

**University Senate Meeting**  
**March 9, 2026**  
**McHugh Hall, Room 101 (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**

The minutes of the February 2, 2026 Meeting of the University Senate were approved by a voice vote as distributed.

### **2. Report of the President**

Attachment #1

Presented by President Maric

President **Maric** joined the meeting virtually and reported that the leadership team appeared before the Higher Education Legislative Committee to request 50 million in funding UConn and 55 million for UConn Health. On March 24<sup>th</sup> they will be presenting before the Bond Committee where they will be asking for funding for the for renovations to Gampel Pavillion, the Field House, phase 3 for the Gantt Building, as well as 20 million for prominent faculty that are being recruited. President **Maric** then turned the meeting over to Interim Vice President for Finance Reka Wrynn, who presented an update on the FY2026 budget.

Interim VP **Wrynn** reviewed the President’s Budget presentation for the Senate, starting with reviewing the current fiscal year and then looking at the proposed budget requests for items such as the collective bargaining unit wage increases and support of students and the first year hiring of top tier faculty. There are also request for capital funding requests for projects as mentioned by President Maric.

Interim VP **Wrynn** then discussed the budget model and the budget transformation initiative. Interim VP **Wrynn** concluded by mentioning the importance of transparency within this process moving forward and valuing engagement and feedback within this model, directly or anonymously, and they are still looking for a

new name for the budget model so all ideas are welcome and votes on names that have already been provided are encouraged.

Senator **Morrell** began by thanking VP Wrynn on behalf of the Budget Committee and remarking that the praise that they have heard on behalf of the VP is beyond any other administrator at the University they have heard in this context. Senator **Morrell** continued by referencing the possibilities of wage increases passing this year and transitioning before fiscal year '27 with the State providing 7 million towards the raises, which is about 38% of our request, and asked if the University has set those funds aside for this possibility. Senator **Morrell** continued by asking if at the Town Hall meetings would cover both the model and governance structure updates as they are wanting to know who will be involved in the decision making with regards to governance. Interim VP **Wrynn** stated that the BTI model will be worked out over the next year, so this will not be available at the April Town Hall Meetings and then moved on to the State Budget mentioning that from fiscal year '26 to '27 they are reducing our block grant by \$15 million, so the University is asking for the State to fully fund the collective bargaining increases. cut has caused a cut for the base block grant cut and there may not be any funds to help with that cut. Interim VP **Wrynn** also confirmed that the funds provided by the State for the raises has been set aside for that purpose and is in an account that does earn interest which would be added to those overall funds to be used for that purpose in the future.

Senator **Harmon** mentioned the \$4 million expenditure for high-tier/very distinguished faculty and asked about using the funds from distinguished faculty who retire by having these new hires replace the retirees. Interim VP **Wrynn** stated that units are doing a great job absorbing the retirements or resignations and offering savings through the recessions and the top tier faculty ask was something that came out of the Legislature, an act that passed during the last Legislative Session that asked us to put together a proposal. President **Maric** shared that this was part of the Higher Education Bill that passed last year which included looking for UConn to recruit top faculty to come to the University with significant research dollars in an effort to be invited to become an AAU Institution.

Senator **Cuevas** asked for any update on faculty IDC returns for fiscal year '25, as these funds have been used to offset the removal of salary escalation from NICHHD grant awards, maintain personnel, and fund graduate students in the summer. Vice President for Research Lindsay **DiStefano** responded by stating that they need to see what the research working groups and the rest of committees come up with before a decision is made about this moving forward. There is a general

consensus that there is a need for the PIs, units, schools/colleges to have these resources to reinvest into the research enterprise, but the exact investment model is still being determined. VP **DiStefano** concluded by saying that the administration knows that this process is inefficient, but they need individuals to work with their leadership first and, if they aren't available, then go to their department head, dean, and then to OVPR to address the critical needs.

Senator **Terni** stated that mixed messaging about the budget picture between information from the University or the State and the reality on the ground with regards to rescissions has created a lot of confusion and is undermining the ability for the University to pull together, as well as making it very difficult for mid-level leaders such as department heads to be effective. Interim VP **Wrynn** stated that the information that has been shared in this presentation is of all the units, so every unit is in a different situation, and it is up to the leadership in that unit to share that with their staff. Interim VP **Wrynn** continued by stating that we are not the only institution that is dealing with these issues and some of these other institutions have very large endowments yet they have done across-the-board layoffs while UConn has worked very hard to protect jobs as much as possible.

