

MINUTES

University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee February 10, 2026 Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees: Shari Cantor, Philip Rubin, Rich Vogel, Diane Whitney, Brian Pollard

University Senate Representatives: Karen Bresciano, Lindsay Cummings

University Staff: Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, Sarah Croucher, Nathan Fuerst, Nicole Gelston, Amy Gorin, Philip Hritcko, Philip Hunt, George Plesko, Daniel Schwartz, Leslie Shor, Tadarrayl Starke, Reka Wrynn

Vice-Chair Shari Cantor called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Public Participation

No members of the public signed up to address the Committee.

2. Minutes from the December 10, Meeting (Attachment 1)

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Cantor, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2025, meeting. Trustees Pollard, Whitney and Vogel abstained from voting.

3. Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 2)

4. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 3)

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee Voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #3 and Agenda Item #4 to the full Board for approval.

5. Proposal to Rename the School of Pharmacy to the School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences (Attachment 4)

On a motion by Trustee Vogel, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #5 to the full Board for approval.

6. Appointment of Professor Euiyong Park to the Stuart and Joan Sidney Professorship in Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 5)

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #6 to the full Board for approval.

7. Appointment of Professor George Plesko to the KPMG Professorship in the Department of Accounting in the School of Business (Attachment 6)

On a motion by Trustee Vogel, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #7 to the full Board for approval.

8. Program Modification: Addition of Location and Modality for the Graduate Certificate in Child and Youth Behavioral Health in The Graduate School (Attachment 7)

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #8 to the full Board for approval.

9. Program Closure: Graduate Certificate in Life Story Research in The Graduate School (Attachment 8)

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Pollard, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #9 to the full Board for approval.

10. University Senate Representative Report

Senate Representative Cummings reported that implementation of the new Common Curriculum is proceeding smoothly, with positive initial feedback from students and advisors. She noted that the Senate has approved revisions to clarify admissions requirements in alignment with current practice and the State of Connecticut pre-college plan, and that work continues on revisions to the part-time Dean's List calculation. The Senate has formed a task force to examine next steps related to the previously suspended anti-Black racism course. She also reported that the Senate adopted a resolution seeking greater clarity regarding the impact of planned budget reductions on teaching and learning and expressed appreciation for the administration's engagement. Finally, she indicated the Senate's interest in participating in the University's AI Task Force given its academic implications.

11. Academic Program Inventory (Attachment A)

This item was provided to the Committee as an informational item.

12. Low Completion Program Review Update (Attachment B)

This item was provided to the Committee as an informational item.

13. Provost's Report

Interim Provost Pamir Alpay introduced Vice Provost for Student Success Tadarayl Starke to provide an update on student retention and academic support initiatives. He reported strong fall-to-spring retention rates across the system, including 97% for first-year students and 98% for continuing students at Storrs, with gains at the regional campuses as well. He highlighted targeted outreach efforts, including registration support campaigns and cross-unit collaboration to remove enrollment barriers. Vice Provost Starke also outlined expanded tutoring and academic support services in high-DFW courses, increased satellite and online tutoring, and focused initiatives to support student success and close equity gaps. He emphasized ongoing efforts to coordinate academic support resources across campuses to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

14. Other Business

Trustee Whitney announced that UConn violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv will perform with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra March 13–15 as part of ongoing collaboration between the Orchestra and the University. She noted that student tickets will be available at a reduced rate.

15. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

16. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Lohrey
Secretary to the Committee