

University Senate Meeting
October 2, 2023
Bousfield Psych Building Room A106 (hybrid via WebEx)

Moderator **Bontley** called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and began by reading the **Land Acknowledgement Statement:**

“We would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather is the territory of the Mohegan, Mashantucket Pequot, Eastern Pequot, Schaghticoke, Golden Hill Paugussett, Nipmuc, and Lenape Peoples, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank them for their strength and resilience in protecting this land, and aspire to uphold our responsibilities according to their example.”

Moderator **Bontley** then reviewed the logistics of the hybrid meeting structure.

1. Approval of Minutes of September 11, 2023 meeting

The minutes of the meeting were approved as distributed.

2. Report of the President

Presented by President Radenka Maric

President **Maric** remarks included:

- Budget update with Governor and OPM Team
 - Grateful for additional one-time funding included in the bi-annual budget which allowed us to end FY24 in balance.
 - UConn Storrs is currently forecasting is \$70 million shortfall in FY25, and we requested that the State provide an additional \$47.3 million in FY25 for a total State budget of \$298 million.
 - UConn Health is currently forecasting a shortfall of \$55.3 million for FY25 and we are requesting an additional \$46 million in FY25 for the total State budget appropriation of \$207.5 million.
 - Cost efficiency is needed to balance over the long term, including FY 25. Main cost drivers are attributed to wage increases negotiated between the State and State employee unions, and the reduction in our block grant due to the fringe methodology change.
 - The administration has requested these funds for FY25 and will balance the FY24 budget with internal funds.

- On Friday the State OPM approved \$30 million for the School of Nursing building, related to the largest gift received from a single donor of \$40 million to the School of Nursing. \$10 million of this gift has been allocated to the building, along with \$10 million from the UConn Operation and \$30 million from the State. The State OPM also approved \$33 million of facility funds for internet and infrastructure upgrade for this October 6th bond.
- President Maric reviewed the Storrs Capital funding submitted to the Governor's Office for a total capital request of \$638.5 million
- In February, the Governor spoke about living within our means and saving for the future. The extended volatility cap from now until 2032 was unanimously approved by the Legislature. The Governor wants us to put up the fiscal guardrails and President **Maric** presented his office with the savings that have been taking place, such as avoiding redundancy, merging some positions, and not recruiting in certain positions. This included having one CFO, doing an internal search for the new Provost, eliminating the Vice President for Student Affairs and splitting that between the Provost's Office and the Vice President for Enrollment, having one Chief Human Resources Officer between UConn Health and UConn Storrs, and eliminating the Vice President for Strategic Planning position. All of this has resulted in close to \$1 million in savings.
- There will be continuous negotiation with the Governor and OPM and we are very hopeful that they will address our FY25 shortfall.

Moderator **Bontly** asked if there were any questions for President **Maric**.

Senator **Keilty** asked about the forecast of FY25 deficit of \$70 million and what is on the chopping block to address the deficit. President **Maric** stated there are currently some understating operating funds for projects that are not going to happen that will be used to bridge the gap. This is addressing the 12.5% increase in salaries. The Governor questioned teaching loads for faculty and President **Maric** addressed his concerns. She stated that we have teaching faculty, tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty and we have research faculty so the research and tenured faculty with grants have the opportunity for a course buyout, but on average the faculty teach 2 courses per semester. She added that UConn is being compared to 5 peer and aspirant institutions which OPM are referring to for benchmarking, particularly regarding teaching loads, research dollars, faculty size, and ratio of faculty to students and administrators to students. These universities are: Rutgers University, Stony Brook, UMass Amherst, University of Maine and University of Vermont. They want UConn to show that we are fiscally responsible and to see how we are doing with savings and generating new revenue. They also want UConn to increase the number of out-

of-state students without compromising in-state students. Last year's budget UConn was asked to increase endowments and we hit the highest in history at \$157.9 million.

