
Alright.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 10:17
Hi. Hi.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 10:19
Any opposition?
All right. And I don't think anyone needs to abstain. All right, so two for the School of Nursing. And now it looks like we're going on to athletics.

AY **Amy Yancey** 10:30

We are though. I think we returned. We returned to nursing on the next one. So for we have a naming recommendation for the Dan DeFore class of 1972 hitting Bay. It was our recommendation that the Board of Trustees authorize.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 10:36

We do. We do.

AY **Amy Yancey** 10:49

The hitting Bay and the golf practice facility on the Storrs campus. The new state-of-the-art golf facility will provide UConn's golf program with the tools and space needed to remain a top tier college athletics program. Building plans include team meeting spaces, a locker room, coaches offices.

Indoor and outdoor chipping and putting areas and 310 by 25 hitting bays for the long range practice and this is one of those bays. The facility will also feature a full outdoor driving range with both turf and grass tee boxes.

And the completion of the facility is expected in 2728. Each hitting bay will have technology for simulated indoor driving and its own door for outdoor use. Mr. Dufore is retired head of independent channel at Voya Finance.

Dan and Judith DeFore are longtime supporters of UConn athletics. Dan has been involved for many years and he's supported golf on an annual basis for the last five and routinely plays in golf tournaments to support the program. He wants to help support Coach.

And his effort to build the facility, and he spent some time with Coach at the Hartford Golf Club, which ultimately laid the foundation for this gift. He has pledged a gift consistent with the university's named gift guidelines.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 12:18

Excellent. I'd like a motion and a second to recommend that the Board of Trustees authorizes naming a hitting Bay in the golf practice facility on the Storrs campus as the Dan Di Fiore Class of 1972 Hitting Bay.

DW **Diane Whitney** 12:33

So move, Whitney.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 12:35
Thank you.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 12:36
Second Pollard.

SC **Shari Cantor** 12:36
Second, Cantor.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 12:37
Thank you very much. Any conversation, any questions, any comments? All those in favor, please say aye, aye.

DW **Diane Whitney** 12:47
Hi.

SC **Shari Cantor** 12:47
Hi.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 12:48
I.

SC **Shari Cantor** 12:49
Bye.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 12:49
Any opposed? And this motion carries as well and we'll go back to the De Lucas School of Nursing.

AY **Amy Yancey** 13:00
We are recommending that we name the Connolly Sleep Lab and the Sleep Lab will be located on the 5th floor of Deluca Hall within the Elizabeth Deluca School of Nursing, located here in Storrs.
The Sleep Lab is one of two approximately 200 square foot spaces designed for sleep

research and hands-on learning within the Nursing Research Center. It is expected to provide state-of-the-art environment for students and faculty to monitor, advance and promote sleep health.

Kevin and Denise Connelly are proud UConn alumni who have dedicated their lives in honorable service to the United States. Kevin was an ROTC student who graduated from Connor in 78 and served in the US Army for over 40 years, retired as a Colonel. Denise graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing in 1979 and served as an Army in the Army Nurse Nurse Corps for nearly 30 years. Their children, Mike and Lauren, were also in ROTC at their respective universities, Penn State and UConn, and served in the US Army as Rangers.

Connelys have donated a gift consistent with the university's named gift guidelines to this area.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 14:16

Thank you. May I have a motion and a second to recommend the Connolly Sleep Lab within the Deluca School of Nursing to the Board of Trustees. Motion, please.

SC **Shari Cantor** 14:28

So move Cantor.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 14:30

Thank you.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 14:32

I can Ashmore.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 14:37

OK. I don't think. You know what? As a liaison, I'm not sure. Craig. OK. Yeah. So thank you. I think that's why I got messed up the first one. OK, that's good.

HS **Heinlein, Jonathan S (Office of the General Counsel)** 14:39

Is it?

CA **Craig Ashmore** 14:42

Oh, I can't. I can't the motion. I I withdraw. I withdraw the motion.

