

# UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

May 5, 2025

A regular meeting of the University Senate will be held on  
Monday, May 5, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.  
Student Union Ballroom (330/331) (hybrid via WebEx)  
Public Access Link: <https://www.kaltura.com/tiny/yjtgv>

*The agenda for this meeting is as follows:*

1. Approval of Minutes  
April 7, 2025

The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

2. Report of the President  
President by President Maric

President Maric started their report with congratulations and gratitude for all as the semester comes to a close. President Maric reported that Jeffrey Geoghegan will make a full report on the Budget during this meeting, summarizing that the shortfall now stands at \$12 million and the final budget will be signed by the Governor during the first week of June. President Maric also shared information on impacts of recent federal actions on research funding, as well as support for international students. President Maric asked the Senate to recognize Vice President Nathan Fuerst to give an update on the SEM plan and enrollment for the fall. Vice President Fuerst gave an update on the SEM plan, citing the QR code on the screen for Senators to provide feedback. The presentation summarized the goals of the SEM plan and cited specific strategies and tactics that will be utilized to support each goal. Vice President Fuerst gave an update on Fall 2025 enrollment, stating that projected enrollment stands at 4,747, above the 4,500 enrollment target. They also shared enrollment for Regional Campuses, with each campus close to their target enrollment in terms of deposits to date.

Moderator Siegle thanked President Maric for their report and opened the floor to questions. A question was raised regarding an email OVPR sent regarding NSF

funding and the recent decision by the NSF to only grant IDCs of 15%, expressing concerns that the university's position seems to be one that will not accept grants that are only 15% IDC. President Maric stated that they will be in Washington D.C. next week to testify on how the IDCs are essential for university operations and research support, and asked the Senate to recognize Vice President Alpay to give further details. Vice President Alpay stated that the OVPR team is working non-stop to address concerns that are coming up and collaborating closely with Government Relations, the Office of the General Counsel, the Provost's Office and APLU. Vice President Alpay stated that guidance from APLU states that accepting grants at 15% IDCs will set a precedent showing that we can do research and potentially every grant moving forward at that rate, therefore we will not accept any awards until we know more. A question was raised as to why UConn has not yet signed the AAC&U Call for Constructive Engagement, and concerns were raised regarding UConn's strategy to "fly under the radar" in response to federal actions, asking for evidence that supports this strategy. President Maric shared a lack of large endowments, a need to protect jobs, particularly those supported by research activities, and the ongoing budget negotiations as priorities, sharing that they are going to Washington D.C. to join other Presidents to take action, and having bi-weekly meetings between the Presidents of New England universities. A Senator urged President Maric to connect with other institutions that are in similar circumstances to work to form a coalition. Another Senator asked whether the university has compiled information on outcomes when other universities have responded in different ways to the current university, particularly regarding funding. President Maric said that they are happy to share this information with the Senate Executive Committee and emphasized the actions that they are taking to work in coalition and partnership with other universities.

### 3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Presented by Senate Executive Committee Chair Laura Burton

Senator Burton shared that since the last Senate Meeting, the SEC has met with committee chairs, senior administrators, and privately with both Provost D'Alleva and President Maric. Senator Burton gave thanks to all Senate Committee Chairs for this work over the past year, particularly Pamela Bedore whose term as CCC+ Chair will end this summer, congratulating Jamie Kleinman who will be taking on the CCC+ Chair position in the fall. Senator Burton also gave special thanks to SEC members whose terms are ending on June 30 and welcomed the new SEC members, Alexis Boylan from the School of Fine Arts, Betsy McCoach from Neag,

and Erin Ciarimboli from the Office of Undergraduate Advising. They also congratulated Bob Day who was elected SEC Chair for the upcoming academic year. Special thanks were also issued to the undergraduate and graduate student members of the SEC, as well as the Senate Parliamentarian and Senate Administrator. Senator Burton also congratulated two long-serving Senators on their upcoming retirements; Gary English from the School of Fine Arts and Suzanne Wilson in the Neag School of Education. Senator Burton also stated that Senators will soon vote on a Nominating Slate of eligible Senators for the role of Moderator for the next academic year, encouraging Senators to participate when the ballot is sent, adding that the SEC will use this Nominating Slate to determine the Moderator election, which will take place during the September meeting. Senator Burton also stated that the Senate will be calling a Special Meeting for the purpose of approving the final C&C report of this academic year so that all courses launching in the fall with the new curriculum will be ready. Senator Burton called for the Senate to vote that this special meeting be hosted in a fully virtual format. The resolution to host the upcoming Special Meeting for the purpose of approving the final C&C report of the academic year in a fully virtual format passed unanimously by voice vote. Senator Burton closed their report by thanking their colleagues for their incredible work and dedication they have given over the past year, sharing their appreciation for their colleagues.

Moderator Siegle thanked Senator Burton for their report and opened the floor to questions. Senator Day thanked Senator Burton for their leadership work over the past two years.

4. Consent Agenda Items  
C&C Report

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously by voice vote.

5. Nominating Committee Report: Senate Standing Committee Rosters, AY 2025-2026  
Presented by Nominating Committee Chair Laura Burton

Senator Burton asked Senators to refer to the report in the agenda. Moderator Siegle asked if there were any questions or discussion. There was none.

The Nominating Committee Report passed unanimously by voice vote.

6. Senate Standing Committees Annual Reports

Presented by Senate Standing Committee Chairs

Each Committee Chair presented a summary of their committee annual report in the following order: Curricula & Courses, CCC+, Enrollment Committee, Faculty Standards Committee, JEDI (DEIJA) Committee, Scholastic Standards Committee, Student Welfare Committee, University Budget Committee, and University Planning Committee.

