

Annual Report to the University Senate

Academic Year 2026-2027

Senate Enrollment Committee

Committee Charge: This committee shall review matters relating to the recruitment, admission, enrollment, and retention of outstanding and diverse undergraduate and graduate student populations.

2026/2027 Senate Enrollment Committee Members:

- ***Jamie Caruso, Co-Chair, Academic Affairs (Waterbury)**
- ***Michael Finiguerra, Co-Chair, CLAS (Avery Point)**
- *Thomas Bontly, CLAS
- *Miranda Davis, CLAS
- *Alison Paul, SFA
- *Carl Rivers, Registrar's Office
- *Haritha Subramanian, Undergraduate Student
- *Xiaojing Wang, CLAS
- Medha Arora, Graduate Student
- Nathan Fuerst, Student Life & Enrollment (Ex-Officio)
- Vern Granger, Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- Nina Lemash, Undergraduate Student
- Jennifer Morenus, Puerto Rican Cultural Center
- Mansour Ndiaye, CLAS Academic Services

*Senate Member 2025/2026

Summary:

The Senate Enrollment Committee met eight times from September 2025 through April 2026. Meeting minutes are available for review via [Enrollment Committee Minutes | University Senate](#). A summary of key discussion items is listed below.

Specific Topics Addressed:

1. *New Student Preliminary Report – AY2025-2026*- Vice President Nathan Fuerst presented a slide deck summarizing enrollment updates for the 2025–2026 academic year. He noted that in-state student conversion rates increased, while conversion among out-of-state and international students declined. Despite these shifts, overall enrollment is up and nearing the target of 7,455 students. This incoming class is the most diverse in UConn's history, with regional campuses enrolling the highest percentages of Pell Grant recipients. Enrollment has increased at the Stamford campus, and declined at Hartford, Waterbury, and Avery Point. Housing demand is at a record high on the Storrs campus, with priority given to first-year and campus-change students. Demographically, there were gains in

Hispanic/Latinx enrollment, and for the first time, white students make up less than 50% of the incoming class.

Update on 11/20/2025: Vern Granger provided an update on the Fall 2026 application cycle, noting that the university is approximately halfway to its goal, with more than 30,000 first-year applications received across all UConn campuses. Key highlights include an overall increase in applications, with notable growth in both out-of-state and international applicants. In contrast, in-state applications have declined, due in part to demographic shifts, including a projected decrease of approximately 12,000 high school graduates in Connecticut this year.

Update on 1/22/2026: Vern Granger reported that the January 15 application deadline for the Storrs campus has passed. While total applications are down compared to last year, this cycle still represents the second-highest application volume in the university's history. Admission decisions will be released at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding March 1 and will include financial aid award information. He also noted that the application deadline for regional campuses is May 1, and the transfer application deadline for all campuses is April 1st.

Update on 3/26/2026: Vern Granger gave an enrollment update sharing that 51,000 total decisions were issued at the end of February and that we are currently on target for 7300 total new student enrollment goal for the fall.

2. *Early Decision* - Vern Granger provided an update on Early Decision applications, reporting that approximately 1,400 applications were received, comparable to last year. Decisions will be released to students Friday, December 12 at 5PM. Financial aid packages will not be included in the Early Decision release and will instead be provided to all admitted first-year students in late February as part of the regular decision process. Vern discussed the overall early admissions process, with no goals as of yet to increase the proportion of early admissions.
3. *Student Data/BPIR Dashboard* - Liza Boritz, Director of Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation, presented on the use of SERU data and other metrics to assess students' sense of belonging and value as predictors of student success. Research indicates that students who feel a strong sense of belonging are more likely to graduate on time, experience reduced achievement gaps among historically underrepresented groups, and realize other positive outcomes. She also highlighted how Student Life & Enrollment uses data-driven strategies to strengthen students' sense of belonging and value at UConn. These efforts include promoting on-campus living and prioritizing health and wellness initiatives, such as participation in team sports and collaboration with Student Health and Wellness (SHaW). Dr. Boritz highlighted the dashboard, which faculty and staff can use, to go over their own questions and look at trends.
4. *Regional Campus Strategic Planning* - Vice Provost Amy Gorin provided an update on the strategic planning process for the regional campuses, outlining key elements of the plan and its alignment with the university's broader strategic framework, including the timeline for Board of Trustees review and approval. Dr. Gorin's presentation took place before presentation to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Gorin emphasized the critical role regional campuses play in advancing the university's mission, particularly through leveraging their distinct strengths. Noting on campus-specific enrollment trends, including growth at the

