

UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING AGENDA

October 6, 2025

*A regular meeting of the University Senate will be held on
Monday, October 6, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.*

*Location: Student Union **Room 304** and hybrid (via WebEx)*

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

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

1. Approval of Minutes
September 8, 2025
2. Report of the President
Presented by President Maric
3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
Presented by Bob Day, Senate Executive Committee Chair
4. Consent Agenda Items
C&C Report
Nominating Committee Report
5. ABR Update & Resolutions
Presented by Bob Day, Senate Executive Committee Chair
6. Budget Update
Presented by Interim Vice President for Finance Reka Wrynn
7. New Business
8. 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
Leo Gold, GSS Vice President
Tyler Sowers, USG Avery Point
Andy Zhang, USG Storrs

*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*

University Senate Curricula and Courses Committee

Report to the Senate

October 6, 2025

I. New Common Curriculum Courses

1. AH 2410 Digital Health [New TOI-1]

Proposed Catalog Copy

AH 2410. Digital Health (3 Credits)

An exploration of key topics in digital health, including health informatics, big data, interoperability, artificial intelligence in healthcare and mental health, wearable devices, mobile health apps, virtual reality in medicine, user-centered design, ethical challenges, and regulatory considerations.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to sophomores or higher.

Topics of Inquiry: TOI1

2. ART 3025 Advanced Studio Investigations of Popular Culture [New TOI-1]

Proposed Catalog Copy

ART 3025. Advanced Studio Investigations of Popular Culture (3 Credits)

Explores intersections of contemporary media and art. Students critically engage entertainment culture through research and studio art practices.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to sophomores or higher.

Topics of Inquiry: TOI1

3. DMD 3680/W Women Make Movies [New W]

Proposed Catalog Copy

DMD 3680. Women Make Movies (3 Credits)

Explores the history, form, and content of films directed by women and women-identified directors. Themes/genres explored may include documentary, chick-flicks, rom-coms, and such traditionally male-identified genres as Westerns, war, and sports films.

Directors include historical and contemporary figures.

Enrollment Restrictions: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011; DMD 2010; open to sophomores or higher.

DMD 3680W. Women Make Movies (3 credits)

Explores the history, form, and content of films directed by women and women-identified directors. Themes/genres explored may include documentary, chick-flicks, rom-coms, and such traditionally male-identified genres as Westerns, war, and sports films.

Directors include historical and contemporary figures.

Enrollment Restrictions: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011; DMD 2010; open to sophomores or higher.

Skill Codes: W

4. POLS/NAIS 2035 Native American and Indigenous Theory, Governance, and Politics
[New TOI-2, TOI-5]

Proposed Catalog Copy

POLS 2035. Native American and Indigenous Theory, Governance, and Politics (3 Credits)

(Also offered as NAIS 2035.) Examines trajectories and concepts in Indigenous theory, politics and governance that may include Indigenous dispossession, settler colonialism, Indigenous feminism, sovereignty, survivance, recognition/reconciliation, resurgence, and refusal.

Enrollment Requirements: None. Recommended Preparation: Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies; POLS 1002 or any course in American Politics

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI5

NAIS 2035. Native American and Indigenous Theory, Governance, and Politics (3 Credits)

(Also offered as POLS 2035.) Examines trajectories and concepts in Indigenous theory, politics and governance that may include Indigenous dispossession, settler colonialism, Indigenous feminism, sovereignty, survivance, recognition/reconciliation, resurgence, and refusal.

Enrollment Requirements: None. Recommended Preparation: Introduction to Native American and Indigenous Studies; POLS 1002 or any course in American Politics

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI5

5. POLS 2025 Theory and Politics of the University [CA2, CA4INT to TOI-2, TOI-5]

Proposed Catalog Copy

POLS 2025. Theory and Politics of the University. (3 Credits)

Examines the role of the university in contemporary U.S. society, an institution deeply interconnected with modern state formation and the political projects of colonialism, imperialism, democratization, militarism, and nationalism.

Enrollment Requirements: Not open for credit to students who have passed POLS 2998 when offered as "Theory and Politics of the University." Recommended Preparation: POLS 1002

Content Areas: CA2, CA4INT

Topics of Inquiry: TOI 2, TOI 5

6. SOCI 2702E Human Societies and the Living Earth [EL to TOI-2, TOI-4]

Proposed Catalog Copy

SOCI 2702E. Human Societies and the Living Earth (3 Credits)

An overview of the different relationships between human societies and the living earth – aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems – and their different meanings and perspectives to shed light on this historical moment in human history in terms of climate change, environmental destruction, and species extinction.

