

# UConn Senate Student Welfare Committee

September 25, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | MS Teams

**Charge:** This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, and well-being of undergraduate and graduate students.

## Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes: minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
  - [08.28.25 SWC Minutes.docx](#)
3. UConn Police Department: Associate Vice President of the Division of University Safety and Chief of Police Gene Labonte, Deputy Chief Justin Gilbert, & Deputy Chief Magdalena Silver: Jennifer Tibbetts welcomed the presenters, introducing the topic. The presenters summarized the state of university safety and specific information is highlighted below.
  - Bike & Scooter Safety - relevant laws, policies, enforcement: Gene LaBonte shared that the university is working to set up a contract with a scooter company that would provide scooters to students on-campus and that these scooters would then be monitored, geo-fenced, and have speed limitations. In the meantime, they shared that their office is fielding concerns about e-bikes and scooters and that most incidents are policy violations, not law-breaking. They added that the hope is for the vendor to launch services in Spring 2026. Additional discussion on this topic ensued after the presentation, highlighting that enforcement of existing policies has been difficult and it is a growing safety problem. Citations: [Existing University Policy](#) | [State Law](#) | [Recent Daily Campus Article](#)
  - Communication Thresholds- we are aware there was a recent SWAT incident in the library, can you share more about how it is determined what is shared with the community?: Gene Labonte shared that their office follows strict guidelines regarding notifications that adhere to the Clery Act. This particular incident did not qualify as something that required an emergency notification or other widespread communication.
  - Increased ICE activities on some of our campuses: This question was raised particularly regarding activities near the Stamford campus which took place earlier this semester. Gene Labonte shared that ICE is not required to notify local authorities of their activities, adding that campus police will neither assist nor obstruct the activities of federal authorities. Discussion ensued regarding the Know Your Rights workshops which will be running at least on the Stamford campus through the month of October.

- Impact of The Standard (other infrastructure changes) on traffic and pedestrian safety : Gene Labonte reported that they are working closely with the Town of Mansfield and The Standard to establish better pedestrian pathways between this development and the campus, noting that the university does not have full control over this, but will advocate strongly for the development of a sidewalk. Discussion ensued regarding safety of the “bridge to nowhere” on the complex, as well as concerns over the bike lane that abruptly ends on rte 195.
  - New trends in safety on all campuses that the university should be aware of: Gene Labonte shared that their office is continuing to receive an elevated number of mental health calls at all campuses, as well as pedestrian traffic safety particularly on the Storrs campus (related to e-scooters and e-bikes). Regarding off-campus residences, their office has some concerns regarding activity in those areas as they are not within the purview of Residence Life or the campus police, sharing that as off-campus buildings they do not have the same services and support as on-campus housing. They added that their office is looking to partner with the developers to help support and raise awareness regarding safety for those students living there. Magdalena Silver added that burglaries are an ongoing concern, adding that they are encouraging students to ensure they lock their rooms and secure their belongings when they leave the space.
4. Old Business
- Regional Concerns: general concerns shared, no specific issues discussed in detail.
5. New Business
- Center for International Students & Scholars, Arthur Galinat: tabled to a future meeting due to time constraints
  - New topics and Suggested Guests: general concerns raised regarding students’ health and well-being, particularly on flu shots and student maintenance of good health practices. It was suggested that Kim Beardsley-Carr present on bias concerns to the committee as well as Jenn Longa and Sara Chipman in regard to Title IX violations.

## Attending:

- **\*Leo Lachut, ISS, Co-Chair, Academic Achievement Center** (*absent*)
- **\*Jennifer Tibbetts, Co-Chair, One Stop Student Services**
- \*Valarie Artigas, Nursing
- \*Alexis Boylan, SFA (*absent*)
- \*Arthur Galinat, International Student & Scholar Services
- \*Erica Granoff, Student Services (Stamford Campus)
- \*Amy McKeon, CAHNR Professional Staff
- \*Sarira Motaref, Engineering
- \*Nathanael Okpych, Social Work (Hartford) (*on sabbatical Fall 2025*)
- \*Tracy Rittenhouse, CAHNR

- \*Fiona Vernal, CLAS, History (*absent*)
- Jibreel Akbar, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Bryanna Anderson, Center for Students with Disabilities
- Cynthia Costanzo, Interim Vice President for Student Life (Ex-Officio Member)
- Abhishek Dubey, Graduate Student (*absent*)
- Kimberly Duby, Dean of Students Office
- Tina McCarthy, SHaW
- Suzanne Peters, Financial Aid
- Megan Petsa, The Graduate School
- Peter Tribuzio, Student Services, Hartford Campus

\*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

### Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Exams outside of class time
- Proposed rule which was recently announced by the federal government that may limit how student visa holders maintain their status in the U.S. (now status comes from duration of degree program and new rule proposes fixed dates separate from their enrollment) (Arthur Galinat)
- Discussion of potential changes to financial aid as a result of the passing of the “Big Beautiful Bill” (Sue Peters)
- Impacts of budget cuts and increased enrollment on student experience
- One Stop Initiatives (Jen)