Stamford and Hartford campuses and declines at Waterbury and Avery Point. The presentation concluded with a discussion focused on enrollment drivers at each campus and the university's efforts to support and promote continued growth. Efforts to highlight the strengths of each campus were also addressed.

5. *Student Financial Aid* - Suzanne Peters provided an overview of anticipated federal financial aid changes under the *One Big Beautiful Bill*, set to take effect in July 2026, noting that additional federal guidance is expected in late spring. Key updates include new limits on Pell Grant eligibility, which will no longer exceed a student's cost of attendance—an adjustment expected to disproportionately impact student-athletes. Parent PLUS Loans will be capped at \$20,000 annually with a \$65,000 lifetime limit, while Graduate PLUS Loans will be eliminated, affecting graduate students, particularly in law and medical programs. Additional changes include revised federal loan borrowing limits, new proration rules for part-time enrollment, and stricter institutional accountability measures tied to post-graduation earnings. Including downward revision of funds if a student falls below full-time status across an academic year (i.e. through withdrawals). Overall, these changes are expected to reduce student access to financial aid and present implementation challenges for institutions, particularly in the absence of clear federal guidance.

6. *Student Registration* - Carl Rivers provided an update on the first full-term use of the new classes.uconn.edu registration system, which allows students to enroll directly without using PeopleSoft. Overall, the transition has been successful, with the system proving intuitive and undergraduate registration numbers exceeding those of the previous year. Some initial challenges were noted, particularly instances where courses did not appear for registration due to departments not activating them properly—an issue expected to diminish as users adjust. Improvements include clearer communication, a streamlined permission number process (now assigned directly to students), and the introduction of automated enrollment change forms, reducing manual processing. Ongoing collaboration with the vendor will support continued system enhancements.

7. *First Year Experience* - David Quimette, Jordan Ochs, and Melissa Foreman shared updates from the FYE Journey Taskforce and the broader First Year Experience program, which is offered across all campuses. This program emphasizes holistic student success through core competencies such as academic engagement, personal growth, well-being, career development, and college navigation. Learning Communities were highlighted as a key component, with offerings spanning major-based, program-based, and cultural/affinity groups across campuses. Participation in these communities is associated with higher retention and graduation rates. The FYE Journey Taskforce also outlined recommendations, including defining the first-year experience at UConn, establishing foundational goals, and expanding co-curricular opportunities beyond FYE courses, such as increased learning communities and structured engagement pathways.

8. *Honors Program History/Expansion* - Kaitlin Heenehan presented an overview of honors and enrichment programs across regional campuses, including their development and current structure. She reported a total of 2,409 honors students university-wide, with participation at Avery Point (4), Hartford (41), Stamford (101), and Waterbury (15). The expansion of honors offerings across campuses, highlighting regional growth, has improved access to resources and support, contributing positively to student retention and overall satisfaction.
9. *Co-Op and Experiential Learning* - Beth Settje and Olivia Maffucci provided an overview of UConn's Experiential Learning opportunities, focusing on the Co-Op Program and its benefits for students during and after their time at the university. The program is available to both undergraduate and graduate students, though their office specifically supports undergraduates. UConn Co-Ops are full-time, paid positions lasting an entire semester in career-oriented roles. They do not carry academic credit but count toward full-time equivalent status. Beth and Olivia also discussed program benefits, potential participation barriers, and strategies for students to maximize these experiential learning opportunities.

Goals: In AY2026-2027, the Senate Enrollment Committee will advance the charge of the committee in alignment with the objectives of the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan.