

# Special Meeting

UConn University Senate

May 20, 4-6pm

# By-laws

## UNIVERSITY: Article IX. E. Meetings

Meetings of the University Senate shall be held regularly at times to be fixed by the Senate. The dates and times of meetings shall be published at the start of the academic year. Special meetings of the University Senate may be called **by the President or by the Secretary at the request of at least twenty-five percent** of the members. Such request, with signatures, shall be presented in writing to the Secretary. The call for a special meetings shall be issued at least a week in advance of the meeting and shall state the purpose of the meeting. On the request of any member of the Senate, if supported by four colleagues, a record vote shall be taken. These record votes shall be made a part of the minutes.

## SENATE: D. Changes in By-Laws, Rules, and Regulations

The By-laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate may be changed at any meeting of the Senate by majority vote of those present and voting, provided that due warning of the proposed changes has been given in a previous meeting. If due warning has not been given, a two-thirds vote of those present and voting shall be required. **Changes may be considered in special meetings of the University Senate under emergency circumstances.** Changes approved in special meetings shall be temporary, applying only through the current academic year or the upcoming academic year if approved in a summer special meeting.





















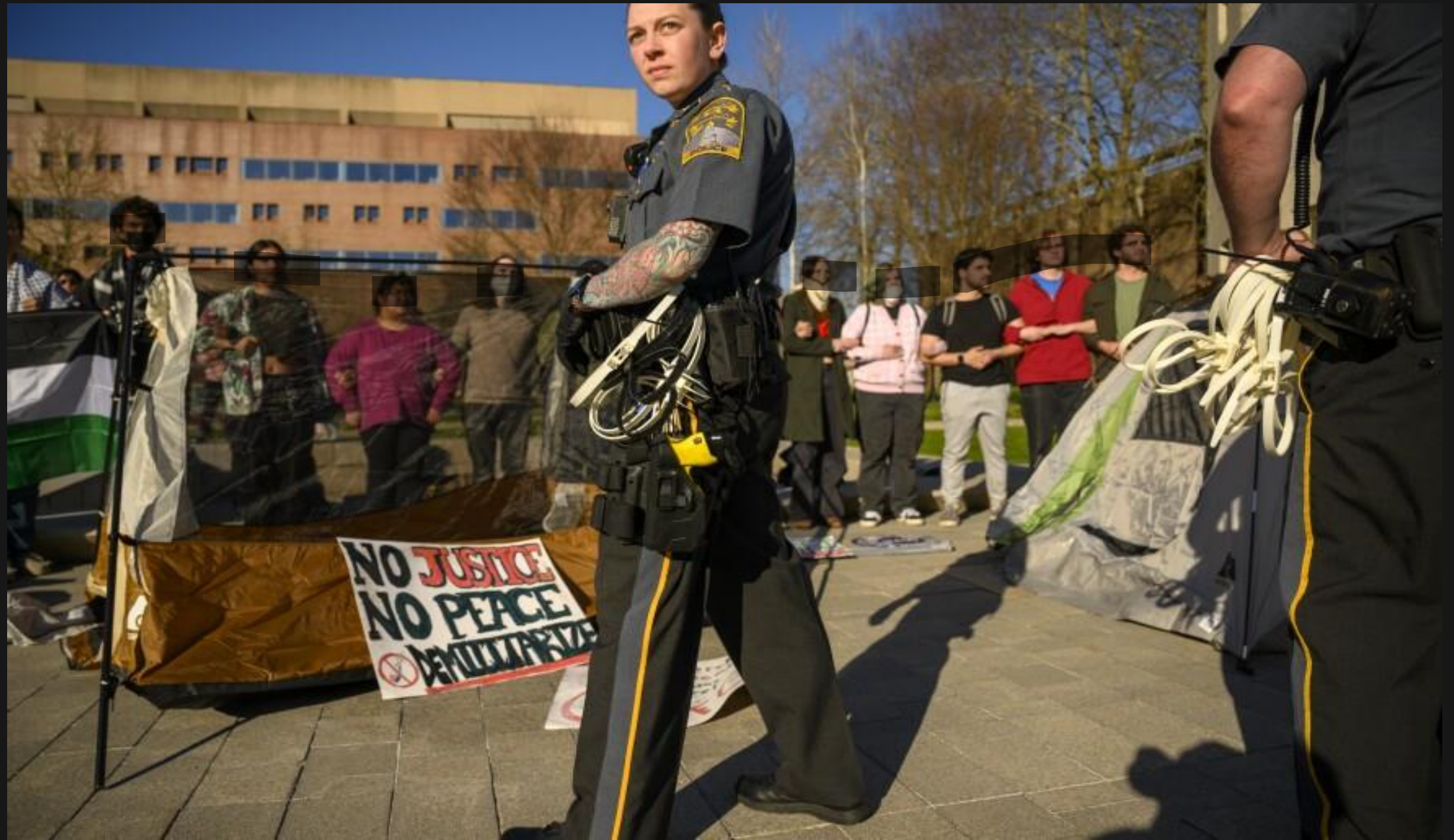




















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Be the group trip MVP.



## Police union pushes back over claims about UConn protesters

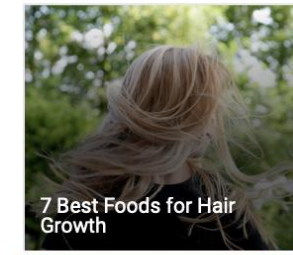
Christian Wade | The Center Square contributor, Washington Examiner May 10, 2024 Updated May 10, 2024



Students gather at a pro-Palestinian student encampment on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology,

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# Amendment Package

1. To urge the President to ~~extend amnesty to all students who were arrested, dropping all criminal charges and also to send a letter to the Office of the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Tolland:~~ **1) stating that the arrests and the judicial processes to date have been punishment enough for the students' alleged actions, 2) conveying concern that a lengthy judicial process would constitute undue punishment, and 3) therefore urges the State's Attorney to drop all criminal charges against the students arrested at the encampment;** and, to issue a public communication stating that she will refrain from pursuing any disciplinary actions or retaliatory measures against any student, staff, or faculty member who participated in the protests, or supported the students.
