

Senate University Budget Committee

April 23, 2026, 3:30 p.m. – 5:00p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approval of Minutes: minutes approved without objection.
 - A. [2026.3.26 Budget Minutes.docx](#)
3. State Budget & Budget Transformation Initiative Updates (Reka): Reka Wrynn shared an update on the state budget, stating that they have continued to lobby the legislature for additional funding and hopeful that some additional funding will be granted, particularly to cover the negotiated wage increases; additional information will hopefully be shared as early as next Wednesday. Reka Wrynn added that of the \$48.6 million shortfall in the FY27 state funding request, \$37.1 million is related to the negotiated raises. Reka Wrynn added that the two bargaining unit agreements are being presented by OPM as a part of the SEBAC agreement to the state legislature tomorrow. On the capital budget side, UConn has asked for \$10 million for IT equipment and \$20 million to support the Top Tier Faculty initiative. The current state bond bill proposal includes those funds and the \$46.1 million, which was previously allocated for the eminent faculty initiative, in the UCONN 2000 program. Reka Wrynn added that the state has set aside \$500 million to help state entities respond to the impacts of changes happening on the federal side, adding that there is a strong contingent pushing to give \$30 million of that funding to UConn to help with the impact on lost research grants (one-time funding). Discussion ensued and Reka clarified that even if the state fully funds the raises, we will still need to make a rescission. Discussion also ensued on how the negotiated raises, and particularly the retroactive payments, impact the budget and fiscal planning as well as the interplay of increasing financial aid and related budget implications. Reka Wrynn shared an update on the BTI process, sharing that they will be reviewing prototype numbers with the deans in the coming weeks and will be working with the new CFO to schedule further meetings. Reka clarified that while the “shadow year” starts on July 1, 2026, the university will continue to operate fully on the old budget model. A question was asked as to the new BTI name and what it stands for: BLUE “budget linked to university excellence.”
4. SUBC Report to the Senate: Michael Morrell introduced the draft annual report, which the committee members had received in advance via email. Edits were integrated directly into the draft report. The report was approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - A. [Budget 2526 Annual Report.docx](#)
5. Committee Priorities for Next Year
 - A. Eleni Coundouriotis shared concerns about the formulas used to allocate teaching resources and TAs for departments within CLAS and asked committee members for any insights they may have. It was suggested that the Dean be invited to meet with the department concerned.

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- B. Adam Zweifach shared concerns about the new “BLUE” model and how it might incentivize departments to try to hoard as many student enrollments within their courses as possible, and how this specifically applies to prerequisite courses. He asked specifically what (if anything) the Senate C&C Committee is doing to prevent course overlaps (i.e. “statistics for engineers” vs standard “statistics” courses). Michael Morrell shared that this has been an issue since even before this budgetary transition and stated that there is a process/checkbox within CourseLeaf to some degree, but more support is needed. Michael Morrell will raise this to the SEC and return with additional information.
- C. Michael Morrell asked the committee if they would like to set up an introductory meeting with the new CFO, understanding that today is supposed to be the last committee meeting of this academic year. The committee agreed and Michael will work with Michelle to arrange this, if possible.

Attending:

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