

Student Trustee Election

Spring 2026

Notes:

- The candidate elected in the Undergraduate Trustee election will serve a 13 month (1+ year) term: May 2026 to June 2027. This will fulfill the expected vacancy in the Undergraduate Trustee position for the remainder of the June 2025 - June 2027 term.
- The candidate elected in the Graduate Trustee election will serve a two year term: June 2026 to June 2028.

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES



January 19, 2026

Dear Student Trustee Candidate:

Thank you for your interest in seeking this important leadership position at the University of Connecticut. This year we are electing an Undergraduate and a Graduate representative. Attached you will find a packet of materials with instructions you should carefully review before establishing your candidacy:

- **Trustee Responsibilities** – this document outlines in greater detail what is expected of the Student Trustees.
- **Election Schedule** – this document presents a basic timeline of the election process.

Important Deadlines:

- **Application, Part 1 (Intent to Run) due: Noon on Friday, January 30th, 2026**
- **Application, Part 2 (Candidate Statement, Campaign Roster, and “Petition of Nomination”) due: Noon on Friday, February 13th, 2026.**
- **Financial Statement due: 3pm on Thursday, March 5th, 2026** – this document is required for you to record campaign receipts and expenditures, even if you spend no money.

Other documents included in this packet:

- **Campaign and Election Rules** – this document specifies what is and is not permissible, specific requirements, procedure, etc. Please be advised that any violation of campaign rules and/or procedures could result in the termination of your candidacy.
- **Student Trustee Elections Committee ByLaws** – this is the document governing the committee and the election.
- **Student Trustee Election Committee Members**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 860-486-6461. Good luck in your candidacy and thank you again for your interest!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista O'Brien".

Krista O'Brien (STEC Chairperson)
Director for Trustee Student Organization Support
Department of Student Activities
Krista.obrien@uconn.edu

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There are two student representatives to the Board of Trustees, a representative of undergraduates and a representative of graduate and professional students.

Responsibilities:

- For the term, attend all meetings of the Board and meetings of Committees to which they have been assigned.
- Prepare for meetings beforehand by contacting affected parties prior to meetings to discuss questions and answers you or they may have.
- Vote on every resolution after careful consideration of the possible effect on both the students and the University.
- Be professional, ethical and responsible in personal behavior. Students look up to you. Be worthy of their respect.
- Advocate for the University as a whole, and particularly as a student. Advocate for the long-range good of the whole.
- Be accessible to the students, the general public, attend functions and events. Stay informed of issues by becoming acquainted with as many people as possible who are associated with the University.
- Be accessible to the media, but always vigilant to present views fairly.
- Establish and maintain regular contacts with regional campuses and professional schools. Remind students that they have a voice through you.
- Communicate on a regular basis with students, faculty, and staff.
- Maintain the confidentiality of executive session discussions and materials and other sensitive matters. Never betray a confidence.
- Be an enthusiastic supporter of the University, and advocate on its behalf at all times.
- Vow to make the experience of representing the students a rewarding and fulfilling experience.

Minimum Requirements:

- Must be a full time student at the University of Connecticut while holding this position (as per Connecticut state law).
- Must be in good academic standing.
- Must not be on conduct probation or suspension while a candidate or while holding the position.

For more information about the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees, visit

<http://boardoftrustees.uconn.edu/>

For more information and an application for the Student Trustee position, visit www.vote.uconn.edu

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Spring 2026 Election Schedule

