

University Senate Meeting
December 1, 2025
Student Union Ballroom (330/331) and Hybrid (via WebEx)

Moderator **Siegle** called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

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.”

1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Senator **Day** and seconded by Senator **Jockusch** to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2025 Meeting of the University Senate. The minutes were approved as distributed.

2. Report of the President

Attachment #1

Presented by President Maric

President **Maric** began by expressing appreciation to everyone for where we are as an institution during these unprecedented times. This is a time that requires us to be creative, resilient, and to think what is next for the University in order to deliver an excellent education for our students.

President **Maric** then shared their PowerPoint presentation to review the University’s operational priorities, but also what is happening at the federal level and what can be expected so that the University can prepare.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Morrell** wanted to give the President an opportunity to address the effects of the five-year fiscal plan and the rescissions that are happening to permanent ledger 2 budgets in some of the schools and colleges with questions being asked as to whether it is sustainable and its effects. President **Maric** acknowledged the importance of keeping up the morale of the faculty, staff and students while also stating that this has been an unprecedented year for all of higher education

nationwide. President **Maric** has been working with a number of departments to enhance the fundraising efforts of the University and the Provost is working with others to look at programs that can be sunset in order to free up faculty who can work in other areas that are experiencing increased enrollment. Unfortunately, with the uncertainty of the federal government at this time, the University needs to find other ways to support our priorities. President **Maric** welcomed Interim Provost **Alpay** to share any additional thoughts. Interim Provost **Alpay** stated that with budget issues in nearly every unit, the administration is working closely with every dean to address these budget issues.

Senator **Weingart** asked about the feeling of a disconnect regarding class sizes as students have conveyed that they are deciding to leave due to classes being larger than expected, while faculty are being told to increase their class sizes and they are wondering what the goal is from an educational standpoint. Moderator **Siegle** recognized V.P. Amy **Gorin**, who stated that there are exceptions in place within the policy for studio classes and other classes that by their nature need to be smaller in size.

Senator **Jockusch** mentioned that with class sizes increasing greatly, exemplifying introductory STEM classes likely not being under 200 students per class, and teaching assistant support decreasing, how can we deliver the experience that the students deserve? President **Maric** referred this question to V.P. **Gorin**, who encouraged looking into the strategic enrollment management plan that is analyzing these types of issues and really focusing on the student experience and advocating for high impact practices to be integrated throughout the curriculum in a student's experience.

Senator **Fernandes** asked when the Senate could expect to see the details of the SEM Plan and **Phil Hunt** stated that this is currently being worked on now and will be sharing this soon.

Senator **Bresciano** asked for the minimum level of service that each student should have access to, regardless of whether they are undergraduate, graduate, online, in-person, at the Storrs campus or at a regional campus. **Phil Hunt** stated this one question is at the center of all the conversation and this is what the President has been asking the team to identify, the cost to educate a student and what are the services. President **Maric** stated that there is work at this is going on now to be sure that services are being provided to all students at all campuses.

Senator **Cutter** asked about what safeguards the University is putting in place to encourage retention and provide support to students with unexpected financial difficulties. President **Maric** stated that the University has provided a means for students to reach out for assistance by way of a QR code, posted in the Student Union and Residence Halls, where students can identify the need for financial, academic or other forms of help along with other means of supporting students.

Senator **Lozano-Robledo** asked if this is the first round of cuts that will be coming for 5 years, then what else will be cut and how will this effect the quality of the education and resources that the students will have moving forward. President **Maric** stated they would like to have Interim Provost **Alpay** present at the next Senate Meeting, once all the site visits have been completed, in order to share the real data versus what has been perceived, as there has been a lot of talk about the perception of how things are within the University but it would be helpful to be able to discuss this once the facts are clear.

Senator **Terni** asked about the impact of the upcoming dramatic cuts as it relates to the management of student services and the substantial burden this will put on faculty and staff. President **Maric** deferred to Interim Provost **Alpay**, who stated that the state and federal support are both less and all are trying to do the best that they can and it is not going to be easy for any of us for the next few years. There will be less support and slightly larger class sizes, but please know that the administration is working diligently to address these concerns and protect jobs.

Senator **Cooley** mentioned that post-COVID faculty are finding that they have to slow down and teach basic concepts more now than before, which is requiring a significant change to the curriculum in order to adapt and making it harder to accomplish with increases to class size. President **Maric** stated that this is a valid observation and they are looking at bridge programs as a tool to help students.

Senator **Bazzi** expressed concern about recruiting and retaining graduate students at the University, given that funds are limited and the IDC returns have been removed from dean/faculty members, so there are a lack of funds to recruit. If this continues, it could reach a catastrophic point of shrinking the graduate student body, which means that we're shrinking our research outcomes and could then affect our rankings and so on. President **Maric** stated that they are aware that these are all valid points, and this emphasizes the need for more fundraising and for the deans and departments to use Foundation funds when possible and appropriate.

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

3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee

Attachment #2

Presented by Bob Day, Senate Executive Committee Chair

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

4. Consent Agenda Items

Attachment #3

C & C Report

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed.