Senator **McCutcheon** asked what is driving the deficits now that the fringe benefits rates have been alleviated and asked for a sense of what units are driving the deficits and whether there will be a prioritization of cuts designed to those units specifically. President **Maric** stated the reasons for the deficit is two factors: the SEBAC agreement which resulted in a 12.5% increase that is unsupported by the State and the wage increases, and when they removed the legacy costs they reduced the block grant. The Provost has been collaborating with others to look at what things can be merged, the ratio of faculty to students and asked that Provost D'Alleva be recognized to provide more details. Provost **D'Alleva** stated that they are working with the Deans to look at enrollment in programs to align the resources with the student demand for teaching and this is an ongoing strategy.

Senator **Boudah** asked about ramifications of the shortfalls that have been stated on the regional campuses. President **Maric** stated that the Provost and Nathan Fuerst are discussing strategies for increasing enrollment next year at the regional campuses, but for the FY24 they expect the books to be balanced or very close to balanced.

Senator **Elliott** asked about the 5 universities that OPM used to in comparison to UConn, stating that Rutgers, Stony Brook and UMass seem reasonable, but he expressed concerns about UConn being benchmarked against Maine. President **Maric** stated that they asked the Governor the same question with regards to Maine and Vermont and were told that these are states with a lower and declining populations and they wanted to see how those universities are approaching this issue to increase enrollment.

Senator **Morrell** stated that he appreciates all the work that has been done to convince OPM and the Legislatures that we need more money, but is aware that the Governor has stated that we should not plan to receive any additional funds and we are in the hiring cycle for FY25 for faculty, so he asks whether it is prudent to spend that money if we aren't sure we will receive it. President **Maric** stated that it comes to the value for the University to the State. When they present the budget, it is presented as an investment as the State currently supports 19%, but when it comes to workforce development 77% of our graduates stay in Connecticut. Over the past 10 years there has been a 5% cut across academics with no cuts from the

administration last year and we were able to manage a \$160 million shortfall last year. The presentation to the Governor and Legislators is to demonstrate the value of UConn, as exemplified by the growing number of applications. We definitely need to increase research dollars and enrollment at the regional campuses, and we have to pursue fundraising to bring the endowment to a new high.

Senator **Jockusch** asked about the capital budget and wondered about the decision-making process for those projects, specifically with regards to the demolition of the Torrey Life Sciences building given that it houses essential functions and most of the introductory biology labs that have no other home. President **Maric** spoke about the engineering reports that show the need to demolish that building but also need to renovate Gant Building before the demolition. In addition to this there is deferred maintenance that has to be done and all items related to Athletics there is usually a gift match request made to donors.

Senator **Keilty** asked about the operating budget with regards to the legacy fringe costs removal and how this is reflected in the budget, given that the USG is still paying a 79% fringe rate identical to what was paid last year on professional UCPEA staff. President **Maric** stated that the long-term amount for the unpaid legacy cost is unknown from year to year, so once that is removed then there are more funds to work with to pay students and Post Docs. Senator **Keilty** followed up by asking that there hasn't been a reduction within USG as they are being charged the same amount of fringe last year and this year. President **Maric** asked for Reka Wrynn, Associate Vice President for Budget, Planning and Institutional Research, to be acknowledged to address this question. V.P. **Wrynn** stated that the change that happened for fringe was fantastic for research, and they are hoping that this will result in additional research awards in the future. However, when the State lowered the rate they made it budget neutral to the University and they reduced the block grant, so the University must continue to charge the higher fringe rate for all the non-research accounts to prevent an additional \$20 million shortfall in the budget.

Senator **Dormidontova** stated that they have heard in budget committee meetings that research can create more budget deficits and asks if that is true. President **Maric** stated that she would be willing to review this offline to see how this is being addressed with the assistance of others to obtain those numbers, but as a Research 1 institution we have to do research and increase research otherwise we will have to go to model of teaching 4-5 classes a semester, as is being done at Central, and experience lay-offs. There are no lay-offs at UConn and we are in a favorable position by being a research institution.

