

MINUTES**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES****Wilbur Cross Building
North Reading Room (109)
233 Glenbrook Road
Storrs, Connecticut****Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by Vice-Chair Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, who opened and chaired the meeting on behalf of Board Chair Toscano. Board Chair Toscano assumed chairing the meeting at the start of Chairman's Report.

The following Trustees participated in person: Andy F. Bessette, Sean K. Dunn, Thomas D. Ritter, Fabio R. Saccomanno, Daniel D. Toscano, Richard I. Vogel, and Diane W. Whitney.

Natalie Wagner, Governor Lamont's designee, was also in attendance.

The following Trustees participated virtually: Trisha M. Bailey, George A. Barrios, Mark L. Boxer, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Denis J. Nayden, Daniel H. O'Keefe, Bryan K. Pollard, and Philip E. Rubin. Trustees Boxer (12:00); Saccomanno (12:42); and Dunn (absent from 12:15 – 1:00) were not present for portions of the meeting.

Trustees Charles F. Bunnell, Shari G. Cantor, John P. Driscoll, Bryan P. Hurlburt, and Charlene Russell-Tucker were not in attendance.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting in person: Karen Bresciano, Micah Heumann, and Lisa Park Boush.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting virtually: Lindsay Cummings, Carrie Fernandes, Horea Ilies, and Tina McCarthy.

The following University Staff attended the meeting in person: President Radenka Maric, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Pamir Alpay, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and CEO for UConn Health Andrew Agwunobi, Executive Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan, General Counsel and Executive Secretary to the Board Nicole Gelston, Chief of Staff Philip Hunt, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Communications Michael Kirk, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Lakeesha Brown, and Interim Vice President for Finance Reka Wrynn.

OPEN SESSION**1. Public Participation**

UConn Health Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine Mark Buchanan spoke about academic freedom and UConn Health Associate Professor of Public Health Science Scott Whetstone spoke about governance and academic freedom.

Undergraduate Students Mia Giancola and Gabriella DiSalvo spoke in support of establishing a disability cultural center.

Assistant Professor-in Residence Karenann Caldwell spoke on behalf of the AAUP Executive Committee regarding a statement generated by the union entitled "UConn administration undermining core educational mission of the University."

Undergraduate Student Luca Kabir Khanna spoke about the UConn Students in Defense of Immigrant Communities petition to President Maric, the UConn Administration, and the Board of Trustees.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the potential relocation of the Windham Technical High School:

Willimantic Town Councilman and Vice President of the Willimantic/Windham Branch of the NAACP Rodney Alexander, Jr.

State Representative Susan Johnson, Connecticut House District 49

Town of Windham Mayor Thomas DeVivo

Town of Windham resident Dennis O'Brien

Undergraduate Student Angelo Montes spoke on behalf of the Immigration Defense Coalition.

The following individuals spoke about their environmental concerns about a proposed golf range facility on East Road in Storrs, a road on which they each live: Quin Harper and Laura Tordenti.

2. Chairman's Report

(a) Matters Outstanding

Board Chair Toscano acknowledged the University's annual Undergraduate First Destination survey results, which gathers data about recent graduates. He noted that approximately 91% of UConn's most recent alums have reported positive post-graduation outcomes. In addition, a larger percentage of in-state students and a greater number of out-of-state students have remained in Connecticut compared to last year's data.

Board Chair Toscano highlighted the results of a multi-year analysis by UConn's researchers from the Outage Prediction Modeling team that tracks intense weather events affecting power grids across the country.

Board Chair Toscano recognized Dr. Jeffrey Hines, Vice President of the Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights at UConn and UConn Health, who delivered the keynote address at the Connecticut Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission Commemoration at the State Capitol.

Lastly, Board Chair Toscano congratulated former student-athlete Tage Thompson and the USA men's ice hockey team for the first gold medal since 1980.

(b) Minutes of the Meeting of December 3, 2025

On motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 3, 2025.

(c) Committee Reports and Updates

(1) Election of Committee Chair

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Board voted to remove from the agenda Election of Committee Chair for consideration at a later date.