Skill Codes: EL

Content Areas: CA2

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI4

7. Revised Common Curriculum Courses

1. ARTH/AFRA 3050 African American Art [CA4 to TOI-2, TOI-3]

Current Catalog Copy

ARTH 3050. African-American Art. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as AFRA 3050.) The artistic and social legacy of African American art from the eighteenth century to the present day. CA 4

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Content Areas: CA4

AFRA 3050. African-American Art. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as ARTH 3050.) The artistic and social legacy of African American art from the eighteenth century to the present day. CA 4

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Content Areas: CA4

Revised Catalog Copy

ARTH 3050. African American Art. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as AFRA 3050.) Explores the artistic and social legacy of African American art from the eighteenth century to the present, examining how artists challenged racial identity and racism through diverse mediums, while interrogating “African American Art” within broader contexts of identity, politics, nationalism, and visual culture.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Content Areas: CA4

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

AFRA 3050. African American Art. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as ARTH 3050.) Explores the artistic and social legacy of African American art from the eighteenth century to the present, examining how artists challenged racial identity and racism through diverse mediums, while interrogating

“African American Art” within broader contexts of identity, politics, nationalism, and visual culture.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Content Areas: CA4

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

2. ARTH/HRTS 3580 Image as Witness: Testimony, Witness, Confession [Add TOI-2, TOI-3; Revise enrollment restrictions]

Current Catalog Copy

ARTH 3580. Image as Witness: Testimony, Witness, Confession (3 Credits)

(Also offered as HRTS 3580.) Explores the role of visual culture in bearing witness to human rights abuses.

Enrollment Requirements: Not open for credit to students who have passed ARTH 3995 when offered as "Image as Witness."

HRTS 3580. Image as Witness: Testimony, Witness, Confession (3 Credits)

(Also offered as ARTH 3580.) Explores the role of visual culture in bearing witness to human rights abuses.

Enrollment Requirements: Not open for credit to students who have passed ARTH 3995 when offered as "Image as Witness."

Revised Catalog Copy

ARTH 3580. Image as Witness: Testimony, Witness, Confession. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as HRTS 3580.) Explores the role of visual culture in bearing witness to human rights abuses. Examines how witnesses have used images to convey testimony, analyzing historical examples and artistic practices that highlight the limits of verbal expression, linking ethics and aesthetics in confronting profound historical events.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

HRTS 3580. Image as Witness: Testimony, Witness, Confession. (3 Credits)

(Also offered as ARTH 3580.) Explores the role of visual culture in bearing witness to human rights abuses. Examines how witnesses have used images to convey testimony, analyzing historical examples and artistic practices that highlight the limits of verbal expression, linking ethics and aesthetics in confronting profound historical events.

Enrollment Requirements: Open to juniors or higher.

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

3. HIST 3535 The History of American Medicine [CA1, CA4 to TOI-2, TOI-3]

Current Catalog Copy

HIST 3535. The History of American Medicine (3 Credits)

Historical analysis of the interaction between the American people and the health sciences.

Revised Catalog Copy

HIST 3535. The History of American Medicine (3 Credits)

Historical analysis of the interaction between the American people and the health sciences.

Content Areas: CA1, CA4

Topics of Inquiry: TO12, TOI3

4. LLAS/WGSS 3230 Latina Narrative [CA1, CA4, TOI-2, TOI-3; Revise number, add cross-list, add TOIs]

Current Catalog Copy

LLAS 3230. Latina Narrative (3 Credits)

(Also offered as WGSS 3258.) Feminist topics in contemporary Latina literature and cultural studies.

Enrollment Requirements: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011.

WGSS 3230. Latina Narrative (3 Credits)

(Also offered as LLAS 3258.) Feminist topics in contemporary Latina literature and cultural studies.

Enrollment Requirements: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011.

Revised Catalog Copy

LLAS 3258. Latina Narrative (3 Credits)

(Also offered as WGSS 3258 and SPAN 3258.) Feminist topics in contemporary Latina literature and cultural studies.