2. To form an ad hoc committee that will **investigate and report back to the University Senate by the third Senate meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year, on:** (1) ~~investigate~~ the terms and mechanisms by which the police were authorized to arrest students at the encampment, (2) ~~work to gain clarity around~~ the processes by which police are deployed into university spaces (including meetings of the University Senate) and at what cost; and, (3) ~~develop a~~ **potential** process for gaining greater transparency around the University's and the UConn Foundation's investments in the interest of faculty governance and feasibility of divestment.
3. ~~To affirm UConn's commitment to freedom of speech, freedom of expression, peaceable assembly, and the right to protest.~~



# A Duty to Act

- Faculty Solidarity Statement – **over 330 signatures**
- Student Solidarity Statement – **over 1,100 signatures** (students, staff, faculty, alum)
- Joint statement from **AAUP** and the **Graduate Employee and Postdoc Union**
- Other department and group statements
  - Sociology
  - Philosophy
  - NEAG Graduate Students
- **3<sup>rd</sup> District, State Sen. Saud Anwar:** “The charges against non-violent student protesters should be dropped and I hope UConn’s President Maric will protect her students’ right to peacefully protest. Regardless of our individual views on any number of issues, as Americans we must always fight for each other’s right to free speech.”



# Senate Actions

- **University of Pennsylvania**
  - **The SEC** resolved to encourage “both the administration and the **negotiating** team of the student-led movement **to keep negotiating** in good faith, to de-escalate, and to seek a peaceful resolution.”
  - **SEC Chair resigned** from her position as Chair of the Faculty Senate. Stating, “the fact that order is “restored” by sacrificing rights to free speech and to non-violent protest is exactly what autocracies around the world do now and what dictatorships have done throughout history to repress civic movements and suppress rights.”
- **Stonybrook University**
  - President of University Senate introduced **three resolutions:** (1) To call upon the University **to drop all charges** against those arrested and to grant amnesty; (2) To **form an independent committee** established the governing body **to investigate the Division of “Enterprise Risk Management”** (a private risk management company hired by the University) and to develop a way for the University Senate to oversee ERM’s activities. These first two passed with a substantive majority.
  - **The University Senate** tabled a third resolution to have the University Senate hold a **no-confidence vote** of the University as President.



