

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

July 14, 2025

A special meeting of the University Senate will be held on
Monday, July 14, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Location: Storrs Hall, WW16 and hybrid (via WebEx)

Public Access Link: <https://www.kaltura.com/tiny/yjtgv>

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. University Budget
2. Adjournment

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Robert Day, Chair
Alexis Boylan
Karen Bresciano
Erin Ciarimboli
Jennifer Dineen

Sandy Grande
Michael Morrell
Sarira Motaref
Morty Ortega
Del Siegle

Sandip Roy, GSS President
Andy Zhang, USG Storrs
President

*For the benefit of the Moderator, Senators are asked to sit in the front/center and leave seating on the side
and back of the room for the public*

RE: Special Meeting of the University Senate

Dear Fellow Senators,

This letter is in response to recent communications from the President's office shared via UConn Today (<https://today.uconn.edu/2025/06/message-to-the-university-community-4/>) as well as communications shared with the leadership of units within the College of Engineering excerpted below:

Fund Balance

The University plans to sweep all unrestricted fund balances that remain as of fiscal year end (FY25). This includes all 2L, 4L operating, and 4L research accounts. As this plan continues to evolve, the Budget Office will communicate which accounts may be excluded from the sweep (e.g., match accounts). Additionally, a more detailed process will be established for exceptions, fund balance usage requests, and related matters. More information is to be shared soon and I will distribute as soon as I receive.

This clearly outlines a plan to “sweep all unrestricted funds” (including faculty IDCs, startup funds, etc.) to address the budgetary challenges of the University. This new policy is sweeping with devastating effects on university research. The timing of the decision, coinciding with research crises across the University caused by disruptions in federal grants, would appear to further amplify the effects. In my opinion, it calls for an emergency meeting of the Senate to discuss this issue and initiate bi-lateral talks with the President's office as well as OVPR. Questions of interest include (but are not limited to):

- Please share the exact plan and be explicit on which accounts are targeted and to what extent?
- Please elaborate on how this addresses the long-term *structural* fiscal issues of the institution.
- Please address how these actions are not going to irreparably damage the research mission?
- Please explain what other mitigations / remediations are being pursued.

At a minimum, I would encourage the Senate to issue a Resolution urging the university leadership to reconsider this plan and instead engage on a constructive, transparent and long-term fiscal strategy that does not jeopardize the mission of the University's research enterprise.

As of Tuesday, July 1, 2025, several senators have endorsed the request for an emergency meeting of the Senate (in no particular order, see the list below), yet a 25% quorum is required to call such a meeting (namely, 27 senators).

I respectfully ask that you add your name to the list below *if you believe that such a meeting is warranted*. I look forward to having a healthy conversation.

Sincerely,

-- Laurent D. Michel [Senator, Faculty-at-large constituency, CSE/CoE]

Senators supporting the emergency meeting (**39** signatures):

- Ali Bazzi
- Harmon Oskar
- Bagtzoglou, Amvrossios
- Sandy Grande
- Jeff McCutcheon
- Laurent Michel
- David G. Embrick
- Isaac Ortega
- Paulo Verardi
- Adam Zweifach
- John Chandy
- Coundouriotis, Eleni
- Weber, David [Budget Committee member]
- Justin Rogowski
- Tim Vadas
- Sarira Motaref (Senate Executive Committee)
- Marie Coppola [new, incoming Co-Chair of the DEIJA Committee]
- Lindsay Cummings [new, incoming Co-Chair of Scholastic Standards]
- Martha Cutter
- Anne Langley
- Sarah Reed
- Semaan, Ingrid
- Ginsberg, Beth
- Andrew Bush
- Jennifer Terni (incoming Co-Chair of Scholastic Standards)
- Scott Campbell
- Christian Brueckner
- Tracy Rittenhouse
- Oksan Bayulgen
- Amy McKeon

- Jennifer Schaefer
- Morrell, Michael E.
- Douglas Kaufman
- Fiona Vernal
- Ashley Helton
- R. Holly Fitch
- Karen Skudlarek
- Kristin Bott
- Eduardo Urios-Aparisi