Senator **McCutcheon** asked about the capital plans requiring a bond program, but it is their understanding is that our current bond program through NeXT Generation Connecticut is expiring. Do you anticipate a new bond program being issued by the State that is similar in size and scope to NeXT Generation Connecticut or UConn2000 or 21st Century UConn? President **Maric** stated that at this point they can't say that because Governor Lamont is not in favor of the bond money or bonding at the moment. However, he is in favor of matching donor gifts and the focus now is on what will come to the bond committee because every time it has to be approved by the Legislators in order for the bond committee to release those funds.

Moderator **Bontly** thanked President **Maric** for their report and for answering the questions from the Senators.

3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Attachment #1

Presented by SEC Chair Laura Burton

SEC Chair Laura Burton shared appreciation for past chair Del Siegle for his help with the Committee and they are still searching for Cheryl Galli's replacement. Also, thanks to Michelle Everard for her work navigating this hybrid meeting structure and all the technology required for it. The University Senate members testing a new virtual voting system to be utilized during hybrid meetings.

Senator **Boudah** asked about the status for the election of undergraduate representative to the SEC. Senator **Burton** stated that the poll closed and was sent to them this afternoon, so they will send that out.

Senator **Roy** suggested having printed copies of the QR code for voting at future meetings to assist anyone who has difficulties scanning the screen.

Senator **Nyahuma** had a question about the ABR portion of the report and asked for clarification on part 2, the catalog by-law that was referenced. Senator **Bedore** stated that when they changed the common curriculum by-laws it was changed so that students keep the catalog they came in with to maintain their program requirements. They are also still working on the logistics associated with the pop-ups, so it seemed appropriate to wait and have it come out at the same time as the common curriculum launch in the Fall of 2025.

Senator **Keilty** asked for more context about the pop-up review and the end goal of this for replacing ABR. Senator **Bedore** stated that there have been no conversations about that, but they are looking at who will be in charge of the pop-up courses as they are made permanent courses.

4. Consent Agenda Items:

C&C Report

Attachment #2

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed.

5. Enrollment Report

Presented by Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment

Attachment #3

Vice President **Fuerst** asked if there are any questions.

Senator **Keilty** asked about the housing waitlist at both the Storrs and Stamford campuses, and asked what resources are being provided to those students. V.P. **Fuerst** began by calling out John Armstrong who did a phenomenal job working with some of the transfer students and they are reconfiguring some of the off-campus student support services through the Dean of Students. V.P. Fuerst stated that this is a very dynamic situation with a lot of off-campus developments opening up in the coming year and finding ways to assist students with housing insecurities.

Senator **Elliott** asked about the space on South Eagleville Rd that appears to be prepared for development, and is asking about what is being done with the area that used to be graduate student housing and what is the aim for our future students. V.P. **Fuerst** stated that there are 5 approved housing developments on and around the Storrs campus which will add 2,000 or more beds tailored towards the needs of our students. They are also looking at how they can better accommodate our graduate students and are working to be more transparent about this process.

Senator **Bachur** asked about regional campus students living in Storrs residential halls and which is taking spaces that students studying on Storrs could occupy. V.P. **Fuerst** stated that this is being looked at and they expect changes to be made soon for new transfer students coming from outside the University.

Senator **Keilty** had a question about the expansion of housing in the coming year, and asked if there are plans to increase enrollment and, if so, are there plans to increase parking around campus. V.P. **Fuerst** stated that they will look to the strategic plan to spell out the enrollment growth is going to be to serve our Connecticut students, but he did state that the increase of the housing would not be the reason to increase enrollment.

Moderator **Bontly** thanked Vice President **Fuerst** for his presentation.

6. **UConn after SFFA vs. Harvard & UNC**

Attachment #4

Presented by Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment and Preston Green, John and Maria Neag Professor of Urban Education, Professor of Educational Leadership and Law

Moderator **Bontly** called for any new business.

Vice President **Fuerst** and Professor **Green** asked if there are any questions.