HS **Heinlein, Jonathan S (Office of the General Counsel)** 14:43

Yeah, I think it needs to be.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 14:44

Huh.

2nd by now.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 14:54

That's OK.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 14:55

Thank. I think I, Sarah Bunnell has second the motion. Then are there any comments, any conversation and all those in favor, please say aye, aye.

JG **Jonathan Greenblatt** 15:06

All right.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 15:06

I.

SC **Shari Cantor** 15:07

Hi. Hi.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 15:08

Any opposed? Then motion carries.

Couple more.

AY **Amy Yancey** 15:17

We have a naming recommendation for the Jim and Jane Mitchell Coaches History Wall. The Coaches History Wall is located in the main concourse, second floor of the Toscano Family Ice Forum on the stores campus.

This Toscano Family Ice Forum is a state-of-the-art 2600 seat ice hockey arena on the Storrs campus. It is home to both men's and women's ice hockey. The arena opened in January 23. The facility includes full Division One training and support for the

women's and men's ice hockey.

Teams, team lounges, dry locker area and locker rooms with video displays. There are locker rooms for visiting teams, a training space with a hydrotherapy area that strength and conditioning room, coaches offices, a press box and a large center hung display scoreboard. The coach's history wall is located in the.

Main concourse James Mitchell is a real estate developer based in Rocky Hill. He and his wife, Jane, both graduated from UConn, both in 83, James from the School of Business and Jane from the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources. The Mitchells made their first gift to UConn in 1984 and continue to be staunch supporters of the university. Jimmy and Jane have been long supporters of UConn hockey and are season ticket holders and have been for the past 10 years rarely missing a game.

MR **Maric, Radenka** 16:35
Yeah.

AY **Amy Yancey** 16:45
Jane's brother is a former hockey coach here at UConn, and so their ties run deep and they the gift that the Mitchells have pledged totals an amount consistent with the recommended naming for this area.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 17:02
Thank you. I'd call for a motion and a second to recommend the Jim and Jane Mitchell Coaches History Wall located at the Tuscano Family Ice Forum to the Board of Trustees. Motion, please.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 17:16
So moved Pollard.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 17:18
Thank you.

SC **Shari Cantor** 17:19
Second Cantor.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 17:20

Thank you very much.

Is there any comment? Any questions?

All those in favor, please say aye, aye. Is there any opposition?

SC **Shari Cantor** 17:30

I.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 17:31

Alright.

MR **Maric, Radenka** 17:32

Right.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 17:35

OK, then that motion carries. And finally we have a garden to consider.

AY **Amy Yancey** 17:41

Yes, this naming, Madam Chair, is a little bit different than the previous namings in that we're recommending a renaming of of the Peace Garden rather than a naming for a new gift. Um The Urban Peace.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 17:58

Mhm.

AY **Amy Yancey** 18:01

This garden was previously approved by the Board of Trustees on June 25th, 2025, and we are recommending that it be renamed the Marion Irman Peace Garden in memory of Doctor Jeffrey Irman's late wife. Following the June naming approval, Doctor Irman's wife, Marion, unfortunately passed.

Passed away, and as a result, Doctor Irman and his family would like the space to be renamed in her memory. The Peace Garden is approximately 12,000 square feet. It's located along Academic Way between the east side of Homer Babbage Library, Babbage Library and the Weston Bozeman Psychology Building, Boseville.

Psychology Building. The garden was jointly conceived by Doctor Jeffrey Erman, 67, and his friend and former UConn classmate Doctor Lewis Cohen in 66. The design is expected to feature a sculpture with three stainless steel Collins in the center of the spiral shaped lawn.

Creating a reflective space to promote tolerance and open-mindedness, Dr. Urman earned his Bachelor of Science from UConn's School of Pharmacy in 1967 and his medical degree from Cornell University. He completed his residency at UConn Health in 1977.

