

**DRAFT MINUTES****UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES****Wilbur Cross Building  
North Reading Room (109)  
233 Glenbrook Road  
Storrs, Connecticut****Wednesday, April 29, 2026**

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m. by Board Chair Toscano.

The following Trustees participated in person: Andy F. Bessette, Shari G. Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Sean K. Dunn, Bryan K. Pollard, Thomas D. Ritter, Fabio R. Saccomanno, Daniel D. Toscano, Richard I. Vogel, and Diane W. Whitney.

The following Trustees participated virtually: Trisha M. Bailey, George A. Barrios, Mark L. Boxer (part of the meeting), Charles F. Bunnell, Denis J. Nayden, Daniel H. O'Keefe (part of the meeting), Philip E. Rubin, and Charlene Russell-Tucker.

Natalie Wagner, Governor Lamont's designee, also participated virtually for part of the meeting.

Trustees John P. Driscoll and Bryan P. Hurlburt were not in attendance.

Undergraduate Student Trustee-elect Nina Lamesh attended the meeting in person.

The following University Senate Representatives attended the meeting in person: Karen Bresciano, Lindsay Cummings, Carrie Fernandes, Timothy Folta, Horea Ilies, and Lisa Park Boush.

University Senate Representatives Amvrossios Bagtzoglou and Tina McCarthy attended the meeting virtually.

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 Chief Executive Officer for UConn Health Andrew Agwunobi, General Counsel and Executive Secretary to the Board Nicole Gelston, Chief of Staff Philip Hunt, Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Anthony Rini, Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Nathan Fuerst, UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan, Associate Vice President for Budget and Planning Reka Wrynn, and University Spokesperson and Manager of Media Relations Stephanie Reitz.

**OPEN SESSION****1. Public Participation**

Jack Wright, Editor-in-Chief, Nutmeg Publishing, raised concerns about the ongoing fiscal viability of the Nutmeg yearbook due to insufficient student fees.

The following individuals spoke about their environmental concerns about a proposed golf range facility on East Road in Storrs: Mansfield resident Alex Delehanty and undergraduate student Lillian Lafemina.

The following Undergraduate Students spoke about the UConn Students in Defense of Immigrant Communities petition to President Maric, the UConn Administration, and the Board of Trustees: Luke Bohan, Nicholas Miller, Ery Biyikli, Kathryn Adinolfi, and Thomas Boyd Clark.

2. Chairman's Report

(a) Matters Outstanding

Board Chair Toscano recognized this year's recipients of the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship, which was established by the U.S. Congress and supports undergraduate students majoring in mathematics, science, engineering, or research psychology. The undergraduate students are: Daniel D'Souza, Ashly Gasior, and Mackenzie Robillard all of whom are enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the Honors Program.

Board Chair Toscano acknowledged the State of Connecticut proclamation that April 15, 2026, be recognized as Petra Clark-Dufner Day, in recognition of her distinguished career of sustained leadership in education, health equity, and workforce development at UConn Health. This proclamation honors her over 30 years of service strengthening access to health care services as an Assistant Professor in the School of Medicine and Director of the Connecticut Area Health Education Center based at UConn Health.

(b) Board Recognition

Board Chair Toscano recognized Trustee Sean Dunn's service, commitment, and leadership as the undergraduate student representative on the Board for the past two years. He noted that Trustee Dunn is graduating on May 9 as an Honors Scholar in Biomedical Engineering.

Trustees Cantor, Pollard, Saccomanno, and Whitney commented on Trustee Dunn's service on the Board as well as their respective committees.

The Board presented a framed recognition to Trustee Dunn.

Board Chair Toscano also congratulated Trustee Saccomanno for his re-election to a two-year term beginning this May. He also welcomed Trustee-elect Nina Lemash who will succeed Trustee Dunn as Undergraduate Student Trustee effective May 10.

(c) Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2026

On motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 6, 2026.

(d) Committee Reports and Updates

(1) Academic Affairs Committee

(a) Three Minute Thesis Challenge Presentation

Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of The Graduate School Leslie Shor introduced the following winners of the Three Minute Thesis and Graduate Student Showcase. Each presented on their winning thesis:

Overall Winner: Tracy Geha - *World Languages: The Cognitive Benefits We Fail to Market.*

First Place Winner, STEM: Meshach Ojo - *From Decades to Weeks: Tackling Connecticut's Crumbling Foundations.*

- (2) Student Life Committee  
(a) UConn Career Readiness First Destination Report  
Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of the Center for Career Readiness and Life Skills gave a brief report on the Center's 2024-25 annual report.

- (3) Election of Committee Chair

Item requiring Board discussion and approval:

On a motion by Board Chair Toscano, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Board voted to appoint Trustee Thomas Ritter as Chair of the Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee.

- (e) Consent Agenda Items:

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda items.

- (1) Designation of Authorized Officers for UCONN 2000 General Obligation Bonds (Attachment 1)
- (2) Proposed Easement for UConn Property at 1 South Eagleville Road, Storrs, Connecticut (Attachment 2)
- (3) Transfer/Return of Bergin Correctional Institute and Additional Adjacent Land to the Connecticut Technical Education and Career System (CTECS) (Attachment 3)
- (4) Contracts and Agreements (Attachment 4)  
(Trustee Ritter abstained from voting on Attachment 4. Trustee Bessette abstained on Contract Item #8 in Attachment 4.)
- (5) Project Budget (Final) for Manchester Lot Improvements (Attachment 5)
- (6) Project Budget (Final) for Student Union – Exterior Security Upgrade (Attachment 6)
- (7) Project Budget (Final) for Parking Garage Safety Improvements (Attachment 7)
- (8) Project Budget (Revised Final) for Albert N. Jorgensen and Harriet S. Jorgensen Theatre and Performing Arts Building Envelope Repairs (Attachment 8)
- (9) Promotion and Tenure (Attachment 9)
- (10) Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 10)
- (11) Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 11)
- (12) Reappointment of Professor Robert Day, Ph.D. to the Robert Cizik Professorship in Manufacturing and Technology Management in the School of Business (Attachment 12)