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| January 30, 2026 | 12:00pm (noon) | Intent to Run Forms (Application Part 1) are due (KualiBuild Form). STEC confirms status of prospective candidate, and STEC chair notifies the student of their ability to continue the process. |
| February 13, 2026 | 12:00pm (noon) | “Candidate Statement”, “ Petition for Nomination ”, “Campaign Roster”, additional campaign information (Application Part 2) are due within KualiBuild form. |
| February 13, 2026 | | STEC meets to certify the candidates. Immediately following meeting, STEC chair notifies the candidates of their eligibility via e-mail and provides the Campaign Financial Statement document. After this notification, campaigning may begin. |
| March 3, 2026 | 12:00pm (noon) | Voting begins. All students at all campuses are eligible to vote for their respective Representative to the Board of Trustees. |
| March 5, 2026 | 12:00pm (noon) | Voting ends. |
| March 5, 2026 | 3:00pm | Campaign Financial Statements (REGARDLESS OF MONEY SPENT) and supporting documents within KualiBuild form (Application Part 3). |
| March 5, 2026 | 3:00pm | Deadline to submit alleged <i>campaign</i> violations, via email, to the STEC Chair: krista.obrien@uconn.edu |
| Between March 6-7, 2026 | | STEC meets to consider any alleged campaign violations and to validate the election. Within 24 hours following the validation meeting, STEC chair notifies the candidates via e-mail. |
| | | Within 24 hours of the notification, <i>appeals of the election</i> are due to the Secretary of the Board of Trustees: Rachel Rubin, Rachel.rubin@uconn.edu . |
| Between March 16-17, 2026 | | Deadline for appeals responses. Results of the election released to the public by STEC. |

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This year, all parts of the Student Trustee Application are included in one KualiBuild form found here: <https://uconn.kualibuild.com/app/691b7e6362cb37028f502bd9/run>

Deadline for submission of the [Intent to Run Form](#) (Application Part 1) is Friday, January 30th, 2026 by Noon. This form asks for the following information:

1. Contact Information
2. Acknowledgement of Intent to Run and Eligibility
3. Acknowledgement of Campaign Rules

Deadline for submission for Application Part 2 is Friday, February 13th, 2026 by Noon. This section of the form asks for the following information:

1. Candidate statement limited to 2000 characters. Statement needs to include: Your name and academic program and answers to the following questions: What qualifies you for the position? What do you hope to accomplish as a student trustee? This statement will be used for publishing in print and on the web.
2. "[Petition for Nomination](#)" signed by 50 + 1% of the registered UCONN students at the candidate's home campus (see next page for exact number). These signatures can be gathered either in person ('wet signatures') or virtually, or a combination. Any effort to gather signatures must include the written statement below:
 - a. "We, the undersigned, being registered students at the University of Connecticut, do hereby petition that there be placed on the voting ballot used for the election of the Student Representative to the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees, the name of this student as candidate for said office."
3. Campaign Roster: a listing of those students formally designated to campaign on behalf of the prospective candidate.
4. Campaign Information: listing of social media accounts/handles/tags associated with the prospective candidate's campaign.
5. Headshot of the Candidate (in jpeg or png format); Optional

Deadline for submission for Application Part 3 is Thursday, March 5th, 2026 by 3pm. This section of the form asks for the following information:

1. Campaign Financial Statement: an accounting of any and all campaign expenses (regulations can be found later in the packet). This document must be submitted even if the candidate spent NO money within KualiBuild Form.

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Signatures required on the “Petition for Nomination” for Spring 2026:

| If your home campus is... | Enrollment | You need <u>at least</u> this many signatures on your petition... |
|---|---|---|
| Undergraduate Avery Point | 477 | 55 |
| Undergraduate Hartford | 1328 | 63 |
| Undergraduate Stamford | 2653 | 77 |
| Undergraduate Storrs | 21042 | 260 |
| Undergraduate Waterbury | 691 | 57 |
| Graduate Any Campus | 6867 | 119 |
| Health Center | 799 | 58 |
| Law School | 567 | 56 |
| <i>Note 1: Petition signatures can be from any registered UCONN student on any UCONN campus, undergraduate or graduate.</i> | <i>Note 2: These numbers reflect 50 + 1% the enrollment for Fall 2025 at each campus. Enrollment numbers are from the Office of Budget Planning and Institutional Research.</i> | |

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CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION RULES FOR SPRING 2026 STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION

Voting

An online voting system will be used for voting. This system uses students' NetID. Students get receipts when they vote, but their votes in the system are cast anonymously. The officials in charge of the election will meet on or around March 5, 2026 after the polls close, at which time they will view the voting totals.

Campaign Activity / University and STEC Policies

Campaign activity is defined as soliciting support for a campaign on behalf of one's self or another beyond the solicitation of signatures prior to certification as a candidate.

Candidates may **not** use the University's official announcements or the Daily Digest to campaign; only STEC may use official announcements and the Daily Digest. All activity on all other unofficial listservs is permitted.