Enrollment Requirements: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011.

Content Areas: CA1, CA4,

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

WGSS 3258. Latina Narrative (3 Credits)

(Also offered as LLAS 3258 and SPAN 3258.) Feminist topics in contemporary Latina literature and cultural studies.

Enrollment Requirements: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011.

Content Areas: CA1, CA4,

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

SPAN 3258. Latina Narrative (3 Credits)

(Also offered as WGSS 3258 and LLAS 3258.) Feminist topics in contemporary Latina literature and cultural studies.

Enrollment Requirements: ENGL 1007 or 1010 or 1011.

Content Areas: CA1, CA4,

Topics of Inquiry: TOI2, TOI3

4. PLSC 1000 Plant Appreciation [Add EL, TOI-4, to TOI-6, CA3]

Current Catalog Copy

PLSC 1000. Plant Appreciation. (3 Credits)

An introductory exploration of humans' multi-faceted and essential relationship with plants. Examination of biology, ecology, cultivation, utility in design, and use in food, medicine, and recreation.

Content Areas: CA3

Topics of Inquiry: TOI6

Revised Catalog Copy

PLSC 1000E. Plant Appreciation. (3 Credits)

An introductory exploration of humans' multi-faceted and essential relationship with plants. Examination of biology, ecology, cultivation, utility in design, and use in food, medicine, and recreation.

Skill Codes: EL

Content Areas: CA3

Topics of Inquiry: TOI4, TOI6

5. PLSC 2120 Environmental Soil Science [Add EL, TOI-4 to TOI-6, CA3]

Current Catalog Copy

PLSC 2120. Environmental Soil Science. (3 Credits)

Introduction to the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils. The relationship between soils and the growth of higher plants. Impact of soils on environmental quality.

CA 3. Formerly offered as SPSS 2120.

Enrollment Requirements: CHEM 1122 or CHEM 1124Q or CHEM 1127Q or CHEM 1137Q or CHEM 1147Q. May not be taken out of sequence after passing PLSC 3620.

Content Areas: CA3

Topics of Inquiry: TOI6

Revised Catalog Copy

PLSC 2120E. Environmental Soil Science. (3 Credits)

Introduction to the physical, chemical and biological properties of soils. The relationship between soils and the growth of higher plants. Impact of soils on environmental quality.

CA 3. Formerly offered as SPSS 2120.

Enrollment Requirements: CHEM 1122 or CHEM 1124Q or CHEM 1127Q or CHEM 1137Q or CHEM 1147Q. May not be taken out of sequence after passing PLSC 3620.

Skill Codes: EL

Content Areas: CA3

Topics of Inquiry: TOI4, TOI6

Respectfully Submitted by the 25-26 Senate Curricula and Courses Committee: Pam Bedore (Ex-officio), Kristin Bott, Sally Chamberland (Ex-Officio), John Chandy, John Cooley, Amanda Crawford, Sarah Croucher (Ex-officio), Marc Hatfield, Jamie Kleinman, Edward Junho Lim, Alvaro Lozano-Robledo, Matt McKenzie, Dan Mercier, Natalie Munro, Julian Norato, Gustavo Nanclares, , David Ouimette, Karen Skudlarek, Diego Valente, Terra Zuidema (Registrar alternate)

From the 9/25/25 meeting.

Nominating Committee Report:

October 6, 2025

*All names marked with a * are currently serving University Senators*

Faculty Committee Appointments/Changes:

- *Julian Norato appointed to the C&C Committee
- *Niraj Ghimire appointed to the University Budget Committee

Student Appointments/Changes:

Graduate Students:

- Abhishek Dubey appointed to the Student Welfare Committee
- Vanessa Heigel appointed to the DEIJA Committee
- *Leo Gold appointed to the University Planning Committee
- Medha Arora appointed to the Enrollment Committee
- Maham Liaqat appointed to the University Budget Committee
- Nadia Upah appointed to the Scholastic Standards Committee
- Abdullah Shakil appointed to the Faculty Standards Committee

Undergraduate Students:

