

University Senate Meeting
February 2, 2026
Student Union Room 304 and Hybrid (via WebEx)

Moderator **Siegle** called the meeting to order at 4:02 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

Senator Morrell shared a correction to the minutes that an incorrect date was listed when referencing the February 2, 2026 Senate meeting date incorrectly as February 1, 2026. The minutes were approved as amended unanimously by voice vote.

2. Report of the President

Attachment #1

Presented by President Maric

President **Maric** began their report by sharing a message received from a parent sharing their gratitude to the faculty and people at UConn who are providing such amazing support to their child and thanked everyone for their work. President Maric then shared a presentation reviewing financial highlights of the budget (1) state support has modestly increased (1% 10-year average) (2) gross tuition and fees have increased as a percent of total despite FY 16 tuition freeze and 4 years of mandatory fee freezes (3) other revenue growth in research grants, housing, dining, athletics, investment returns and significant Foundation funds (7% 10-year average). The presentation also highlighted a shift over 10 years from 77% in-state to 68% in-state students. The presentation also highlighted growth in expenses over the same 10-years (1) salaries and fringe benefits increased as a percentage of total expenses (2) total financial aid increased by 13% (3) growth in operating expenses due to new instructional and research buildings, student recreation facilities, and other supporting infrastructure. President **Maric** also shared a summary of different deficit mitigation strategies currently being employed by the university and an update on the deficit mitigation process for FY26 thus far, which shows \$6.9M remaining to be closed (of \$37.9M). President **Maric** added some updates on the UConn 2000

Capital Program, such as the Gant Renovation (Phase 3), Field House Renovation, Gampel Renovations, Tennis Facility, and Coventry Boathouse, and shared additional details on the fundraising requirements of these projects.

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

Senator **Jockusch** asked President Maric to comment on whether there's been a change in plans on the space in the Gant renovation and if lab space will be included. President **Maric** responded that there will be teaching and research labs in Gant, and Interim Provost **Alpay** confirmed that the 3rd and 4th floors of the building will not be finished and will serve as shelf space to address growing research needs as they develop. Senator **Nanclares** asked if it is correct that the university has spent approximately \$11.5-\$12M on the house settlement in the last six months and has this been accounted for in the budget for this fiscal year? President **Maric** called on Interim Vice President for Finance Reka Wrynn to respond to this question and Interim Vice President for Finance **Wrynn** shared that institutional support provided to athletics is flat in FY26 and athletics is generating their own funds through sales of tickets and additional contracts to cover those additional costs.

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

Senator **Day** shared that the SEC has met four times since the December Senate meeting and met twice with the President and the Provost, as well as two meetings with senior leadership. Senator **Day** shared gratitude to Renee Boggis and Lakeesha Brown in HR who have worked with the SEC to continue addressing concerns raised in the employee experience survey and have scheduled to discuss the results of that and the Segal consulting group report in the coming weeks. Senator **Day** added that the SEC has also met with Associate Vice President for University Safety Gene Labonte and Deputy Chief of Police Justin Gilbert to discuss issues of campus safety, encouraging senators to download the Live Safe app, which serves all members of our community in need of assistance. Senator **Day** also shared additional information on the motion put forward during New Business at the December 1, 2025 Senate meeting and shared that the SEC will be introducing New Business today to update the deadline highlighted in the charge to the ABR Taskforce who have not yet had sufficient time to meet and make a report. Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Day** for their presentation.

4. Consent Agenda Items

Attachment #3

C & C Report
Nominating Committee Report

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed.

Moderator **Siegle**, without objection from the Senate, changed the order of presenters.

5. Learning Accommodations Taskforce Report

Attachment #9

Presented by Vice Provost for Student Success Tadarrayl Starke

Vice Provost **Starke** shared a summary of the Learning Accommodations Taskforce Report findings and recommendations which was detailed in the PowerPoint presentation and in the report attached to meeting materials. The report and recommendations focused on three themes: (1) expanding disability support resources (2) collecting and using disability-specific data (3) providing professional development. Each theme included its own recommendations. The floor was opened to questions and Senator **Vernal** asked about how to encourage faculty to comply with what students need in terms of accommodations requests and Vice Provost **Starke** responded that educating faculty via additional trainings and possibly developing an incentivized structure to celebrate those who are providing appropriate support to their students. Senator **Ginsberg** recommended that training ensures information on how to not violate students' FERPA rights, particularly when accommodations require the use of technology in the classroom when a professor might otherwise not allow laptops or other technology in the class. Senator **Cummings** shared concerns regarding the high caseload numbers for our CSD staff and asked if the report included recommendations to hire more CSD staff members. Vice Provost **Starke** said yes, they have received approval to hire an additional DSP, and this will be a continued focus. Senator **Terni** shared a comment on the challenges of logistically managing accommodations, especially for larger classes. Senator **Subramanian** asked if there are specific goals related to expanding universal design and what that might look like. Vice Provost **Starke** shared that CETL and Neag have resources and expertise in being able to provide this and shared an interest in encouraging faculty to consider universal design when designing courses. Senator **Jockusch** asked if there would be technological solutions to make configurations of accommodations easier in Husky CT and Vice Provost **Starke** said that they can follow-up with CSD and ITS to see if there are any tools available to help faculty decrease the administrative burden.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Vice Provost **Starke** for their presentation.

6. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University

Senate, Article II.F.1 (Part-Time Dean's List)

Attachment #5

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

Senator **Terni** presented amended language to the motion that was presented to the Senate during the December 1, 2025 meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions. Questions were raised regarding how the GPA would be calculated for eligibility and discussion ensued.