5. Senate Elections 2026-2027 Update

Attachment #4

Presented by Tom Bontly, Nominating Committee Chair

Senator **Bontly** shared the updates to the University By-Laws as it relates to the membership of the Senate, which was detailed on the PowerPoint presentation.

* Moderator **Siegle** called for any new business and Senator **Bush** stated that they had new business to bring to the Senate.

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

Moderator **Siegle** recognized Senator **Morrell** who called to revise the agenda to bring forward the Regional Campus Strategic Initiatives Update so that there was sufficient time for this presentation and this was done with the permission of the Senate.

6. Regional Campus Strategic Initiatives Update

Attachment #5

Presented by Vice Provost for Health Sciences and Interdisciplinary Initiatives Amy Gorin

V.P. **Gorin** gave a PowerPoint presentation to provide these updates.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Ghimire** asked about the projected decrease of 17% for high school graduates, as they would normally expect the number to increase, and V.P. **Gorin** stated that this is based on the projected birth rate data for the Northeast.

Senator **Ginsberg** stated that they have seen the increase of class sizes, where they are based at the Stamford campus, but have not seen an expansion of space. Rooms have to be reserved months in advance, if not a year in advance, and the only improvements they have seen to the buildings in the 15 years they have been at UConn have been because a building has been cited for being out of compliance. They asked if there were any thoughts or consideration for more buildings or other space at the Stamford campus. V.P. **Gorin** stated that as part of this process they have been doing capacity analysis and are advocating for increasing the instructional and residential space at the Stamford campus if they are going to continue to grow there.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked V.P. **Gorin** for their presentation.

7. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Academic Notice Language Updates Attachment #6

Presented by Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Cummings and Jennifer Terni

Senator **Cummings** presented the resolution in order to remove any reference from the Senate By-Laws of "scholastic standing" or "scholastic probation" and replace these terms with "academic standing" and "academic notice" respectively, as indicated in the materials distributed prior to the meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** indicated that this would require a super-majority vote of 2/3rd approval and called for the vote. The amendment to the By-Laws passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate, Article II.F.1 (Part-Time Dean's List) Attachment #7

Presented by Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Cummings and Jennifer Terni

Senator **Cummings** presented the second resolution to amend the By-Laws Article II.F.1 Part-Time Dean's List, which is only being provided for information at this meeting and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Rivers** asked if this would require enrollment in both semesters and Senator **Cummings** stated that this is what is being proposed and the way that it is written now is that a student has to be enrolled in the Spring to be on Dean's List part-time because only Spring credits count.

Senator **Jockusch** asked about operationalizing this, where it says that it must fall in the upper quartile of their school or college based on the mean fall and spring school college GPA data, but does that need to be in the upper core tile of both of those or is that averaged and Senator **Cummings** stated that those would be averaged and calculated from there.

Senator **Subramanian** asked if this could be by semester rather than on an annual basis. Senator **Cummings** stated that they wanted to have it represent the greatest part of a part-time student's work with the inclusion of at least twelve credits.

9. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules and Regulations of the University Senate, Article II.A.1 (Admissions; Minimum Requirements)

Attachment #8
Presented by Senate Scholastic Standards Committee Co-Chairs Lindsay Cummings and Jennifer Terni

Senator **Cummings** then presented the third resolution on behalf of the Senate Scholastic Standards Committee to amend the By-Laws Article II.A.1 Admissions: Minimum Requirements, which is only being provided for information at this meeting and will be voted on at the next meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Cummings** for their presentation and reiterated that these amendments would be voted on at the February meeting.

10. CCC Omnibus By-Law Proposal

Attachment #9

Presented by Common Curriculum Committee Chair Jamie Kleinman

Senator **Kleinman** presented the Common Curriculum Committee Omnibus By-Law Proposal, which is only being provided for information at this meeting and will be voted on at the February 2026 meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions.

Senator **Shaefer** asked if a course has more than one course code can it be taken more than once and Senator **Kleinman** stated that they were unsure about cross-listed courses. Senator **Rivers** indicated that the act of cross-listing a course indicates that it is the same course and the content is the same and Senator **Kleinman** indicated that given this, a cross-listed course could only be taken once.

Senator **Cummings** stated a concern with TOI 1 classes because there is an added grading labor that tends to come with creative work and it may be difficult to

maintain this TOI with increasing class sizes and decreasing TAs or other practical elements, so they proposed an editorial change the language of this proposal. Senator **Kleinman** stated that they would work to make adjustments prior to the February meeting.

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

11. New Business

Senator **Bush** made a motion for the Senate to establish an ad hoc task force on the effects of budget cuts on academic units and Senator **Cutter** seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Senator **Morrell** made a motion to postpone the new business motion to the February 1, 2026 Senate Meeting and Senator **Kleinman** seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Moderator **Siegle** called for a vote on the postponement of the motion.
Motion to Postpone the New Business Motion to the February 1, 2026 Senate Meeting: 30 YEA; 21 NAY; 1 ABSTAIN

12. Adjournment

Senator **Morrell** made a motion to adjourn.
Senator **Bontly** seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 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
Tyler Sowers, USG Avery Point
Andy Zhang, USG Storrs