Dr. Irman is a Founders Society member whose philanthropy has established endowments and provided long-term operating funds for the design and construction of the garden space. Dr. Cohen and Dr. Irwin have requested that we rename the space in honor of Dr. Irwin's late wife. Their gift, their original gift was consistent.

With the naming guidelines.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 19:38

Thank you very much. This is very sweet. Call for a motion and a second to recommend the renaming of the Irman Peace Garden to the Marion Irman Irman Peace Garden. May I have a motion?

DW **Diane Whitney** 19:53

So move, Whitney.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 19:55

Thank you. Second, thank you. Any conversation, comments, discussion, all those in favor, please say aye, aye.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 19:56

Second Bunnell. Second Bunnell.

Hi.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 20:08

Hey.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 20:10

Any opposed? And then the motion carries. And again, we are very fortunate to have the number of namings that come to our agenda each meeting. So again, thank you for all the hard work that's being done at the foundation and we appreciate that everything that you've been doing.

Doing this is great. Thank you then next.

AY **Amy Yancey** 20:33

Thank you. We it's a it's a team effort as you know.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 20:36

I see some of your team members right there, both volunteer and people that actually get a paycheck.

AY **Amy Yancey** 20:44

And the university as well. I just want to acknowledge that none of this is possible if it's not for the great work that the university does and the partnership of faculty or leadership staff and and many volunteers both for the foundation and the university. Thank you.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 21:12

Amy's going to bring us up well with our foundation update there. I don't expect any votes to need to be taken there. We do have another voting issue where we will be going into executive session a little bit later in this meeting, so.

AY **Amy Yancey** 21:12

Thank you.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 21:29

Yeah, I think there's this is just informational. Thank you.

AY **Amy Yancey** 21:34

Thank you. This is just an update on our expectations around the statement of work for this committee and and normally my colleagues chime in to provide updates for their areas of oversight, but in recognition that you've got some business to take care of.

Later in the meeting and executive session, we wanted to consolidate this report. Since we last met, the Foundation closed its third straight, most successful quarter in history. So Q2 was another record.

Record fundraising quarter for us. I'll just begin with the alumni engagement update. Our progress to our campaign goal of 1.5 million instances in the campaign is 79% to goal.

Thanks to the hard work of Miranda Reynolds and her excellent team, we have an average engagement rate of 30.5%. An alumni engagement survey launched last week to all contactable alumni in Connecticut to help inform our engagement offerings. The survey will be shared on a rolling

basis to all of our priority alumni markets. We are piloting a new industry-based alumni network in LA for alumni in the entertainment industry, named Hollywood Huskies. Our kickoff brought out over 60 alumni, underlining significant interest in this opportunity to engage in a specific industry related networking opportunity. We are also piloting a student education module and the Senior Year Experience class this spring designed to educate students on the UConn Foundation. Philanthropy and its role in advancing the university, the importance of being involved as alumni. The goal is to launch the module and all senior year classes starting in the fall of 2026.

The new alumni section of the website launched in January with clear calls to action to volunteer, find and engage in events, and learn more about other engagement opportunities with the Foundation and the University and through our alumni network activities.

We concluded the campaign launch event phase with a successful launch in Naples and are moving into the engagement phase, hosting 6 Because of UConn Conversation Series events in six cities highlighting academic innovation and excellence.

Our The second part of our update is on fundraising in the campaign. The campaign exceeded goals and dollars raised, pipeline strength and leadership and volunteer activity. Momentum remains strong with the campaign on track to surpass 900 million this fiscal year. We are.

We're currently at 833.7 million, 55% to goal. For those who are new on this call, we publicly launched the campaign in April. Our endowment stands at 700, nearly \$714 million, representing 30%.

Growth over five years. That growth is net of both investment growth and new gifts,

less the 4% annuity that we pay to the university through the various funds that are designated by donors for endowed support.