Senator Siegle thanked the Chairs for their reports and opened the floor to questions. There were none.

7. Resolution to Support New England Public Land Grant University Senate Statement  
Presented by the Senate Executive Committee

SEC Chair Laura Burton presented the resolution, stating that they have been meeting with leaders of the Faculty and University Senates of the New England Public Land Grant universities and agreed that they would each offer the following resolution to each of their Senates for approval. Senator Burton added that this statement is an up-down vote and not open to amendments.

Moderator Siegle opened the floor to questions. Two Senators commented in support of this resolution and the sentiments of collective action.

The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Resolution to Work in Mutual Defense of Academic Freedom  
Presented by the Senate Executive Committee

SEC Chair Laura Burton presented the resolution, stating that the resolution underscores the importance of solidarity, defending academic freedom, and institutional integrity and calls for an opening strategy for UConn to evolve and respond to federal actions.

Moderator Siegle opened the floor to questions. Senator Bush thanked Senator Burton and the SEC for their work on this resolution and proposed an amendment to the resolution; the amendment was seconded by Senator Semaan. Discussion ensued on the amendment. The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

The resolution passed as amended unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator Siegle called for New Business.

## 9. Budget Update

Presented by Vice President and CFO Jeffrey Geoghegan

Vice President Geoghegan shared an update on the budget, sharing that the Appropriations Committee budget (which includes an additional inflationary increase) is higher from the Governor's original budget, but still creates a shortfall of \$12.1 million in FY26 and \$25.8 million in FY27. Vice President Geoghegan added that the Appropriations Committee also proposed about \$4.8 million of new funding in FY26 and \$9.5 million in FY27 that is specific to fund scholarships for students transferring from CT state community colleges. Vice President Geoghegan also shared that the Appropriations Committee budget also specifically reduces the comptroller's budget which includes salary funding for all state workers in the comptrollers. Vice President Geoghegan stated that next steps are reconciliation (the Governor meets with the Legislature), and the final budget will go to the House and the Senate; the goal is to present final numbers to the UConn Board of Trustees at the June 25 meeting.

Moderator Siegle opened the floor to questions. A Senator raised a question as to why salary increases for university faculty and staff are being treated differently than salary increases for all other state employees. Vice President Geoghegan stated that yes, the Governor proposed \$7 million for salary increases, and that the Appropriations Committee mirrored what the Governor had in their budget in theirs. Vice President Geoghegan added that discussions are still ongoing and that there are no final collective bargaining agreements. A follow-up question was raised regarding whether there is a plan in place regarding raises considering this unique situation. Vice President Geoghegan stated that what comes out of the collective bargaining will determine next steps, sharing the complicated factors that come into play with state funding and other financial levers, such as enrollment.

## 10. Regional Campus Report

Presented by Vice Provost Amy Gorin

Vice Provost Gorin shared a presentation summarizing the Regional Campus report which was shared in Senate materials, and asked Provost D'Alleva to share a few words. Provost D'Alleva shared details of the work being done in the Provost's Office to visit and engage with regional campus communities, highlighting the importance of the multiple campuses to UConn. Vice Provost Gorin encouraged Senators to reference the full report and reviewed several highlights: First Year Retention Rates up to 81%; Graduation rate of 60% which is 18 points higher than the national average of 42%; Remarkable trends considering over half of our undergraduate students enrolled at Regional Campuses are first-generation college students, and half are Pell Grant students. Looking ahead, Vice Provost Gorin shared that there has been a significant increase in first choice applications at each campus, and that Regional Campus Deans are leading strategic planning efforts at their respective campuses that tie into the University's Strategic Plan and will be linked with the SEM plan once finalized.

Moderator Siegle thanked Vice Provost Gorin for their report and opened the floor to questions. A Senator asked for more information regarding the Honors Program at the Hartford campus. Vice Provost Gorin shared that Honors & Enrichment is on all Regional Campuses, and that there has been a lot of activity around student success initiatives on all Regional Campuses. Provost D'Alleva emphasized that if there is a resource or activity that is available at the Storrs Campus, it should also be available in some form on the Regional Campuses. A Senator asked for more information about the efforts being put forward regarding retention. Vice Provost Gorin answered that retention gains are largely due to student support and student resources becoming more available on Regional Campuses. A concern was raised regarding the percentage of courses that students on the Regional Campuses that have no choice but to take online because there is no robust in-person offering. Vice Provost Gorin stated they will keep that in mind and also shared that another metric they are keeping a close eye on are the number of courses being taught by adjunct faculty on the regional campuses, stating that they would like to lower these rates to better impact student success. A Senator stated that there are currently several services not available on Regional Campuses that are available on the Storrs Campus, and Provost D'Alleva clarified that this is a goal they are working toward and have not yet achieved.

## 11. New Business

Senator Cutter shared a resolution on behalf of the DEIJA Committee, asking the Senate to vote in support of the following statement: “The University Senate at UConn urges President Maric to join other University Presidents in Signing ‘a Call for Constructive Engagement.’”

Moderator Siegle thanked Senator Cutter for their presentation and opened the floor to questions. Several Senators spoke in support of the resolution. Senator Al Zouabi asked the Moderator to recognize the USG President to make a comment on the resolution. USG President Andy Zhang spoke in support of the resolution. Senator Ginsberg requested an electronic vote as opposed to a voice vote on this resolution.

The resolution passed by electronic vote 53 YAY, 2 NAY, 4 ABSTAIN.

## 12. Adjournment

Senator Morrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Senator Bresciano.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Everard  
University Senate Administrator