

April 29, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Pamir Alpay, Ph.D.  
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

RE: Reappointment of Professor Steven Wilf, J.D., Ph.D. as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce in the School of Law



RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Trustees approve the reappointment of Professor Steven Wilf, J.D., Ph.D. as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce in the School of Law for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2031.

RESOLUTION:

"Be it resolved that the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees reappoint Professor Steven Wilf, J.D., Ph.D. as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce in the School of Law for the period August 23, 2026, through August 22, 2031."

BACKGROUND:

The Anthony Smits Professorship was established by his friends and colleagues after his untimely death early in his career. Earning his LL.M. from UConn in 1997, Anthony Smits was considered one of the 25 best insolvency lawyers in the world before turning 40. His compassion, integrity, loyalty and good humor inspired others who joined in endowing this professorship to be awarded to a nationally or internationally recognized researcher who has made significant contributions to the field of global commerce. The School of Law enthusiastically supports the reappointment of Professor Steven Wilf as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce.

The recommendation to reappoint Professor Wilf was made following a recommendation from Dean Eboni S. Nelson. Dean Nelson appointed a five-person committee that was comprised of one endowed professor and four named professors, all of whom are full professors in the School of Law. Following consideration of Professor Wilf's materials, the committee unanimously recommended to Dean Nelson that Professor Wilf be reappointed to the Anthony J. Smits Professorship. Dean Nelson strongly supports the committee's recommendation.

Professor Wilf has held this endowed professorship since 2013. An internationally recognized scholar with expertise in intellectual property, legal history, and historical jurisprudence, his scholarly contributions since his reappointment in 2020 include seven published and forthcoming articles and book chapters. He also published *Patent Cultures: Diversity and Harmonization in Historical Perspective* (edited with Graeme Gooday; Cambridge University Press, 2020), which provides a comparative study of patent practice across the globe. In addition, Professor Wilf has two books under contract with Cambridge University Press and Yale University Press, two prestigious and well-regarded publishers. His current projects, which examine intractable problems in copyright subject matter through deploying tools developed in the humanities, demonstrate his ambitious and interdisciplinary approach to his work.

In 2022, Professor Wilf served as a research fellow at the Centre d'Etudes Internationales de la Propriete Intellectuelle (CEIPI) in Strasbourg, one of the world's leading intellectual property research institutes. He was also a Fulbright-Schuman Innovation Scholar from 2020-2022. Such achievements evidence his scholarly contributions and global impact.

Professor Wilf is a dedicated classroom teacher who is committed to ensuring that his students possess the skills to make them truly excellent attorneys.

## Closure of Financial Technology Major (BS in Financial Management)

**Departments:** Finance Department and OPIM (Operations and Information Management) Department

**School/College:** School of Business

**Last term of Admission:** Spring 2026

**Location/Modality Impacted:** Online and in-person

The Financial Technology major was a joint offering between the School of Business OPIM and Finance Departments and was only offered on the Stamford Campus. We put a lot of effort in promoting the major and started communicating to students about it in Spring 2023. This was put in the catalog in the 23-24 Academic year.

John Perelli, FNCE faculty, is leading a student organization on this topic at Stamford. It seems active students are not interested and have not made a commitment to this major.

Despite a lot of effort in promoting the major, student applications to this particular major have been exceptionally low, resulting in very few students matriculating into the major, which makes it not sustainable.

While there is employer need and student interest in financial technology, we found that jobs are mostly in either operations or in finance and not in both and departments feel the interest in this area will be better met by course offerings and concentrations within existing majors, rather than by a stand-alone major. The two departments have already created concentrations in Financial Technology in their Stamford majors.

As a point of comparison, here is the Current Student Enrollment in the main business majors at Stamford.

STRUC_CAMPUS_LDESC Stamford	
Row Labels	Count of PERS_EMPLID
Business Data Analytics	42
Financial Management	183
Financial Technology	8
Marketing Management	76
Stamford-Business-Undecided	40
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>349</b>

### **Current Student Enrollment is 7 juniors and 1 first year student**

1 internal admissions applicant who was admitted for Fall 2025; (counted in current enrollment)

2 internal admissions applicant who were admitted for Spring 2026; (counted in current enrollment)

2 were admitted as freshmen to Stamford in a different business major and declared into the major after being admitted.

2 admitted as Financial Technology as freshmen when entering UConn

Advisors have communicated to all students and have made sure that all currently enrolled students will be able to graduate with the major on time if they choose to stay in the major.

### **Teach-Out Plan**

Most of the courses for the major are equivalent to the courses for all BS business degrees and are offered regularly every semester. Below is the Teach-out Plan for the unique courses for the BS in Financial Technology plan of study.

#### **Finance Department:**

The only unique course required for the FinTech Major is **FNCE 3240 Foundations of FinTech**, which is also on the Financial Management plan of study now and will be offered **every fall**. The rest of the Finance courses are offered every semester for the Financial Management Major and students have a good selection to choose from to complete the financial requirement electives for the FinTech Major.

#### **OPIM Department:**

For the OPIM requirements, **OPIM 3510 Business Data Analytics I** is offered every semester. At least one section of the specialized course **OPIM 3806 Introduction to Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Technology** will be offered **every spring** till Spring 2030 and to fulfill the additional OPIM elective requirement, at least one section of **OPIM 3512 Project Management for Business Data Analytics or OPIM 3505 Business Database Management** will be offered **every fall semester** for the next four years.

#### **Reactivation Plans (if applicable)**

Not applicable.