

Questions for UConn Board of Trustees Members

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UConn Board of Trustees ([CGS §§ 10a-103 & 10a-104](#))

The UConn Board of Trustees makes rules for governing the university and develops a mission statement for it that includes the role and scope of each branch campus. It establishes schools, colleges, divisions, and departments within the university and coordinates branch and institutional services and programs. It also prepares the university's budget, sets tuition and fees, promotes fundraising, and establishes gift policies for the university's foundation.

The board consists of 21 members. The governor appoints 12 members who serve staggered six-year terms. Students elect two members, one undergraduate and one graduate, who serve staggered two-year terms. Alumni elect two members to staggered four-year terms. The governor; the agriculture, economic and community development, and education commissioners; and the chairperson of the UConn Health Center Board of Directors are ex-officio members.

Questions

1. Student loan debt has become increasingly burdensome for college graduates. What is your assessment of the amount of debt that UConn graduates have and what can UConn do to mitigate student debt levels? How can UConn help students adjust to changes in federal student loan eligibility, especially graduate students who face the most significant changes?
2. Higher education institutions have faced a reduction in federal funding and grants as well as challenges to state funding. How has this impacted UConn's budget and its role as a research institution?

3. Recent legislation has helped UConn Health develop public-private partnerships to purchase Waterbury Hospital and potentially Bristol and Day Kimball hospitals. How do you view this expansion of UConn Health and what do you envision for its future?
4. According to [UConn's 2025 annual Undergraduate Career Outcomes report](#), 73% of recent employed graduates who utilized UConn's Career Services reported that their job is related to their career goals; that percentage decreases to 66% for employed graduates who did not utilize career services. What steps should UConn take to ensure recent graduates' jobs are related to their career goals?
5. The landscape of college sports continues to change. Last session, a bill expanded Connecticut's law on name, image, and likeness (NIL) for student athletes and allowed UConn to enter into revenue sharing agreements with student athletes. How do you think this has impacted student athletes at UConn? How do you think it will impact the future of athletics at UConn? What role should the board play in overseeing how UConn uses athlete compensation agreements?
6. UConn published a sustainability action plan stating that sustainability is a cornerstone of their 2024 – 2034 Strategic Plan, and UConn's vision is to be a global leader in sustainable practices within higher education. What short- and long-term sustainability practices does UConn plan to implement throughout its campuses, and what role does the board have in this plan?
7. The number of students residing in on-campus housing continues to rise at UConn. What steps can UConn take to keep up with this continuing rise in housing demand?
8. In recent years, UConn decided to terminate, suspend, or consolidate numerous majors based on low-enrollment and low-completion rates to "ensure that [UConn] maintain[s] a high-quality portfolio of program offerings." What effects have there been since this decision was made, and are there plans for further evaluating academic offerings?
9. Campus protests in recent years have led to debates about free speech and academic freedom. What role should UConn play to protect free speech and academic freedom on campus while ensuring student safety?
10. Policies and programs addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion have been the subject of debate recently. How do you think UConn should address these issues?

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