- *Haritha Subramanian and Nina Lemash appointed to the Enrollment Committee
- Angelo Montes Diaz and Jose Narcisse appointed to the DEIJA Committee
- Jibreel Akbar and Serena Lee appointed to the Student Welfare Committee
- William Lipinski and Shahad Faiz appointed to the University Budget Committee
- Olivia Eshoo and Nolan Busalacchi appointed to the University Planning Committee
- Cameron Costa and Caroline Kelly appointed to the Common Curriculum Committee
- Laura Wagner and Andrea Perez-Meneses appointed to the C&C
- Tanya Sinha and Lilla Korniss appointed to the Faculty Standards Committee
- Isabelle Norato and Smith Bernard appointed to the Scholastic Standards Committee

ABR Course Requirement

Senate Executive Committee Report to the University

Senate

October 6, 2025

Summary:

At its May 1, 2023 meeting, the University Senate passed a motion that would amend the Senate By-Laws, Rules & Regulations Article II.C.2.D: Minimum Requirements for Undergraduate Degrees, General Education Curriculum to require that “every undergraduate student at UConn must pass the one-credit course titled U.S. Anti-Black Racism as part of the baccalaureate degree requirements. It is strongly recommended that the course be completed during the first two years of enrollment at the University.”¹ This motion came from the Senate Executive Committee in response to a report from the Anti-Black Racism Course Working Group.² The motion passed with 36 yea’s, 25 nay’s, and 4 abstentions.

Since the passing of this motion, the Senate Executive Committee has worked in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and curricular committees to enact this change. The SEC also established an ABR Course Implementation Working Group³ in the Spring 2024 semester to begin developing a Course Action Request and curricular home for the ABR course. During the 2024-2025 Academic Year, the Africana Studies Institute began curricular work to update the course content and ensure that it would be structured appropriately to support the full UConn student body. Following guidance issued by the federal government,⁴ it is the opinion of the University General Counsel’s Office that the ABR requirement as originally passed by the University Senate would be considered illegal by the current federal administration.

¹ [Senate Minutes, May 1, 2023](#)

² [ABR Working Group Report, May 2, 2022](#)

³ [Senate AdHoc Committees, see “ABR Course Implementation Working Group”](#)

⁴ <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1409486/dl?inline>

Next Steps & Recommendations:

As the resolution cannot be moved forward as originally passed at the May 2023 Senate meeting due to the reasons highlighted above, the SEC proposes a motion to rescind this original motion.

Separately, the SEC proposes a resolution for the Senate to establish a Taskforce charged with the following:

Taskforce Charge:

Work with constituents and stakeholders within the University community to evaluate and potentially propose a path forward for the Anti-Black Racism (ABR) course as part of the undergraduate curriculum, as an alternative to the May 2023 Senate Resolution. Options the taskforce may consider include the following, already discussed by the SEC and Standing Committee Chairs:

- Establish a requirement for all undergraduate students to complete a one-credit S/U course (similar to the May 2023 Senate resolution) but with a choice from a set of related courses, including perhaps others that originated as pop-up courses—for example, those that focus on anti-Asian racism, anti-Muslim racism, and anti-Semitism. If deemed appropriate, set parameters for such a requirement, and recommend guidelines for future courses to be developed for inclusion.; or,
- Establish a pathway for ABR and similar courses (for example, including those listed in the previous bullet) to be developed as Topic of Inquiry (TOI) courses. A one-credit course would not satisfy a three-credit TOI requirement, so a viable suite of options should be considered.

The Taskforce shall not be limited to these suggested options and may consider amendments or additional options. Per accreditation standards, courses for TOI credit must be delivered on a graded basis, which may require further development of the ABR or other courses, should the second option be pursued. If the first option is chosen, requiring one or more classes as S/U, the course(s) would not be part of the Common Curriculum. The Taskforce shall coordinate with the SEC and Provost's Office to ensure that the University administration is committed to providing appropriate resources to support the final proposal.

The Taskforce shall issue a report to the Senate Executive Committee by February 12, 2026, with specific recommendations that could be discussed in the March 2026 Senate meeting and voted on in the April 2026 Senate meeting.

Membership:

The membership of this Taskforce is to be seated by the Senate Nominating Committee in consultation with the SEC.

Additional Resources:

- [Charge to ABR Ad Hoc Committee, September 2, 2022](#)
- [ABR CAR Form, UNIV 1985](#)
- [ABR Syllabus, Spring 2021](#)
- [ABR Presentation Slides, April 3, 2023 University Senate Meeting](#)