(d) Consent Agenda Items:

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- (1) Contracts and Agreements (Attachment 1)
(Trustee Ritter abstained from voting on Attachment 1)
- (2) Project Budget (Final) for Parking Lot L Paving (Attachment 2)
- (3) Project Budget (Final) for Motor Pool Fuel Tank Replacement (Attachment 3)
- (4) Project Budget (Final) for Practice Field Upgrades (Attachment 4)
- (5) Project Budget (Final) for Façade & Roof Repairs Program (Attachment 5)
- (6) Project Budget (Revised Final) for Gampel Pavilion Generator Replacement (Attachment 6)
- (7) Project Budget (Revised Final) for Avery Point Parking Lots A and B Upgrades (Attachment 7)
- (8) Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Main Lobby Entrance Renovation (Attachment 8)
- (9) Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Lab Medicine Multiple Lab Renovation (Attachment 9)
- (10) Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Surgery Center Operating Room #6 Renovations (Attachment 10)
- (11) Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Energy Improvements: Steam Pipe and Trap Insulation (Attachment 11)
- (12) Project Budget (Revised Final) for the UConn Health TM416 MRI Upgrade and Mobile Unit (Attachment 12)
- (13) Project Budget (Revised Final) for the UConn Health Torrington Clinical Practice Relocation (Attachment 13)
- (14) Project Budget (Revised Final) for the UConn Health Central Sterile Washer and Sterilizer Replacement (Attachment 14)
- (15) Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 15)
- (16) Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 16)
- (17) Proposal to Rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Attachment 17)

- (18) Appointment of Professor Euiyong Park to the Stuart and Joan Sidney Professor in Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 18)
- (19) Appointment of Professor George Plesko to the KPMG Professorship in Accounting in the School of Business (Attachment 19)
- (20) Program Modification: Addition of Location and Modality for the Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Behavioral Health in The Graduate School (Attachment 20)
- (21) Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Life Story Research in The Graduate School (Attachment 21)
- (22) Naming Recommendation for the Lisa Lavorato '85 Exercise Lab (Attachment 22)
- (23) Naming Recommendation for the Bertie '82 and Jackie Chuong Faculty Office (Attachment 23)
- (24) Naming Recommendation for the Dan DiFiore Class of 1972 Hitting Bay (Attachment 24)
- (25) Naming Recommendation for the Connelly Sleep Lab (Attachment 25)
- (26) Naming Recommendation for the Jim and Jane Mitchell Coaches History Wall (Attachment 26)
- (27) Renaming of the Urman Peace Garden (Attachment 27)

3. President's Report

President Maric gave a brief presentation to the Board regarding operational priorities, including improving enrollment efforts, enterprise effectiveness, academic and research profile, and fundraising efforts.

(a) Item requiring Board discussion and approval:

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Honorary Degree nominations for this year's Commencement Ceremonies.

- (1) Honorary Degrees (Attachment 28)

(b) Strategic Assessment of Regional Campuses

Interim Provost Alpay and Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Interdisciplinary Initiatives Amy Gorin gave a comprehensive report.

4. University Senate Report

Senate Executive Committee Chair, Dr. Robert Day

University Senate Executive Committee Chair Day gave a brief report to the Board.

5. Other Business

Executive Vice President Agwunobi gave an update on key priorities for UConn Health Waterbury.

Trustee Whitney encouraged all to attend and to bring a student to the *Pine of Rome* event at the Hartford Symphony Orchestra between March 13 – March 15, featuring Solomiya Ivakhiv, UConn Coordinator of Strings and Professor of Violin and Viola. Student tickets are \$10 each. Trustee Ritter noted that there will be a tour of the new UConn Hartford residence hall (64 Pratt Street) on Tuesday, February 3 at 11:30 a.m. Trustee Pollard noted that there will be a campus memorial service on April 22 at 3:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom to remember students who have passed during the 2025-2026 academic year.

6. Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Ritter, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 1:30 p.m. regarding:

1. CGS 1-200(6) E) discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein described in subsection (b) of section 1-210; and
2. CGS 1-210(b)(1): Preliminary drafts or notes provided the public agency has determined that the public interest in withholding such documents clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure; and
3. CGS 1-210(b)(9): Records, reports and statements of strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.

The following Trustees were in attendance: Bailey, Barrios, Bessette, Boxer, Dennis-LaVigne, Dunn, Nayden, O'Keefe, Pollard, Ritter, Rubin, Saccomanno, Toscano, Vogel, and Whitney.

Natalie Wagner, Governor Lamont's designee, was also in attendance.

The following University Staff attended part of the Executive Session: President Maric, Andrew Agwunobi, Pamir Alpay, Kelly Banister, Lakeesha Brown, Nathan Fuerst, Nicole Gelston, Jeffrey Geoghegan, Philip Hunt, Michael Kirk, Nathan LaVallee, and Reka Wrynn.

The Executive Session ended at 2:09 p.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 2:10 p.m.

7. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 2:11 p.m. due to a lack of a quorum.

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan K. Pollard
Secretary