And less the 1.75% advancement and management fee fundraising year to date, we raised 81.7 million through the end of the second quarter marking the strongest calendar year on record and it and as I said earlier, third straight record quarter.

With 149.4 million raised in the three most recent quarters, Q4 is typically our largest quarter and so we continue to track well towards a strong fundraising year. We currently stand at a total of 80.

Sun.

.3 million for the year and are on pace to exceed our 145 million statement of work goal and our stretch goal of 160 million, which if we do, we'll make it the strongest fundraising year on record. The major gift pipeline continues to expand and we are seeing growth across.

Nearly all of our giving bands, so all of those from 10,000 to over 5 million for organizational excellence, we continue to strive to continual improvement and improve return on the investment of our work and the investment that the university makes.

As in us to do that, we have led six different key improvement areas to foster engagement, innovation and operational efficiency. This quarter we also drafted and renewed the foundation's vision, mission and value statement.

And that concludes my report for today. Madam Chair.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 26:58

You're muted.

HS **Heinlein, Jonathan S (Office of the General Counsel)** 26:59

You're you're on mute.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 27:04

See, I told you, I told you I'd do it. Sorry. Thank you. I was just saying congratulations on the the numbers that you've just reported on and and a robust beginning to the year. So congratulations there.

AY **Amy Yancey** 27:19

Thank you.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 27:19

I don't know if there's any other questions specifically for Amy. Miss GNC.

CB **Chuck Bunnell** 27:25

Oh, that was great.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 27:26

Thank you. Yeah, I did have one quick question on the alumni piece. I know, I think Marinda kind of talked about a survey that was being done in the midst of with the alumni. And I know surveys can be really tough to get good compliance on that. So I was just wondering.

I thought I saw Marinda's name. Marinda, can you hear me?

MR **Marinda Reynolds** 27:51

Yes, I'm here. Can you hear me?

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 27:52

Yeah, yes. So how is the, how is that survey going? How are you getting towards the numbers?

MR **Marinda Reynolds** 27:57

Sure. Yeah. So we recognize, you know, there's a lot of survey fatigue out there, but we have not surveyed our alumni in a true fashion in over a decade. So because we're in campaign and because, you know, we've been operating in a similar fashion for a little while now, we really wanted to take a moment and see what kind of response.

We would get by asking how people want to be engaged based on the programs that we current offer, currently offer and some of the things we're thinking about offering. So this is really a starting point and we sent out the survey on Friday of last week and we already have 415 responses and the majority are actually people who do not come to our events. So it's actually giving us a little bit of data.

You know, for the group that we're we're maybe missing somehow, I haven't done a full deep dive in terms of the responses yet. I'm waiting for a little bit more, but we're keeping it open through mid March. We did do, you know, you can win a chance to

get an Amazon gift card just to kind of provide an incentive to help get more responses. It's also helped us with contact information.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 28:39
Mhm.

MR **Marinda Reynolds** 28:56
But we did, we worked with, we actually did call to peers. So the University of Maryland does an annual survey. They had a great sort of starting point that we we borrowed that asked a lot of similar questions. And then we worked with a faculty member who's, you know, works in statistics and she helped us make sure that we the survey made sense from an ECHA.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 29:05
Right.

MR **Marinda Reynolds** 29:15
No efficacy standpoint. There we go. Um, so this again is a starting point. It'll give us some information so that it can inform how we move forward. Um, but I'm looking forward to seeing what we get in reporting out um on that feedback.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 29:19
OK.
Yeah.
That's excellent. Thank you very much and keep us posted. Are there any other questions on the from the foundation? I I mean, I know John Greenblatt, you're on there. You guys would be welcome for you to participate in the conversation as well as Craig Ashmore, if there's anything that you want.
Add before we move on to our next agenda item.

