

**University Senate Meeting**  
**Sept. 8, 2025**  
**Student Union, Room 330/331 (hybrid via WebEx)**

President **Maric** called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

## **1. Election of Moderator and Secretary**

President **Maric** called on Senator **Morrell** to nominate the Moderator. Senator **Morrell** made a motion to nominate Senator Del Siegle as the Moderator for the 2025-2026 academic year, based on the results of the nomination slate voted on by the members of the University Senate during the Spring 2025 Semester. Senator **Weingart** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

President **Maric** then yielded the floor to Senator **Siegle**, Moderator of the Senate. Moderator **Siegle** called for a nomination for the Senate Secretary for the 2025-2026 academic year and Senator **Dineen** nominated Christine North. Senator **Ortega** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** read the **Land Acknowledgement Statement**:

"The land on which we gather is the territory of the Eastern Pequot, Golden Hill Paugussett, Lenape, Mashantucket Pequot, Mohegan, Nipmuc, and Schaghticoke 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."

## **2. Introduction of Senators**

Moderator **Siegle** read the names of all the Senators and asked if they are present that they either stand or acknowledge their presence virtually as their name is read aloud.

### 3. Approval of Minutes - May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting, May 19, 2025 (Special Meeting), and July 14, 2025 (Special Meeting)

The minutes of the May 5, 2025 Regular Meeting, May 19, 2025 Special Meeting and July 14, 2025 Special Meeting of the University Senate were approved by a voice vote with 2 abstentions.

### 4. Report of the President

Presented by President Maric

President **Maric** began their virtual presentation by thanking everyone for the amazing work and commitment to the University and for enrolling the largest freshman class in its history. Despite the budget challenges, which included a significant decrease in State funding along with cuts in Federal funding, we continue to make strides. This is happening thanks to the tremendous effort of many individuals including our academic leaders, administrative leaders, the UConn Foundation and our faculty, students and staff.

President **Maric** then emphasized the following accomplishments from the Spring 2025 Semester and the Summer:

- Able to retain 600 students at risk of leaving the University by providing additional financial support and outreach
- UConn Foundation exceeded fundraising goal and transferred 5 million back to the University to support academic programs
- Research expenditure rate was around 380 million, regardless of a 55 million decrease in research awards
- Identified about 5 million in savings so far and continuing to work together to face additional budgetary challenges in FY27 in order to support students, faculty and staff.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked President **Maric** for their report and asked if there are any questions.

Senator **Bush** mentioned the resolution that was passed at the last regular meeting regarding mutual defense of academic freedom, free expression and so on and asked for the administration to look into pursuing strategies with other universities and was looking for any updates. President **Maric** asked for Chief of Staff, Michelle **Williams**, to speak to this question. Michelle **Williams** stated that the administration decided to not support that particular resolution in favor of joining

with those legal actions that they think have the greatest impact to address the concerns that have been raised by several executive orders. The University has joined with a number of attorney generals, APLU, and it has been the focus to target time and energies primarily to those initiatives.

Senator **Harmon** asked the President to share the latest forecast for the 2026 fiscal year and how this has changed from the forecast provided in May. President **Maric** reiterated that the University Foundation exceeded in their fundraising goals and were able to reallocate 5 million from the Foundation to the individual academic units. By retraining 600 students, the University saved 6 million in tuition and fees and around the same amount in dining and housing, as well as identifying around 5 million in cuts from purchasing to facilities and asked for Associate Vice President Reka **Wrynn** to provide more details. Senator **Harmon** asked if there was a number for the projected deficit or surplus for the fiscal year 26. and President **Maric** asked for Reka to provide more details. Associate VP **Wrynn** stated that they would be sharing of a full update with the Board of Trustees publicly at the meeting next week and encouraged the Senators to feel free to join the meetings. Associate VP **Wrynn** continued by stating that there has been a significant progress in reducing the deficit down from the 37.5 million that was previously shared given that there was unexpected increase in research dollars and the Foundation funds that have provided extra support to the budget.

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

## 5. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Attachment #1

Presented by Robert Day, Senate Executive Committee Chair

Senator **Day** concluded their report by asking that everyone join them in thanking Provost Anne D'Alleva for their many years of service at UConn, as this is their last Senate meeting before departing UConn in order to begin their work as the President of Binghamton University. Moderator **Siegle** then asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Cutter** asked about the planned publication of course learning objectives in the Course Catalog and made a recommendation to put a pause on this work. Senator **Day** stated that nothing definitive has happened yet as this is still in discussion.

Senator **Lozano-Robledo** asked about anti-black racism course since the council has been advised that this course would be illegal to require and wanted to know if the SEC has consulted with council about requiring the credits as one of the categories in the common core curriculum. Senator **Day** stated that it was his understanding from the general council that this course can't be a requirement to focus on a specific protected group or area, which perhaps the anti-black racism course could be considered, but that our standing topic of inquiry requirement allows for a variety of areas to be explored in the classroom as an elective.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Day** for their presentation.

## 6. Consent Agenda Items:

Attachment #2

C & C Report

Nominating Committee Report

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed.

