MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wilbur Cross Building
North Reading Room (109)
233 Glenbrook Road
Storrs, Connecticut

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

The Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 10:09 a.m. by Board Chair Toscano.

The following Trustees participated in person: George A. Barrios, Andy F. Bessette, Charles F. Bunnell, Shari G. Cantor, Andrea Dennis-LaVigne, Nina Lemash, Denis J. Nayden, Thomas D. Ritter, Philip E. Rubin, Fabio R. Saccomanno, Daniel D. Toscano, Richard I. Vogel, and Diane W. Whitney.

The following Trustees participated virtually: Trisha M. Bailey and Daniel H. O'Keefe.

Natalie Wagner, Governor Lamont's designee, also participated.

Trustees Mark L. Boxer, John P. Driscoll, Bryan P. Hurlburt, Bryan K. Pollard, and Charlene Russell-Tucker were not in attendance.

University Senate Representatives Karen Bresciano, Lindsay Cummings, Sandy Grande, Oskar Harmon, Karen Skudlarek, and Jennifer Tibbetts attended the meeting in person.

University Senate Representatives Amvrossios Bagtzoglou and Horea Illies attended the meeting virtually.

The following University senior staff attended the meeting in person: President Radenka Maric, 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, Vice President for Communications Michael Kirk, and UConn Health Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey Geoghegan. Other members of the President's Senior Leadership Team were present for some or all of the meeting.

1. Public Participation

   There were no members of the public who wished to address the Board.

2. Chairman's Report

   (a) Matters Outstanding

   Board Chair Toscano welcomed to their first in-person meeting the following University Senate Representatives who began their terms on July 1: Sandy Grande (Institutional Advancement), Oskar Harmon (Financial Affairs); Karen Skudlarek (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion); and Jennifer Tibbets (Student Life).

   Board Chair Toscano noted that approximately 200 students moved into UConn's new residence hall on Pratt Street in downtown Hartford. Several Trustees joined President Maric and elected officials for a ribbon cutting event held on August 17th.

Board Chair Toscano highlighted the establishment or updated formal charters for the Board standing committees in Attachment 42 of the Consent Agenda.

Board Chair Toscano also noted that the University marked the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks with a ceremony in the Student Union Theatre. He personally thanked members of University Safety, specifically the UConn Police and Fire Departments, for organizing the event. He acknowledged eight UConn graduates who lost their lives; they were: Richard Blood, Jr. '97, Evan Gillette '83, Robert Higley '94, Joseph A. Lenihan '82, Scott J. O'Brien '83, Margaret Q. Orloske '73, Cheryl Monyak '79, and Sean Schielke '96.

(b) Minutes of the Meeting of June 17, 2026 (Attachment 1)

On motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Whitney, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 17, 2026.

(c) Committee Reports and Updates

(1) Academic Affairs Committee

(a) Community Engagement Presentation: UConn 4-H

Presenters: Jennifer Cushman, State 4-H State Program Leader
Tahlia Watson, UConn 4-H Member & UConn Student
Alex Hermonot, UConn 4-H Member
Emmett Salvas, UConn 4-H Member
Kumar Venkitanarayanan, CAHNR Dean and Director

Vice-Chair Cantor gave a brief update on yesterday's Academic Affairs meeting and introduced Dean Venkitanarayanan who highlighted UConn's 4-H Program. Ms. Cushman and several 4-H members briefly spoke about UConn's program and the impact on their lives.

(2) Other Committee Reports

Vice-Chair Ritter gave a report on the special Buildings, Grounds and Environment Committee Meeting held on September 15.

Vice-Chair Rubin also gave a report on the Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee Meeting held on September 10 and noted that Professor Dmitri Kharzeev was appointed as a faculty member in Physics and will serve as the new Director of the Quantum Institute.

Board Chair Toscano gave a brief on the Joint Audit and Compliance Committee Meetings held on June 25 and September 17.

(d) Consent Agenda Items:

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Ritter, the Board voted to approve the Consent Agenda items. (Trustee Ritter abstained from voting on Attachment 4).

(1) Contracts and Agreements (Attachment 4)

(2) Annual Report of the Endowed Chair Program Entitled "Aetna English Chair of Writing" (Attachment 5)

(3)	Educational Benefit for UConn Police and Fire Personnel	(Attachment 6)
(4)	FY 26 Capital Expenditures	(Attachment 7)
(5)	Project Budget (Final) for Whetten First Floor Renovation	(Attachment 8)
(6)	Project Budget (Final) for Housing Refresh Program Summer 2027	(Attachment 9)
(7)	Project Budget (Revised Final) for University Second Electrical Feed	(Attachment 10)
(8)	Project Budget (Revised Final) for School of Nursing Building	(Attachment 11)
(9)	Project Budget (Revised Final) for Gampel Pavilion Renovation	(Attachment 12)
(10)	Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health Academic Research Building Heat Pipe Replacement	(Attachment 13)
(11)	Project Budget (Design) for the UConn Health New PET/CT Scanner Installation	(Attachment 14)
(12)	Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health CT-6 Infusion Center Phase 2 Renovations	(Attachment 15)
(13)	Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Nuclear Medicine Camera Replacement	(Attachment 16)
(14)	Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health CT-7 Inpatient and Research Renovations	(Attachment 17)
(15)	Project Budget (Final) for the UConn Health Main Lobby Entrance Renovation	(Attachment 18)
(16)	Tenure at Hire	(Attachment 19)
(17)	Designation of Emeritus Status	(Attachment 20)
(18)	Sabbatical Leave Recommendations	(Attachment 21)
(19)	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 22)
(20)	Appointment of Professor Guozhen Lu to the Stuart and Joan Sidney Professorship in Mathematics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	(Attachment 23)
(21)	Reappointment of Professor Manisha Sinha to the James L. and Shirley A. Draper Chair in American History in the Department of History in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	(Attachment 24)
(22)	Appointment of Professor Shalabh Gupta to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering	(Attachment 25)