Senator **Cutter** asked if there is any discussion about not allowing students to include information of race and ethnicity in their personal statement. V.P. **Fuerst** said they want students to write about their lived experiences as part of their personal statement in a way that will allow them to share that information. V.P. **Fuerst** also shared that the Law School has quite cleverly asked applicants to talk about a recent Supreme Court case that has impacted their life as an approach.

Senator **Bird** asked if they were aware of any follow-up litigation that has come about since this decision has been made that may tell us how this case will be interpreted. V.P. **Fuerst** stated that there was a carve out made for military academies as well as legacy admissions that have already been challenged. Professor **Green** stated that there was a K-12 level challenge dealing with the Thomas Jefferson High School that had developed a race neutral approach to achieve diversity and the circuit court found that was constitutional and now that the plaintiffs are seeking this at the Supreme Court level, so this could challenge the use of proxies to achieve diversity based on this decision.

Moderator **Bontly** thanked Vice President **Fuerst** and Professor **Green** for their presentation.

7. **University Budget & Finance Committee FAQ**

Attachment #5

Presented by Senators Lisa Park Boush & Michael Morrell

Senator **Bontley** asked if he was correct that the originally submitted legislation put forth by Senator Haddad did not have the effect on reducing the block grant but was just to cover the legacy cost and, if correct, where did that change. Senator **Morrell** stated that the original bill was to take all unfunded liability costs from all units of higher education and airport transportation authorities and they are not certain as to where the change happened though likely it happened with OPM.

Moderator **Bontly** thanked Senators **Morrell** for the presentation.

8. UEI Report

Attachment #6

Presented by Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Gladis Kersaint and Unit Leaders

Moderator **Bontly** thanked Vice Provost **Kersaint** and the Unit Leaders for their reports.

Moderator **Bontly** asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Gokirmak** asked if the advisors have experience within the fields that they are advising the students. Erin **Ciarimboli**, Director of Undergraduate Advising, stated that most of the professional staff have master's degrees in student support, social work, or social sciences related to the field, but it sounds like this is referencing the role of a faculty advisor rather than undergraduate advising. Senator **Gokirmak** provided a specifically stated that Engineering students are not receiving accurate undergraduate advisement. Dr. **Ciarimboli** recommended that this should be a discussion with the Dean and the Director of Advising in Engineering, as Engineering has one of the strongest advising teams. V.P. **Kersaint** added that the professional undergraduate advisors rely on the information provided by the academic units in terms of what the units want to have shared with students, so it is very important that this information is accurate and comprehensive.

9. New Business

No new business

10. Adjournment

Senator **Keilty** made a motion to adjourn.

Senator **Morrell** seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine S. North
Secretary of the University Senate, 2021-2024

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Laura Burton, Chair
Maureen Armstrong
Marisa Chrysochoou
Jennifer Dineen
Jon Heiden
Morty Ortega
Del Siegle

Pam Bedore
Bob Day
Kate Fuller
Joe MacDougald
Sandip Roy

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee
Report to the Senate
October 2, 2023

I. The Senate Curricula and Courses Committee recommends REVISION of the following 1000- or 2000-level courses:

- A. ECON 2103 Honors Core: Deep Roots of Modern Societies [CA1] (#15625) [Revise title]
Current Catalog Copy

ECON 2103. Honors Core: Deep Roots of Modern Societies

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: ECON 1200 or both ECON 1201 and 1202. Not open for credit to students who have passed ECON 3103.

Grading Basis: Honors Credit

Historical and comparative analysis of deep-rooted issues affecting modern societies. The evolution of societies and the origins of poverty, discrimination, conflict and war, income inequality, gender roles, and other challenging issues. CA 1.

Revised Catalog Copy

ECON 2103. Deep Roots of Modern Societies

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: ECON 1200 or both ECON 1201 (or ARE 1150) and 1202. Not open for credit to students who have passed ECON 3103.

Grading Basis: Honors Credit

Historical and comparative analysis of deep-rooted issues affecting modern societies. The evolution of societies and the origins of poverty, discrimination, conflict and war, income inequality, gender roles, and other challenging issues. CA 1.

