

Annual Report to the University Senate

Academic Year 2024-2025

Senate Enrollment Committee

Committee Charge: This committee shall review all matters relating to the recruitment, admission, enrollment, and retention of an outstanding and diverse student population.

2024/2025 Senate Enrollment Committee Members:

- ***Jamie Caruso, Chair, Academic Affairs (Waterbury Campus)**
- *Miranda Davis, CLAS
- *Karima Hamada, Undergraduate Student
- *Douglas Kaufman, Neag School of Education
- *Carl Rivers, Registrar's Office
- *Nat Trumbull, CLAS (Avery Point)
- *Xiaojing Wang, CLAS
- Nathan Fuerst, Office of the VP for Student Life & Enrollment (Ex-Officio)
- Vern Granger, Undergraduate Admissions
- Mona Lucas, Office of the VP for Student Life & Enrollment
- Jennifer Morenus, Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- Mansour Ndiaye, CLAS Academic Services
- Josh Schulman, Undergraduate Student

**Senate Member 2024/2025*

Summary:

The Senate Enrollment Committee met seven times from August through April. Meeting minutes are available for review via [Enrollment Committee Minutes | University Senate](#). A summary of key discussion items is listed below.

Specific Topics Addressed:

1. *New Student Preliminary Report – AY2024-2025* Nathan Fuerst presented a preliminary update on student enrollment for the 2024-2025 academic year, noting that the full presentation will be shared at the Senate meeting on September 9th. He reported a growth in the overall number of incoming students but a reduction in diversity, likely due to the Supreme Court decision. Less than half of the students submitted test scores, with test-optional admissions starting in Fall 2021. Regional campuses (Stamford and Hartford) saw the largest enrollment growth and have a higher percentage of ethnic and racial minorities. 57% of incoming regional campus students are Pell Grant recipients, with a general

increase in Pell Grant recipients across all campuses. There is continued strong demand for on-campus housing, with 15,000 applications and 13,897 students housed, leaving 136 on the waitlist. Total new students number 7,466.

Update on 2/6/2025: Nathan Fuerst presented a strong Fall 2025 enrollment outlook, noting a record number of applications, with increases in in-state applications at regional campuses and flat numbers at Storrs. The rise is mainly from out-of-state applicants. He also highlighted target transfer numbers and the positive impact of the new Block Transfer Policy.

Update on 2/27/2025: Admissions decisions will be released tomorrow at 5 p.m., along with financial aid packages. Early Decision applicants will also be notified about their financial aid availability. Nathan Fuerst noted potential concerns about international student admissions, especially for students from China, due to federal instability.

2. **Early Decision** – The Fall 2025 incoming class was the first to have Early Decision Program option. Students accepted through Early Decision must pay the enrollment fee by January 15, 2025, if admitted to their first-choice campus and major. This option is not recommended for those unsure about attending, especially with financial aid concerns. Denied applicants will be considered in the regular decision pool. Enrollment targets will be set by a strategy committee. Other public universities, such as Virginia and Michigan, also offer Early Decision. As of November 1st, 1,400 Early Decision applications were received, with 1,200 complete and eligible for review. Incomplete applications (200) were moved to regular decision. Accepted students must commit by January 15th or their offer will be rescinded. Financial aid notifications will be sent in March. Early Decision is less competitive than regular admissions due to its binding nature. The program won't affect rankings as acceptance rates aren't considered. The program was developed based on student feedback.
3. **FAFSA Delays** - The rollout of the updated FAFSA application was delayed again. Mona Lucas provided an update and shared that UConn applied to participate in beta testing with the Department of Education, which may help reduce delays for applicants this year. The current official deadline was December 1st. While the delay hasn't negatively impacted enrollment, it has affected many students still awaiting financial aid awards and others who chose less expensive options.

Update on 2/6/2025: Nathan Fuerst addressed challenges from recent executive orders, especially regarding financial aid and admissions. While federal student aid remains unaffected, Mona Lucas highlighted a Pell Grant funding shortfall. Vern Granger confirmed increased applications and unchanged enrollment processes. Nathan also expressed concerns about undocumented student safety and changes to Title IX protections for LGBTQIA+ students, noting collaboration with General Counsel.

4. **Common Curriculum** - Common Curriculum is set to launch for incoming students in Fall 2025 but transfer students will likely remain under the General Education requirements. This will extend the transition period, as both General Education and Common Curriculum courses will need to be offered simultaneously. First-year students with college credit earned in high school may also face challenges with transferring credits to the new curriculum. Concerns were raised about the long-term impact of these issues, particularly regarding transfer credit equivalencies.

5. *Retention* - Retention is a key topic, with one meeting dedicated to reviewing the Retention and Graduation Report presented by Dr. Gladis Kersaint.
[Retention and Graduation Report - June 2024.pdf](#)
6. *Housing* – Nathan Fuerst outlined housing plans for the upcoming year, highlighting a waitlist of approximately 800 continuing students. Housing is guaranteed for first-year and campus change students. A dormitory will open in Hartford by Fall 2026, with housing expansion plans for other regional campuses.
7. *Courseleaf* – A new class search option for students was introduced. Carl Rivers demonstrated its use/features to the Committee: <http://classes.uconn.edu>.