

Senate University Budget Committee

October 23, 2025, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions: the committee went around the virtual room to do introductions and welcome new student members.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - A. [2025.09.25 Budget Minutes.docx](#): minutes were approved as amended. The one correction- deficit for 2026 was \$12.6 million.
3. FY27 University State Appropriation Request Update (Reka)
 - A. Reka Wrynn shared that UConn has made a request of the state during the mid-year budget review as follows: \$12 million of permanent funds to bring the FY27 perm block grant to \$265.5 as well as one-time funds for research (\$6.1 Million) and one-time capital funds (\$10 million). The current FY27 approved level of state funding is expected to be \$253.5 million, which is significantly less than the current FY26 funding of approximately \$268.1 million. Discussion ensued and Reka Wrynn shared that the first indication of support would potentially come through the governor's budget early in 2026, but no official decision would be made until May 2026. Discussion also ensued regarding planned investments and how they might impact the deficit, particularly financial aid and potential methods of savings. Questions were raised regarding research funding and Reka Wrynn shared that the \$250 million forecast for research revenues remain constant for now. Concerns were raised regarding a lack of budgets being presented to Center/Institute Directors.
4. Segal Discussion (Michael) [2025-10-17 Budget Committee Segal Listening Session Report Morrell.docx](#): Michael Morrell shared a summary of the Segal Listening Session which took place on October 17, 2025. He added that the main concerns shared were perceptions of administrative bloat, concerns over reductions in staff, low morale, and a feeling of administrative burden and overwhelm. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued, with other key concerns being shared such as concerns of centralization leading to a slowing of operations.
5. Budget Transformation Initiative Discussion (reflections on listening sessions): Michael Morrell summarized his experience attending the BTI listening sessions, stating that the presentation was similar to that which was shared with this committee and the SEC in a special session two weeks ago. He requested questions and feedback from the group from those who attended either listening session so that the feedback can be shared with the SEC. A question was asked regarding what communication plan might be in place for those in the working groups to get information back to the community, as well as who will be selected to be on these groups, and when membership lists of these groups will be posted. Reka Wrynn shared that the hope is that the 60 or so people who will be on the working groups will be selected because they will represent all corners of the university – they will report out their recommendations in January at a full-day summit to the steering committee. Listening sessions with the UConn community will be scheduled to take place

in May. Concerns were raised about the listening session formats of the past, as well as the planned schedule, citing that May is too late to give meaningful feedback that could impact the plan to launch the “shadow year” at the start of the next Fiscal Year on July 1, 2026. It was also asked how many faculty are on the steering committee – Reka Wrynn shared that of the 11 or 12 people on each working group, most have at least 2 faculty members and that SEC Chair Bob Day is on the Steering Committee. A committee member added that Bob Day is the only non-administrative faculty appointment represented on the Steering Committee. A question was raised regarding the name of the new budget and the different definitions of centralized vs decentralized budgeting. Reka Wrynn answered that what we had before was an incremental budget, and a better way to call this new budget model would be incentive-based. General discussion also ensued on the lack of trust between faculty, their deans and the administration.

6. FY19-24 Expenses (Michael): Michael Morrell shared a [PowerPoint presentation](#) which charted the following figures: total revenues increase average per year from FY19 – FY26 (5.73%), not inclusive of grant revenue (2) total appropriation increase adjusted for fringe change average per year from FY19-FY27 projections: 5.26% (3) Tuition increase average per year from FY19-FY26: 6.36% and Net Tuition increase average per year from FY19: 3.84% (4) Tuition Financial Aid increase average per year from FY19 – FY26: 13.31% (5) Course Mandatory Fees increase average per year from FY19-FY26: 4.42%, Auxiliary Revenues increase average per year from FY19-FY26: 4.74%, and Other Revenues increase average per year from FY19-FY26: 7.20%. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued particularly on the balance between revenues and increases in financial aid. A question was also raised as to the need to analyze the interaction between rising revenues, rising costs and budget cuts.

Attending:

- ***Michael Morrell, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- ***Laurent Michel, Co-Chair, College of Engineering**
- *Ali Bazzi, College of Engineering
- *Eleni Coundouriotis, CLAS
- *Carrie Fernandes, Office of Financial Aid
- *Timothy Folta, Business
- *Niraj, Ghimire, CLAS (*absent*)
- *Oskar Harmon, CLAS (Stamford)
- *Anne Langley, UConn Library
- *William Lipinski, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- *Paulo Verardi, CAHNR
- Jessica Chrabaszcz, Executive Associate Athletic Director for Competitive Excellence, UConn Athletics (*absent*)
- Elena Dormidontova, CLAS
- Maham Liaqat, Graduate Student
- Steve Marchillo, SSW, Director of Finance
- Lisa Park-Boush, CLAS (*absent*)

- Dave Weber, School of Business
- Michael White, Dining Services
- Reka Wrynn, Interim Vice President for Finance (Ex-Officio Member)

*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Libraries (November)