(23)	Appointment of Professor Hongyi Xu to the Pratt & Whitney Associate Professorship in Advanced Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering	(Attachment 26)
(24)	Naming Modification for the McLeod Family Health Assessment Lab	(Attachment 27)
(25)	Naming Recommendation for the Choi Family Field Hockey Assistant Coach Office	(Attachment 28)
(26)	Naming Recommendation for the Lisa-Marie Griffiths Faculty Office	(Attachment 29)
(27)	Naming Recommendation for the Paul L. Jones Flexible Simulation Room	(Attachment 30)
(28)	Naming Recommendation for the Paul L. Jones Virtual Reality Simulation Room	(Attachment 31)
(29)	Naming Recommendation for the Robert A. Matheson '41 Faculty Office	(Attachment 32)
(30)	Naming Recommendation for the Nancy G.M. Miner APRN Debrief Room	(Attachment 33)
(31)	Naming Recommendation for the E. Carol Polifroni, RN, EdD, ANEF Dean's Conference Room	(Attachment 34)
(32)	Naming Recommendation for the Rachel F. Schiffman '81 MS, '88 Ph.D. Faculty Office	(Attachment 35)
(33)	Naming Recommendation for the Rubin Mental Health Service Office	(Attachment 36)
(35)	Naming Recommendation for the Aldo DeDominicis Foundation Conference Room (UConn Health)	(Attachment 37)
(36)	Naming Recommendation for the Antonacci Family Foundation Waiting Room (UConn Health)	(Attachment 38)
(37)	Naming Recommendation for the Glen and Debra Greenberg Family Lab (UConn Health)	(Attachment 39)
(38)	Naming Recommendation for the Kim Institute for AI Innovation in Healthcare at UConn Health	(Attachment 40)
(39)	FY 26 Annual Reports of Endowed Chairs (UConn Health)	(Attachment 41)
(40)	Committee Charters	(Attachment 42)

(e) Committee Chair Elections/Vice-Chair Designation

Board Chair Toscano reappointed Trustee Dennis-LaVigne as Vice-Chair to act as Board Chair in case of the absence or incapacity of the Chair.

Chairman Toscano nominated the following Chairs to the Board Standing Committees and Board Secretary:

Trustee Cantor: Academic Affairs
Trustee Ritter: Buildings, Grounds and Environment
Trustee Dennis-LaVigne: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Institutional Advancement
Trustee Bunnell: Compensation
Trustee Bessett: Financial Affairs
Trustee Boxer: Joint Audit & Compliance (UConn and UConn Health)
Trustee Driscoll: UConn Health Board of Directors
Trustee Rubin: Research, Entrepreneurship and Innovation
Trustee Pollard: Student Life and Board Secretary

On a motion by Trustee Whitney, seconded by Trustee Vogel, the Board voted unanimously to appoint the nominated Chairs to the standing Board Committees and Trustee Pollard as Secretary.

3. President's Report

President Maric gave a presentation to the Board including updates on student enrollment; admitted student questionnaire data; student access and affordability; research; the NSF Quantum Technology Engine in Connecticut; major research awards; philanthropy and UConn Foundation fundraising; and progress on the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing building.

4. University Senate Report

On behalf of University Senate Executive Committee Chair Morrell, University Senate Representative Grande gave his report on the University Senate's continuing discussion regarding AI, the new blue budget model, the upcoming accreditation visit, UConn's attendance policy, and positive feedback from constituents regarding the University's decision to focus on the in-house Nexus system as our key student success platform.

5. Other Business

There was no Other Business.

6. Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Trustee Rubin, seconded by Trustee Ritter, the Board voted unanimously to go into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. pursuant to:

1. CGS 1-200(6)(A): Discussion concerning the appointment, employment, performance, evaluation, health or dismissal of a public officer or employee, provided that such individual may require that discussion be held at an open meeting; and
2. 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.

The following Trustees were in attendance: Bailey, Barrios, Bessette, Bunnell, Cantor, Dennis-LaVigne, Lemash, Nayden, O'Keefe, Ritter, Rubin, Saccomanno, Toscano, Vogel, and Whitney.

Natalie Wagner, Governor Lamont's designee, also participated.

The Executive Session ended at 12:25 p.m., and the Board returned to Open Session at 12:26 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

7. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Saccomanno, seconded by Trustee Lemash, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The Board meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
Board Vice-Chair