# Senate Actions

## University of Buffalo

- **Faculty Senate** passed a resolution **condemning the “severe police response”** against student protestors

## Indiana University

- **Senate voted** overwhelmingly **to condemn** the arrest and suspension of students and faculty
- Call for the **termination** of Pres Whitten

## The University of Minnesota

- Senate voted **to condemn** the actions of the administration by a vote of 63-29



# Amnesty

## Universities that have Dropped the Charges

- **The New School** (will not pursue charges after student arrest, school wrote a letter to Manhattan District Attorney's office requesting 'all charges be dropped')
- **Emerson College** (President will encourage Suffolk County District Attorney's Office to drop charges related to city ordinance violations)
- **Texas prosecutor** (Travis County DA) declines to charge UT Austin protesters due to lack of probable cause



# No Arrests

- Wesleyan University
- Michigan State University
- Trinity College
- University of Washington in Seattle
- University of Southern Maine
- University of Vermont
- Middlebury College
- Brown University

# Sufficient Punishment

- Students **already paid** a \$500 fine for each charge, for a total of **\$1,000**
- Students had their **property confiscated** and many still have not had property returned
- **Protracted process**, second round of arraignments will begin on June 26<sup>th</sup> and will extend through July 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Students primarily **first gen and BIPOC students**, many from the Hartford campus
- **Impact on faculty:** The longer the process goes, the longer faculty observers feel compelled to expend additional time and labor supporting students. This stalwart group is disproportionately made up untenured, graduate students, and other precarious faculty.
- **If a violation of university policy is the issue - why not the Office of Community Standards and schedule a hearing? What triggers the criminalization of student dissent?**



# Reviews and Ad Hoc Committees

## The University of Virginia

- **The SEC** passed a motion to establish an external review of the encampment clearing
- **The full Senate** passed an amended version, stating that the results of the review should be made public. It also states that University policies should be changed — both to identify under what circumstances the University will employ state police – and to hold the University accountable for the creation of transparent policies that protect free speech and safety.

## Drexel University

- **The President** will launch a rigorous external review of institutional responses to reports of discrimination and harassment under Title VI, the federal civil rights law that prohibits discrimination, on the basis of race, color and national origin. They will also review free-speech and academic freedom policies.

## UCLA

- **President** requested a detailed accounting from the campus about what transpired the morning of the police raid.
- There will also be an "**independent external review** of both UCLA's planning and actions, and the effectiveness of the police response."
- **The Chancellor** will also conduct their own independent investigation

# Reviews and Ad Hoc Committees

## University of Buffalo

- Called for **investigation** of the “ad-hoc, dangerous, discriminatory” application of the University’s policies on campus protests.
- Urges a “**public review**” of campus **police policy** and **protocol**, “**including its guidelines for requesting outside law enforcement.**”

## Columbia University

- **SEC passed** a “Resolution Addressing Current Events”
- Demands that the University address reports of **jeopardizing academic freedom, breaching privacy** and **due process** of students and faculty, and **violating shared governance principles**
- Proposes that the senate establish **a task force** aimed to monitor “corrective actions” regarding recent “counterproductive” administrative policies and decisions.
- Task force is to be established “under the auspices of the Executive Committee” to present findings and recommendations for further senate action



# UConn PD

- UConn PD **established in 1974**
- UCPD **budget \$18 million dollars (2021)**
- **UCPD arsenal (2021):** 82 AR-15s, 130 pistols, 61 tasers and 104,750 rounds of ammunition
- **UCPD salaries** in the period between 2021-2022 **rose an average of 12%** across the 4 main classes of officers (does not include overtime)

# Divestment

## Considering Divestment

- Brown University (voting)
- University of Minnesota (presented to Regents, provided disclosure forms)
- Northwestern University
- Wesleyan University (have disclosed)
- Rutgers University
- Middlebury College
- University of California, Riverside
- John Hopkins University
- Chapman University

## Divesting

- Union Theological Seminary
- Evergreen State College
- Trinity College, Dublin IR
- University of Barcelona, Spain



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# External Review

- To form an ad hoc committee that will investigate and, **report back to the University Senate by the third Senate meeting of the 2024-2025 academic year**, on: (1) ~~investigate~~ the terms and mechanisms by which the **police were authorized to arrest** students at the encampment, (2) ~~work to gain clarity around the~~ **processes by which police are deployed** into university spaces (including meetings of the University Senate) and at what **cost**; and, (3) develop a potential process for gaining **greater transparency** around the University's and the UConn Foundation's **investments** in the interest of faculty governance and feasibility of divestment.