

MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Student Life Committee February 19, 2026 Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Bryan Pollard, Shari Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne,
Sean Dunn, Fabio Saccomanno, Diane Whitney

University Senate Representative: Tina McCarthy

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Nathan Fuerst, Nicole Gelston, James
Lowe, Mona Lucas, Suzanne Peters, Shannon Walsh

Vice-Chair Pollard called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. Public Participation

Undergraduate student Mia Giancola spoke in support of a proposal to establish a Disability Cultural Center on campus.

2. Minutes from the November 13, 2025, Meeting

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Dunn, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2025, Meeting.

3. Standing Updates:

- Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment
- Student Trustees

Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Fuerst shared that the annual Campus Memorial Service, honoring students who have passed during the academic year, will be held on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, on the Storrs campus. The update also emphasized the University's continued commitment to student wellbeing as a JED Campus and designated Health Promoting University, including ongoing cross-campus efforts to assess campus environments, strengthen prevention strategies, and enhance coordinated support systems for students. Additionally, the University is nearing the release of admissions and financial aid decisions for the fall entering class, with decisions for both the Storrs and regional campuses expected in the coming weeks.

Undergraduate Student Trustee Dunn shared updates on housing planning for 2026–2027 and noted the recent UConn Alert System test as a reminder of the importance of emergency preparedness and clear communication. The report also referenced ongoing academic and campus climate initiatives and highlighted strong student engagement across campuses, including continued participation in innovation and research opportunities.

Graduate Student Trustee Saccomanno shared recent highlights and accomplishments from the UConn School of Law, the UConn School of Medicine, and the UConn School of Pharmacy.

4. Career Readiness and Life Skills Update:
James R. Lowe, Associate Vice President, Student Life and Enrollment

Associate Vice President Lowe presented key highlights from the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills, emphasizing the Career Everywhere initiative and the University's comprehensive approach to integrating career readiness across the student experience. This topic will be raised with the full Board of Trustees for discussion at the next meeting.

5. Financial Aid Implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act: Mona Lucas, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment
Suzanne Peters, Director, Student Financial Aid Services

Assistant Vice President Lucas and Director Peters presented an overview of the financial aid implications of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, outlining upcoming changes to federal Pell Grants, loan programs, and new institutional accountability measures effective July 1, 2026.

6. University Senate Representative Report

There was no University Senate Representative Report.

7. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

9. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Zecchini
Secretary to the Committee