All candidates, and those working for or on behalf of any candidates for Student Trustee, must adhere to the following policies and rules. Failure to adhere may result in disqualification from the election at the discretion of STEC:

- University Posting Policies (for all Campuses except UConn Health and UConn Law): <https://policy.uconn.edu/2024/06/28/posting-policy/>
- Positing Policy for UConn Law: <https://law.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3082/2024/10/Policy-Posting.pdf>
- Residential Life (for Hartford, Storrs, and Stamford Campuses) political canvassing and posting policies: <https://reslife.uconn.edu/living-on-campus/policies/canvassing-posting-solicitation/>
- Student Union U-Guide and canvassing policies (Storrs Campus): <https://studentunion.uconn.edu/event-planning-tools/>
- Homer Babbidge Policies (Storrs Campus): <https://lib.uconn.edu/location/homer-babbidge-library/policies/>
- Dining Halls Posting/Advertising Policies (Storrs Campus): <https://dining.uconn.edu/digital-advertising/>

All candidates and those campaigning on behalf of a candidate (considered delegates and listed on the campaign roster) are responsible for following the [UConn Student Code](#). Specifically of note, candidates nor their delegates, cannot engage in any of the following behaviors:

- Bribery
- Disruptive behavior, which is defined as participating in or inciting others to participate in the disruption or obstruction of any University activity (in this case, any aspect of the Student Trustee Election)
- Harming behavior, which includes, but is not limited to the true threat of or actual physical assault or abuse. This also includes harassment; bullying is a form of harassment, as is coercion.
- Uncooperative behavior, which includes but is not limited to, uncooperative behavior and/or failure to comply with the directions of, providing false information, and / or failure to identify oneself to University officials or law enforcement officials and in this case, the Student Trustee Election Committee.
- Theft, which includes, but is not limited to, attempted or actual theft of property or services.
- Unauthorized possession, duplication, or misuse of University property or other personal or public property, including but not limited to records, electronic files, telecommunications, systems, forms of identification, and keys.

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Campaign Spending & Accounting

Personal Expenditures: No candidate for the trustee position shall spend more than one hundred dollars (\$100) of his/her personal funds for campaign purposes, excluding personal travel expenditures.

Campaign Contributions: A candidate may also accept campaign contributions not to exceed twenty-five dollars (\$25) per donor or one hundred dollars (\$100) in the aggregate.

Donations of Goods, Professional Services, and Personal Items: Fair market value of all donated goods, professional services, and personal items used in the campaign shall be included as expenditures and shall be treated in the same manner as contributions in determining whether the candidate has observed the regulated limits. Personal supplies are consumable goods such as (but not limited to) computer paper, cake mixes, markers, etc.

Travel: If a candidate travels in order to campaign, fuel, public transportation costs, Uber/Lyft costs, etc. are not included as a campaign expense.

Maximum Expenditures: The total amount expended for the campaign may not exceed two hundred dollars (\$200), including the value of donated goods, professional services, and personal supplies.

Raffles / Drawings: Candidates are not allowed to hold raffles or drawings as part of their campaigns.

Campaign Fund Accounting: A final report of campaign receipts and expenditures along with all supporting documents must be prepared and submitted via the official form by each candidate to the STEC chairperson by 3:00 pm March 6, 2026. Failure to turn this in, **even if no expenses were incurred**, or failure to turn in an accurate report, will result in candidate disqualification.

Campaign and Voting Periods

The officially designated campaign period for the Spring 2026 election is from February 13, 2026 (after the candidates are certified and notified) to March 5, 2026 at 12:00pm noon (when voting ends).

The officially designated voting period for the Spring 2026 election is from March 3, 2026 at 12:00pm noon to March 5, 2026 at 12:00pm noon.

Campaign Violations

Alleged violations of campaign rules and regulations shall be referred to the STEC Chairperson, Krista O'Brien, via email at krista.obrien@uconn.edu by March 5, 2026 at 3:00 pm. Any constituent with direct knowledge of a potential violation can allege a violation. A constituent is a student who is eligible to vote in the Student Trustee election in which the student is alleging there are violations.