JG **Jonathan Greenblatt** 29:54
Well, I just wanted to applaud Amy and her team's performance as one of the comments in the chat did. You know, it's it's really great. We are performing well. That's because we have great leadership and staff.
And I think we're learning as we go and really appreciate the support the university

gives us because we can't do it without you. We see it as a partnership and you know we've come a long way as you know in over the over the last several years, so, so.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 30:24
Yes.

JG **Jonathan Greenblatt** 30:29
I'm I'm thrilled and Craig, feel free to weigh in with your own thoughts, but I'm thrilled to have the team we have running the foundation.

CA **Craig Ashmore** 30:39
Yeah, very quickly here. Amy and her team have done a good job over the last couple of years, tremendous momentum. Just just to cap one item, the the pipeline of \$1,000,000 potential donor.
Have is really unparalleled over the last five and 10 years. So we're in very good shape. We have a lot of momentum looking forward to finish this whole year and get on to the next one. Thank you, Andrea.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 31:08
Thank you both for your comments. It's nice having you here and it's nice tying it all in together and I love the fact of the the two boards working in in tandem together and this is evident based even on this meeting alone. So thank you.
Any other?

JG **Jonathan Greenblatt** 31:23
Thank you for helping it happen.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 31:26
Sure, of course. Anything else at this motion? Cause I know Joanne is in the green room. Miss Lombardo, do you have your sneakers on?

LJ **Lombardo, Joann** 31:38
Get my sneakers on.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 31:40

Running from place to place in that little house.

L **Lombardo, Joann** 31:42

With with the president who has her rollers, rollerblades on right next to her. So I just wanted to give everyone a real quick update on some of the major things that we're working on in government relations. Of course, the 2026 state legislative session opened on February 4th.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 31:47

Rollerblades, right? Exactly. Exactly.

L **Lombardo, Joann** 32:02

It is ending on May 6th. It is the short session and this is the session where the General Assembly makes adjustments to the biennial budget, the FY26 and FY27 budget they they approved last legislative session.

Our university priorities will include operating budget requests for funding as well as bonding and capital needs. The Governor's budget was submitted to the Legislature for consideration on the first day of the session, February 4th. It essentially leaves the UConn and UConn Health budgets for FY27 unchanged.

The Appropriations Committee started their state agency budget hearings and public hearings last week. The public higher education budget presentation and hearings, including UConn and UConn Health's budget, is being held tomorrow in person at the Legislative Office Building and also via Zoom.

President Merrick and Doctor Aguinobi Aguinobi will be presenting and taking questions from the committee between 12:00 and 1:00 tomorrow. The Provost Nathan Fuerst, Jeff Geoghegan and Reka Rin will also be there to answer any questions that.

The committee members might have the public hearing begins at 5:00 PM with 10 student panels, 3 from UConn and one from UConn Health, and the remaining will be from CSCU, the community colleges in Charter Oak and the independent colleges. General public hearing starts at 7:30 in the.

So back to the agency presentations, as in the past years, the committee has asked that we submit written testimony and not deliver that at the hearing, but be available

to answer questions. So we're prepared to do that.

And at the hearing, UConn will be presenting additional funding requests for new initiatives around recruitment and retention of students, financial aid, student success, software technology.

Requesting some funding to offset some of the federal cuts that we received for research grants. And also, if you may recall that last last session, the legislature requested that the university develop an action plan for membership in a National Association of Research Institutions.

We've submitted that report to them and included in that report was the request or what we think is to move the needle for us and making us more attractive is hiring 10 top tier faculty to the university and that may make us more more attractive.

We are requesting over five years funding for that both operating and bonding dollars and our request will include the first year of funding for those top 10 faculty, top tier faculty. In terms of UConn Health, UConn Health was is not requesting any new funding.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 35:04

Sounds good.

L **Lombardo, Joann** 35:11

Initiatives, but for both UConn and UConn Health, there we are requesting.

To the committee that if there are salary increases or an agreement with the unions around collective bargaining and salary increases, that we will be going back.