Senator **Terni** thanked Senators for their questions and feedback and the resolution was postponed to a future meeting by unanimous voice vote.

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

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

Attachment #6

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

Senator **Terni** presented the resolution, which had been introduced to the Senate during the December 1, 2025 meeting.

The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

8. CCC Omnibus By-Law Proposal

Attachment #7

Presented by CCC Chair Jamie Kleinman

Senator **Kleinman** presented the resolution, which had been introduced to the Senate during the December 1, 2025 meeting.

The resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** called for New Business and Senator **Morrell** said they would like to raise a New Business item.

9. Resolution to Establish an Ad Hoc Taskforce on the Effects of Budget Cuts on Academic Units

Attachment #8

Presented by Senator Andrew Bush

Senator **Bush** reintroduced the resolution, which had been raised during New Business at the December 1, 2025 Senate Meeting and raised a motion to amend the original proposal, which was seconded by Senator **Morrell**.

The Amended Language is as follows:

The Senate requests information on the effects of the University's 5-year fiscal plan and changes in IDC allocations. We request information on changes that have already occurred, changes that are in progress, and changes that are anticipated to occur in the next two years.

Our request includes (but is not limited to) the following information, broken down by school or college:

- *Change (number and proportion) in tenure-track faculty lines*
- *Change (number and proportion) in non-tenure-track faculty lines*
- *Change (number and proportion) in staff lines*
- *Change (number and proportion) in graduate teaching assistant lines*
- *Changes in the use of undergraduate teaching assistances (regardless of exact name used)*

Senator **Cooley** proposed an amendment to the amendment. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Terni**:

- *Change (number and proportion) in **CIRE** faculty lines and adjunct faculty lines*

The amendment to the amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator **Ginsberg** proposed an amendment to the amended motion. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Morrell**.

Our request includes (but is not limited to) the following information, broken down by school or college and by campus:

The amendment to the amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator **Finiguerra** proposed an amendment to the amended motion. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Terni**.

- *Corresponding course offerings and class size increase requests*

The amendment to the amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator **Terni** proposed an amendment to the amended motion. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Gresham**.

- *Elimination of undergraduate work study slots and scholarships*

Senator **Schaefer** suggested a format change to add the word “changes” to the beginning of the last two bullet points.

- *Changes in the corresponding course offerings and class size increase requests*
- *Changes in the available undergraduate work study slots and scholarships*

Moderator **Siegle** stated that because this is not a substantive change to the amendment to the amended motion, it does not require a vote.

Senator **Nelson** shared concerns about the use of the term “lines” as the fact that we have vacancies does not necessarily mean that we are eliminating faculty lines.

Moderator **Siegle** said they will address this comment after the amendment on the table has been discussed.

Senator **Fernandes** shared concerns about including work study data in this request as the Office of Financial Aid can obtain this information without making a formal request to the administration.

Senator **Morrell** shared concerns that if we add too much to this request, it may delay the receiving of this information. Senator **Dineen** also spoke against the amendment to the amended motion.

Senator **Tibbetts** suggested a wording change to add clarity to the wording of the amendment to the amended motion that was not substantive and did not require a vote.

- *Changes in the available undergraduate student employment slots (student labor or work study) and scholarships*

The amendment to the amended motion failed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator **Dineen** raised a point of information asking for clarification on what language has or has not yet been approved, and raised a motion to strike the last bullet point that had been amendment passed by voice vote:

- *Changes in the corresponding course offerings and class size increase requests*

The parliamentarian was consulted and Senator **Dineen** instead raised a motion to reconsider the inclusion of this line in the motion and proposed to strike the final bullet from the motion. The motion to reconsider was seconded by Senator **Munro**. A point of order was raised that this will be considered a motion to rescind and will require a two-thirds majority vote to pass.

- ~~*Changes in the corresponding course offerings and class size increase requests*~~

Discussion ensued and the motion to rescind passed by electronic vote, 47 YEA, 14 NAY, 5 ABSTAIN.

Moderator **Siegle** returned to Senator Nelson's comment regarding removing the word "lines" from the motion. Senator **Nelson** proposed an amendment to the amended motion. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Morrell**.

- *Change (number and proportion) in filled tenure-track faculty positions*
- *Change (number and proportion) in filled CIRE faculty positions and adjunct faculty positions*
- *Change (number and proportion) in filled staff positions*
- *Change (number and proportion) in filled graduate teaching assistant positions*

Discussion ensued and the motion to amend the amended motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Senator **Morrell** proposed an amendment to the amended motion. The amendment was seconded by Senator **Bontly**.

*Our request includes (but is not limited to) the following information, broken down by school or college, **by funding source**, and by campus.*

Discussion ensued and the amendment to the amended motion failed by voice vote.

The final amendment to the original resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

The amended resolution passed unanimously by voice vote.

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

10. New Business

Senator **Morrell** made a motion to amend the charge originally passed to establish the ABR Implementation & Study Committee to extend the deadline for when their report is due to the SEC from February 12, 2026 to April 23, 2026 and to extend their report date to the Senate to the May 2026 Senate meeting. The motion was seconded by Senator **Ortega**.

The motion to amend the Taskforce Charge passed unanimously by voice vote.

11. Adjournment

Senator **Bresciano** made a motion to adjourn.

Senator **Ortega** seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Everard
Senate Administrator

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

Andy Zhang, USG Storrs

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