- B. SOCI 2310 Introduction to Criminal Justice [CA2, CA4] (#19805) [Revise description]

Current Catalog Copy

SOCI 2310. Introduction to Criminal Justice

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The criminal justice system from a sociological perspective, including crime, police and law enforcement, courts and adjudication, corrections and juvenile justice. CA 2. CA 4.

Revised Catalog Copy

SOCI 2310. Introduction to Criminal Justice

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: None.

Grading Basis: Graded

The criminal justice system from a sociological perspective, including crime, police and law enforcement, courts and adjudication, and corrections. CA 2. CA 4.

II. The Common Curriculum Committee+ and the Senate Curricula and Courses Committee recommend REVISION of the following 3000- or 4000-level existing courses:

A. PHIL 3247/W Philosophy of Psychology [W] (#17565) [Revise prereqs]

Current Catalog Copy

PHIL 3247. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: PSYC 2500 or 3500 or 3550W or 3551W or 3552; one three-credit philosophy course or consent of instructor.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

PHIL 3247W. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: PSYC 2500 or 3500 or 3550W or 3551W or 3552; ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011; one three-credit philosophy course or instructor consent.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

Revised Catalog Copy

PHIL 3247. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: One three-credit course in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above; or one three-credit 1000-level course in Philosophy and at least one of COGS 2201, PSYC 2400, 2500, 2501, 3500, 3501, or 3502; or instructor consent.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

PHIL 3247W. Philosophy of Psychology

3.00 credits

Prerequisites: One three-credit course in Philosophy at the 2000-level or above; or one three-credit 1000-level course in Philosophy and at least one of COGS 2201, PSYC 2400, 2500, 2501, 3500, 3501, or 3502; or instructor consent; ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011 or 2011.

Grading Basis: Graded

Conceptual issues in theoretical psychology. Topics may include computational models of mind, the language of thought, connectionism, neuropsychological deficits, and relations between psychological models and the brain.

III. Bulk Course Revisions via the TRUCK:

A. Revise numbers for the following (see Appendix):

AAAS/HIST 2688 (to 2868)	AAAS/HIST 2688W (to 2868W)
AAAS/HIST 2101 (to 2225)	AMST/HIST 2810 (to 2550)
HIST 2845 (to 2230)	HIST 2845W (to 2230W)

IV. New S/U-Graded Courses:

A. ANSC 3492 Fidelco Guide Dog Puppy Training (#18565)

Proposed Catalog Copy

ANSC 3492. Fidelco Guide Dog Puppy Training

2.00 Credits

Prerequisites: ANSC 1676. Instructor consent required.

Grading Basis: Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

After earning approval as a Fidelco Puppy Raiser (a 14-month commitment), German Shephard puppies will be socialized and trained for basic commands using positive reinforcement techniques. Weekly meetings with a Fidelco trainer on campus will be required. Assignments will focus on sharing the importance of service animals within the UConn community and greater CT.

V. Courses Not Transitioning to the Common Curriculum (Informational Only)

A. BME/CSE/MCB 1401 Honors Core: Computational Molecular Biology (CA3) = [Archiving]

B. CHEG 1200 Introduction to Food Science and Engineering (CA3) = [Archiving]

C. ENVE/CE 2310E CE Environmental Engineering Fundamentals (EL) = [Course will phase out]

D. ENVE/ENVS/EVST 3110E Brownfield Redevelopment (EL) = [Course will phase out]

Respectfully Submitted by the 23-24 Senate Curricula and Courses Committee: Gustavo Nanclares (Chair), Dorothea Anagnostopoulos, Pam Bedore (Ex-officio), John Chandy, Sarah Croucher (Ex-Officio), Louis Hanzlik, Marc Hatfield, Matt McKenzie, Dan Mercier, David Ouimette, Tina Reardon, Sharyn Rusch, Steve Stifano, Suzanne Wilson, Terra Zuidema (Registrar alternate), and Karen McDermott (Program Assistant)

From the 9/5/23 and 9/19/23 meetings.