- (13) Reappointment of Professor David Weber, Ph.D. to the Deloitte Foundation Professorship of Accounting in the School of Business (Attachment 13)
- (14) Reappointment of Professor John Mathieu, Ph.D. as the GE Professor in Business in the School of Business (Attachment 14)
- (15) Reappointment of Professor Timothy B. Folta, Ph.D. to the Thomas John and Bette Wolff Family Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship in the School of Business (Attachment 15)
- (16) Reappointment of Professor Karolina Heyduk, Ph.D. to the Rosalind Chair in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 16)
- (17) Appointment of Professor Steven L. Suib, Ph.D. as the Harold S. Schwenk, Sr. Distinguished Chair in Chemistry in the Department of Chemistry in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 17)
- (18) Appointment of Professor James Waller, Ph.D. to the Gladstein Family Distinguished Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute (Attachment 18)
- (19) Appointment of Professor David L. Richards, Ph.D. to the Wiktor Osiatyński Chair in Human Rights in the Gladstein Family Human Rights Institute (Attachment 19)
- (20) Appointment of Professor Alexis L. Boylan, Ph.D. to the Rhoda Shivers Chair in the School of Fine Arts (Attachment 20)
- (21) Reappointment of Professor Peter Siegelman, Ph.D. as the Phillip I. Blumberg Professor of Law in the School of Law (Attachment 21)
- (22) Reappointment of Professor Ángel Oquendo, J.D., Ph.D. as the George J. and Helen M. England Professor of Law in the School of Law (Attachment 22)
- (23) Reappointment of Professor Richard D. Pomp, J.D. as the Alva P. Loiselle Professor of Law in the School of Law (Attachment 23)
- (24) Reappointment of Professor Steven Wilf, J.D., Ph.D. as the Anthony J. Smits Professor of Global Commerce in the School of Law (Attachment 24)
- (25) New Program: Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 25)
- (26) New Program: Graduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (Attachment 26)
- (27) Program Closure: Master of Fine Arts in Arts Leadership and Cultural Management (Attachment 27)

- (28) Program Closure: Bachelor of Science in Financial Technology in the School of Business (Attachment 28)
- (29) Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Contaminated Site Remediation (Attachment 29)
- (30) Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Oceanographic Science and Technology (Attachment 30)
- (31) Establishment of the George L. Minor Quasi-Endowment Fund (Attachment 31)
- (32) Renaming of the Judi and Gary Gladstein Distinguished Chair in Human Rights (Attachment 32)
- (33) Naming Recommendation for Mike Boylan '02 Player Lobby (Attachment 33)
- (34) Naming Recommendation for the Chase-Bear-Dyer Family Classroom (Attachment 34)
- (35) Naming Recommendation for the Chase-Bear-Dyer Advanced Triage Unit at John Dempsey Hospital (Attachment 35)
- (36) Naming Recommendation Norton and Anne Goss II and Family Women's Coaches Locker Room (Attachment 36)
- (37) Naming Recommendation for Toplands Meat Science Teaching and Research Laboratory (Attachment 37)

3. President's Report

President Maric gave a brief presentation to the Board including the upcoming Commencement ceremonies, March Madness, and UConn Bound Days.

Dr. Xiao-Dong Zhou provided an energy and sustainability update to the Board and also introduced the students involved in the design project: Fuel Cell/Battery-Powered Airplane. The students include: Pdraigh Fitzgerald, an economics major, and drone pilot and mentor for the student design team; Luke Arseneault, a mechanical engineering major graduating in May; William Watson, majoring in the honors chemical engineering program; and Megan Cunningham, a mechanical engineering master's student.

4. University Senate Report

Senate Executive Committee Chair, Dr. Robert Day

University Senate Executive Committee Chair Day gave a report on University Senate Annual Reports Highlights for the Academic Year 2025-26.

5. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

6. Executive Session

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 12:05 p.m. pursuant to:

- 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)(5)(A): Trade secrets, which for purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, are defined as information, including formulas, patterns, compilations, programs, devices, methods, techniques, processes, drawings, cost data, customer lists, film or television scripts or detailed production budgets that (i) derive independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from their disclosure or use, and (ii) are the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain secrecy.; and
4. CGS 1-210(b)(10): Records, tax returns, reports and statements exempted by federal law or the general statutes or communications privileged by the attorney-client relationship, marital relationship, clergy-penitent relationship, doctor-patient relationship, therapist-patient relationship or any other privilege established by the common law or the general statutes, including any such records, tax returns, reports or communications that were created or made prior to the establishment of the applicable privilege under the common law or the general statutes.

The following Trustees were in attendance: Bailey, Barrios, Bessette, Cantor, Dennis-LaVigne, Dunn, Nayden, Pollard, Ritter, Rubin, Russell-Tucker, Saccomanno, Toscano, Vogel, and Whitney.

The following University Staff were in attendance: President Maric, Pamir Alpay, Nathan Fuerst, Jeffrey Gagnon, Gail Garber, Nicole Gelston, Amy Gorin, Jeffrey Hines, Philip Hunt, Eric Kruger, Nathan LaVallee, Joann Lombardo, Anthony Rini, Jenna Rowlson, Daniel Schwartz, Daniel Weiner, and Reka Wrynn.

The Executive Session ended at 1:46 p.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 1:47 p.m.

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Pollard, seconded by Trustee Cantor, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Board meeting adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan K. Pollard  
Secretary