

# UConn Senate University Planning Committee

September 8, 2025, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. | MS Teams

## Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions: Del Siegle and Isaac Barber opened the meeting, welcoming all committee members and doing introductions around the room.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - [Minutes of May 5, 2025](#): minutes were approved with five abstentions.

### 2. Old Business:

- Procurement & Controller's Office Conversation:

Isaac Barber summarized old business from last year's minutes and opened the floor to discussion on the below items.

#### 1. List of FAQs for future presentations (Oct and Nov)

##### 1. Booking and Expensing Travel

1. Questions brainstormed from the group: (1) issues with Concur repetition of review (i.e. in extension, trying to calculate mileage, and subtract commute correctly can automatically get sent back even though correct, auto-calculated mileage in Concur that is not accurate because Concur may use a different route (shorter driving time but longer distance) than the faculty used. Does this come from google?) (2) cost-benefit analysis and efficiencies of Concur – are there any metrics that have been used to track the utility to the university, so that we can help to identify efficiencies and to be more strategic – any assessment of the user experience? (3) graduate student travel cards and concur processing – particularly related to grants, approvals do not always go through the direct manager of the student for a grant and have been extremely confusing for all (4) concerns over the amount of time being spent on the inefficiencies in the system – this is not sustainable (5) concerns over trying to get assistance in a timely manner – real-time resources would be helpful to develop. What training exists and is it accessible?

2. Purchasing/Procurement: (1) Software Purchases Timeline – part of the delay is ITS security review for software requests, and it may be helpful to better understand this process/timeline from their office

(2) clarification over which restrictions are UConn rules vs state regulations in how we make purchases

As a next step, we will share these notes with Joe and Peggy and schedule a meeting between themselves and UPC Committee Chairs to plan for their visit in October.

### 3. New Business

- Committee brainstorm on topics of interest: Del Siegle invited committee members to raise any topics of concern to be addressed by this committee. Topics are below:
  1. Budget concerns and concrete next steps to tackle these challenges
  2. Language for the SEC to possibly clarify the charge of this committee to be more focused on facilities (to be more aligned with similar committees at other universities)
    1. Facilities Planning
    2. Space Allocation
    3. Updates from Transportation Advisory Committee
    4. Creation of new spaces and maintaining existing spaces for students, especially given the yearly increasing enrollments which are perhaps turning less than ideal spaces into learning spaces (perhaps not conducive to learning?)
    5. Focus on expanded vision across “One UConn”
    6. Dan Schwartz shared that he is a part of a Classroom Committee – it may be useful to get the Committee Chair, Steven Fletcher, to join and present. As well as Marc Hatfield from the registrar’s office.
      1. Concerns discussed regarding increasing enrollment and space availability – who makes the decisions about space?
    7. Concerns regarding deferred maintenance, particularly related to housing stock and quality of experience.
    8. Interest in setting up priorities for the committee focus as well as metrics to measure progress
- ITS Conversation:
  1. Data Storage Concerns: Del Siegle introduced the topic sharing that there will be upcoming limits to online storage space (SharePoint, email etc); a presentation on this was made to the Senate Executive Committee during the Spring semester. Concerns were shared by committee members on this, particularly regarding storage limits for students who are working on projects

that require a lot of data for research. Recommendations were made to invite ITS to present on this topic and address these concerns at a future meeting of this committee.

2. AI: now that all UConn staff have access to both CoPilot and ChatGPT accounts, there may be some concerns to address. Concerns were raised regarding cost, data sharing, privacy, and storage.
  - UPDC Updates (Maria Groza): tabled to present at a future meeting

## Members & Attendance:

- **\*Isaac Barber, Co-Chair Student Union & Event Services**
- **\*Del Siegle, Co-Chair Neag School of Education**
- \*Amvrossios Bagtzoglou, Engineering
- \*Oksan Bayulgen, CLAS
- \*Christian Brueckner, CLAS
- \*Bonnie Burr, Co-Chair, CAHNR
- \*Sandy Grande, CLAS
- \*Justin Rogowski, Law Library
- \*Penny Vlahos, CLAS (Avery Point)
- \*Ashley Helton, CAHNR
- \*Jennifer Schaefer, University Libraries
- Maria Groza, UPDC (*absent*)
- Dan Schwartz, Office of the Provost (Ex-Officio Member)
- Julie Schwager, OVPR (*absent*)

\*Senate Member, Academic Year 2025-2026

## Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Procurement:
  - Policy Updates
  - FAQ & Questions from the Committee
- Strategic Planning Updates