To the to the to the General Assembly requesting we are requesting that that any increase be covered by the General Assembly by the state on a in on a permanent in a permanent way and in a permanent permanently.

So we will be going back and for UConn Health, they also are tracking what impacts the federal One Big Beautiful bill will have the changes that were in Medicaid and pharmaceutical pricing, what that might mean for clinical revenues and depending on what that all looks like for them, there may be a.

A gap in their FY27 projected budget and so they will be going back to request funding for that as well if that happens. So in addition to the budget and bonding requests which are bonding is again it's a very small amount this year we're requesting for UConn \$10 million in.

Support and \$20 million for the to assist with the lab with lab renovations and

equipment and start-ups for those top 10 tier faculty around the AAU or invitation if we do receive that request to.

And the other thing is in addition to the the budget and bonding, we are starting to review the hundreds of bills that are coming through to see which bills may have an impact on UConn or UConn Health and working to determine whether or not we will be testifying on those bills in public sessions.

And so again sort of next steps as we always do will be one-on-one meetings working with the President and Doctor Agwunobi and other senior leaders meeting with legislators on our requests and.

Promoting the value and importance of the university to the state and the state's economy. So that's it for the for the legislative session so far. We'll keep you updated on anything major. Another big event that we're working on with lots of different folks is the.

Event in Waterbury that may be taking place at Waterbury Hospital at the beginning of March once UConn Health closes the deal and we have a new start of a new UConn Health Community Health Network. So we'll be inviting elected officials to that to that opening.

The ribbon problem, which is really exciting. So happy to take any questions.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 38:02

Ask questions for Joann Lombardo.

Hearing none, then we will look forward to your April 22nd update here at this Institute of Advancement. And again, sometimes I think people kind of think short session means less work for governmental relations and that's not the case. So good luck with everything that you're doing.

LJ **Lombardo, Joann** 38:27

Thanks. Thanks for your support.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 38:28

Of course. Thank you. OK, I don't want to. No need to rush. So if there's any questions for her before she totally goes. All right, then Michael Kirk, our VP, you're up.

KM **Kirk, Michael** 38:45

Sure. You have in your materials a copy of the 2025 content report created by University Communications. This is the report we release each year measuring the reach and success of the content we produce across the web, social media and through the traditional news media. The data captures many of our critical metrics and measurable successes. So no one has to just take my word for it.

That our communications efforts are effective and far reaching. That doesn't capture everything, including the aspects of marketing and branding, but it comes close. One of the areas to pay close attention to in the report, if you read it, is the section on social media. While traditional earned media remains a very high priority and it's still a key Ave. to reaching our audiences.

It's undeniable. This industry has shrunk dramatically over the last 25 years and is in many cases a shadow of its former self, especially locally, as readership, viewership and ad revenue continues to collapse for a lot of news organizations. So if people are increasingly not reading newspapers, watching TV news, listening to the radio, or have they gone? Then the answer is largely social media. We can debate whether that's.

Good or bad, but it's a fact and we need to meet the people where they are. Knowing this, we at Communications have put together put a great deal of effort into building an effective team around this and have adopted and implemented some fairly sophisticated content creation and distribution strategies across multiple platforms to build our audiences and get them engaged. It's worth noting that running institutional accounts is a complex task.

Task that is both an art and a science and bears very little resemblance to running a personal social media account. So audiences that were at best anemic 10 to 15 years ago today represent our single largest audience combined across all platforms, all social media platforms, numbering about 3/4 of a million.

In the not too distant future, that will surpass a million and keep going from there. Different platforms appeal to different audiences, with some trending older, some skewing more towards alums and professionals, and others trending younger, including prospective students, current students, and recent graduates. So reflecting that, each requires its own content plan and strategy. What works on one platform sometimes doesn't.

