MINUTES

University of Connecticut
Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs Committee
September 22, 2026
Virtual Meeting

Committee Trustees:	Shari Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Philip Rubin, Richard Vogel, Diane Whitney
University Senate Representative:	Karen Bresciano, Lindsay Cummings
University Staff:	Radenka Maric, Pamir Alpay, Sarah Croucher,Nathan Fuerst, Nicole Gelston, Anthony Rini, Reka Wrynn

Vice-Chair 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 June 16, 2026, Meeting (Attachment 1)

   On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2026, meeting.

3. Tenure at Hire (Attachment 2)

   On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #3 to the full Board for approval.

4. Designation of Emeritus Status (Attachment 3)

5. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations (Attachment 4)

   On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Vogel, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Items #4 and #5 to the full Board for approval.

6. Reappointment of Professor Brenda Brueggemann to the Aetna Chair of Writing in the Department of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 5)

7. Appointment of Professor Guozhen Lu to the Stuart and Joan Sidney Professorship in Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (Attachment 6)

8. Reappointment of Professor Manisha Sinha to the (Attachment 7)
   James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History
   in the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

9. Appointment of Professor Shalabh Gupta to the (Attachment 8)
   Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering
   in the College of Engineering

10. Appointment of Professor Hongyi Xu to the (Attachment 9)
    Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering
    in the College of Engineering

    On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Items #6-#10 to the full Board for approval.

11. Establishment of The Hartford Insurance Group Professor in Laborer Safety (Attachment 10)

    On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Rubin, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend Agenda Item #11 to the full Board for approval.

12. University Senate Representative Report

    Senate Representative Karen Bresciano provided an update on the Scholastic Standards Committee's review of attendance, Advanced Placement credit, temporary grades, and artificial intelligence in teaching and learning. She also noted discussions regarding a Storrs testing center and concerns about academic support staffing and federal student loan policy changes.

13. Presentation from Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment

    Vice President Nathan Fuerst presented enrollment information for the Fall 2026 semester and an update on the University's Strategic Enrollment Management plan. There was a general discussion on activities supported by this plan to enhance student success and retention.

14. Provost's Report

    Provost Alpay reported an update about the QuantumCT Engine initiative, AI for ImpaCT initiative, and the university's strategic faculty hiring initiative.

15. Other Business

    There was no Other Business.

16. Executive Session

    There was no Executive Session.

17. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The Committee adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Lohrey
Secretary to the Committee