## 7. Enrollment Report

Attachment #3

Presented by Vice President Nathan Fuerst and Vice Provost for Graduate Education & Dean of the Graduate School Leslie Shor

Vice President Nathan **Fuerst** completed their portion of the presentation and Senator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions regarding the report.

Senator **Folta** asked if there were targets for out of state and international student enrollment and were those targets met. VP **Fuerst** said that based on preliminary numbers they have exceeded the target for in-state, are right about on target for out-of-state and below target for international students, which was expected given the current climate.

Senator **Sowers**, the undergraduate senator from Avery Point, asked if there is a strategy to change the trend at the Avery Point of decreasing enrollment given that the Board of Trustees has put a hold on the plans for housing at that campus. VP **Fuerst** stated that they are working on regional strategic plans and there will be an update at the upcoming Board of Trustees meeting to indicate what initiatives, programs, services, etc. will be required in order to be able to shift the tide.

Senator **Subramanian** asked if the number of students on the wait list for housing on the presentation represented those who didn't obtain housing and VP **Fuerst** confirmed that this was the case.

Senator **Ginsberg** asked for the University's plan for other facilities and classrooms for the Stamford campus, as they are sorely lacking in resources and space at this campus, and is wondering what the University's plan is for additional buildings and facilities at this campus. VP **Fuerst** stated that this will come up in the strategic planning conversations and they would be happy to have some continued dialogue on this matter.

Senator **Bayulgen** asked if there was a distribution by colleges and schools and if there was a change in the patterns that were observed. VP **Fuerst** exemplified some changes and stated that this information can be shared out with everyone.

Senator **Morrell**, as the chair of the budget committee, asked about the revenue growth in terms of financial aid provided and where the growth occurred, as it seemed to be towards out-of-state students so how do we need to adjust the packages for these students. VP **Fuerst** stated that the package needs to be robust enough to encourage the best and brightest students to the University as well as making it affordable. Also, historically the University hasn't had to offer as much financial aid scholarships to international students but that's no longer the case as now international students require more financial aid and scholarships assistance as the market has shifted.

Senator **Cutter** asked about the percentage of financial aid this being provided to students with the greatest need, such as diverse students and first-generation students. VP **Fuerst** stated that this was absolutely something that they are tracking and continuing to look into ways to support those students as other sources of financial assistance are reducing.

Senator **Weingart** asked if there the University is tracking on a budget standpoint the projections, or under/over, in terms of net tuition. VP **Fuerst** stated that the University is roughly on target with regards to net tuition.

Senator **Skudlarek** asked about the strategies for housing for all undergraduate students to provide a balance regarding their housing needs, such as students who participate in a study abroad program. VP **Fuerst** stated that they are monitoring

these types of programs and making adjustments to the housing as things change. They are working on a multiple year housing expansion plan, with the need for improvements within the facilities, and are hoping for this to be done before the end of the semester.

Moderator **Siegle** thanks VP **Fuerst** for their presentation and answering of questions.

Moderator **Siegle** called for any new business, for which there was none.

Vice Provost & Dean Leslie **Shor** provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the enrollment for the Graduate students, specifically from the Graduate School and does not include the Medical School, the Dental School, the Law School and the PharmD Program. Dean **Shor** completed their portion of the presentation and Senator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions regarding the report.

Senator **Cutter** asked about the number of students related to the Graduate Certificate numbers and Dean **Shor** stated that the information provided is non-duplicated data, but they would be able to provide information about students who are enrolled in more than one program.

Senator **Jockusch** asked how much of the reduction of graduate enrollment is due to the loss of assistantships, grant funding, etc. Dean **Shor** stated that they just received this information today and absolutely believes this is budgetarily related. To some extent, the budgets for fiscal year 26 are already in place, but what it is going to look like in fiscal year 2071 is a real concern.

Senator **Harmon** asked about a breakdown of the revenue-generating programs and Dean **Shor** stated that this hadn't been tracked separately, but they do plan to track this in the future. Dean **Shor** continued by showing that there is an increase in the number of standalone programs that are being offered, but it has not increased the number of students as seen in the presentation.

Senator **Amalaradjou** asked about the possible change in policies regarding the time to completion for programs, 2 years for Master's and 4 years for Ph.D. Dean **Shor** stated that there has been talk within the State Department that the U.S. Government would set the time limits for programs. The University is keeping a close eye on these conversations, as shared by ISSS, and will continue to monitor it.

Moderator **Siegle** thanks Dean **Shor** for their presentation and answering of questions.

Michelle Everard mentioned that Senate Meeting locations will change from month to month and asked that the Senators be sure to look at the location listed in the invitation message prior to attending each meeting.

## **8. New Business**

No new business

## **9. Adjournment**

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

Senator **Cutter** seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Christine S. North  
Secretary of the University Senate, 2021-2026

## **SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

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

Sandy Grande  
Michael Morrell  
Sarira Motaref  
Morty Ortega  
Del Siegle

Sandi Roy, GSS President  
Leo Gold, GSS Vice President  
Andy Zhang, USG Storrs  
President (*temporary until final  
position elected*)