Not work on another. What appeals to one audience won't appeal to another. You'll note in the report that our efforts in 2025 resulted in over 50 million impressions of UConn and UConn Health content. That's when a piece of content is visible on

people's social feeds. More important than that even is engagement. That's when people aren't just seeing something, they're commenting on it, they're liking it, they're sharing it engagement.

As a kind of gold standard when it comes to measuring success in social media, and UConn and UConn Health in 2025 had nearly 3,000,000 engagements across all platforms. More people are reading it than just that, but that's important because when someone engages with content, you know they absorbed it.

This is also an area where you don't have to take my word for it. Quid QUID is a consumer and market intelligence firm. Every year they release a social media engagement report that professionals in this field pay close attention to. And for two years in a row, the report has ranked UConn social media engagement in the top 10 nationally among all Division One schools, according to whatever methodology Quid uses.

Finally, I'd note that in addition to day-to-day social media content plans, we also develop detailed specific plans for major events in the life of the university, everything from freshman move-in to commencement to the NCAA tournament when our teams advance. This is also true in Farmington, where the team from both Storrs and UConn Health.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 41:36
OK.

KM **Kirk, Michael** 41:51
Are working collaboratively internally and with our Waterbury Hospital staff or the Waterbury Hospital staff to develop a lengthy and detailed content plan pegged to the day and actually the hour. Waterbury officially becomes part of the UConn Health ecosystem and for several weeks beyond that. Those are just a few examples and I'll pause there.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 42:02
Yeah.

Yeah, important examples. Thank you so much. Any questions for Michael Kirk? But congratulations on on the social media aspect and being up there in the top ten. That's exciting. Any questions, comments?

KM **Kirk, Michael** 42:22

Thank you.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 42:28

Then thank you very much and we'll go on. I understand Doctor Folta is with us, but it does not have a report to give unless that's changed. Doctor Folta, thank you for being here.

Moving on, is there any new business to discuss?

Then I will ask for the US to go into executive session and no votes are expected to occur after executive session. So when it's over, we will reconvene an open session just to adjourn the IA committee.

I'd like a motion and a second to go into Executive session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-2001-210 and point B1 and 10 to discuss preliminary drafts and notes and documents protected by the attorney-client.

Privilege. May I have a motion? I mean, I'm sorry, may I have a vote? All those in favor?

DW **Diane Whitney** 43:34

Bye.

SC **Shari Cantor** 43:36

Hi.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 43:37

All right. Thank you. Thank you. I ask that all of the following individuals to join all of the trustee committee members, any other trustees in attendance. I know Dan Toscano talked about trying to join, but I think he may be in a situation he can't get.

43:37

Alright.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 43:37

Good night.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 43:57

Nicole Gelston, Jonathan Heinlein and as we discussed, Amy, Nancy, if you can just be on standby if we if we need you to join us, OK, all right. Again, there'll be no votes taken. So I'll ask that we move into executive session.

The

OK, I see, Diane, so I think we're in pretty good shape.

OK, I believe everyone's in place, so I'd like to call for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting.

DW **Diane Whitney** 44:34

May may I make one brief musical announcement first, which Radenka knows about Solomir Ibenkov, the our UConn's premier violinist, will be playing a solo with.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 44:34

Yeah.

Yes, yes.

Yes.

DW **Diane Whitney** 44:50

Not a solo. She will be playing with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra March 1314 and 15 in a in a marvelous performance. And if you could all keep that in your in your minds and let students know that any student ticket to any of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra's performances.

Is \$10.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 45:09

Thank you very much. So may I have a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting?

Might as well start. Thank you. Second.

DW **Diane Whitney** 45:16

So move Whitney.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 45:19

Second Pollard.

AD **Andrea Dennis-LaVigne** 45:21
All those in favor, please say aye.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 45:24
Hi.

DW **Diane Whitney** 45:24
Alright.

PB **Pollard, Bryan** 45:34
I'll do it. Take care, everyone.

● **Board of Trustees** stopped transcription