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

### **3. Report of the Senate Executive Committee**

Attachment #2

Presented by Robert Day, Senate Executive Committee Chair

Senator Day gave an update on recent meetings of the SEC sharing that they have met with Segal Consulting Group on the organizational assessment project and there will be an update on this presented to the Senate at the April meeting. They added that the SEC also met with Deputy Chief of Police Justin Gilbert from University Safety to discuss safety on campus, highlighting available campus safety resources. Senator Day also gave an update on the data requested by a new business motion passed during the February meeting, which the SEC is in the process of reviewing and gave additional details on the Budget Transformation Initiative Summit as well as an update on the establishment of an AI Council. Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Day** for their presentation.

### **4. Consent Agenda Items:**

Attachment #3

C & C Report

Block Transfer Report, Scholastic Standards Committee

By voice vote, the consent agenda passed.

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

Attachment #4

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

Senator **Cummings** summarized the resolution to amend the amendment of the amendment that was presented at the February 2, 2026 meeting.

Moderator **Siegle** called for discussion of the amended amendment that was just presented, to which there was none. The amended amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** then called for discussion of the amendment. Senator **Michel** proposed an amendment to the amended motion (noted below is bold blue). The amended amendment was seconded by Senator **Langley**.

- Must have earned at least 12 calculable credits across the previous 12-month period (including non-required terms) at least nine of which must be in the Fall and Spring semesters, **when full-time students are also eligible for a Dean's List,**

Moderator **Siegle** called for discussion to the amended amendment. The amendment to the amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** then called for discussion of the amended, amended amendment, to which there was none. The amended, amended, amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

## 6. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article II.E.1 (Classification of Students)

Attachment #5

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

Senator **Cummings** reviewed the new resolution to amend the By-Laws, which would require a 2/3rds vote as referenced by the Moderator.

Moderator **Siegle** called for any discussion of this amendment, to which there was none. The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Cummings** for their presentations of the amendments.

## 7. Resolution to Amend the By-Laws, Rules & Regulations of the University Senate, Article II.C.2.b (IDML)

Attachment #6

Presented by CCC+ Chair Jamie Kleinman

Senator **Kleinman** reviewed the new resolution to amend the By-Laws, which would require a 2/3rds vote as referenced by the Moderator.

Moderator **Siegle** called for any discussion of this amendment, to which there was none. The amendment passed unanimously by voice vote.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Senator **Kleinman** for their presentation of the amendment.

Moderator **Siegle** called for any new business, for which there was none.

## 8. UConn Foundation Report

Attachment #7

Presented by Rachel Marshall, Vice President for Development, Schools and Programs Giving, UConn Foundation

VP **Marshall** provided a presentation with a mid-year report from the UConn Foundation.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked VP **Marshall** for their presentation.

## 9. The Graduate School Update

Attachment #8

Presented by Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School Leslie Shor

Vice Provost **Shor** provided a presentation of the Graduate School updates.

Moderator **Siegle** asked if there were any questions. Senator **Munro** asked the reduction in the amount of internal funding that the Graduate School is giving to students through fellowships. VP **Shor** said that the total amount given has grown each year over the past several years, however funds for internal and external fellowships is based on a percentage of tuition dollars received each year, and the total was about \$6.5 million last year.

Senator **Coppola** asked if advisor/student relations and conflict are a known problem, and we are investing so much into our students, we need to make sure mentors are being respectful and treating students with compassion, so they are happy to learn there is required mentorship training and is curious when it started and why isn't everyone required to do it. VP **Shor** stated that the University spends

\$57,000 per year/Ph.D. student, which includes stipend, health insurance and tuition waiver, which is about a quarter million dollar investment per Ph.D. student. The success rate is about 60%. This is not the best way to manage a humongous amount of money without being more proactive around mentoring and they think the budget transformation initiative will have something in it for Ph.D. completions. VP **Shor** is also mentioned if they had sufficient funding they could initiate a process where the Graduate School is able to appoint graduate faculty, essentially providing a sunseting five-year appointment that to be reappointed would require mentor retraining.

Moderator **Siegle** thanked Vice Provost **Shor** for their presentation and for answering questions.

## 10. New Business

No new business

## 11. Adjournment

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

Senator **Lachut** seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 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  
Rosalind Tavarez, ASG Waterbury  
Andy Zhang, USG Storrs