Candidates will be sent redacted versions of all referrals of alleged violations. Candidates may respond, in writing to the STEC Chairperson, within 24 hours of receiving the alleged violations. Only candidates may respond, and they may only respond to the violations alleged to themselves.

Review of alleged violations of Campaign and Election Rules, and the candidate's written responses shall be at the discretion of STEC. A candidate may be disqualified if found in violation of campaign rules or regulations. The decisions of STEC are final.

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Student Trustee Elections Committee 2025-2026

1. Krista O'Brien, (Chair—non-voting), Director for Trustee Student Organization Support,
860-486-6461, krista.obrien@uconn.edu
2. Sean Dunn, current Undergraduate Student Trustee
3. Tyler Sowers, Avery Point Associated Student Government Representative
4. Kari Comstock, Graduate Student Senate Representative
5. Carter Lewis, Hartford Undergraduate Student Government Representative
6. Yeuris Asencio, Stamford Student Government Association Representative
7. Ella Bennett, Storrs Undergraduate Student Government Representative
8. Sumeet Kadian, UCHC Medical/Dental Student Government Representative
9. Rosalind Tavarez, Waterbury Associated Student Government Representative
10. Maurice Clarke, Law School Student Bar Association Representative
11. Jose Maldonado, Department of Student Activities /TSOS Representative (non-voting)

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STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION COMMITTEE BY LAWS

Approved December 2024 by the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees

The position of Student Trustee was created by [State Statute](#).

Article I - The Student Trustee Election Committee

Section A: Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the Student Trustee Election Committee (hereinafter “STEC”) is to initiate, administer, and supervise a fair and efficient student trustee election each year or as required.

The term of a Student Trustee is two years. As per Connecticut Public Act 13-128, any vacancies in the elected membership of the Board of Trustees, including the Student Trustees, shall be filled by special election for the balance of the unexpired term unless the special election would occur three months prior to a regularly scheduled election.

Section B: Membership

1. Composition of Committee

The Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees shall appoint the members of STEC in the following manner: the Provost or designee shall be appointed chairperson of STEC. The chairperson will recruit members to be appointed to the committee in consultation with recognized student governments, including the professional schools and regional campuses of the University. The current University of Connecticut Student Trustees shall also be appointed to STEC.

2. Committee Member Responsibilities

a. Attendance

It shall be the duty of each Committee member to participate in all meetings of STEC. Participation through teleconferencing or other electronic means shall be permissible.

b. Duties

STEC, through cooperation and coordination with appropriate University officials, shall be responsible for:

- i. Publicizing the availability of the position and actively encouraging participation in the election.
- ii. Determining the eligibility of prospective candidates.
- iii. Monitoring campaigns.
- iv. Assuring adequate notice of the election and overseeing the administration of the election.
- v. Hearing all allegations of campaign violations and making determination of appropriate action.
- vi. Certifying the results

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c. Resignation

If a STEC representative has formally expressed their intention to run for the Board of Trustees, they must resign from the STEC immediately. If a STEC representative chooses to resign, the letter of resignation shall be sent to the STEC chairperson.

Section C: Management of the Committee

1. Chairperson

The duties of the Chairperson shall be as follows:

- a. To call all meetings of STEC.
- b. To preside at all meetings.
- c. To be a liaison between the Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees and the Committee.
- d. To establish and appoint members to sub-committees with the consent of the Committee.
- e. Assure administrative support for the committee.

2. Meetings

a. Rules of Order

Roberts Rules of Parliamentary Procedure, Fourth Edition Revised shall be observed in conducting the business of the committee in session.

b. Quorum

STEC shall conduct no committee business without a quorum. A quorum shall be a majority of members, including the Chairperson.

All members with the exception of the Chairperson are privileged to make motions. All members may discuss and vote on all business before the Committee.

3. Interpretive Rules

STEC has the sole authority to interpret its own By-laws.

Article II - The Student Trustee Election

Section A: Minimum Requirements

1. Full Time Student

The candidate must be a matriculated, registered, full time student at the University during their candidacy, at the time of election, and if elected, during their term in office.

2. Academic and Conduct Requirements

The candidate may not be on scholastic probation or conduct probation or suspension as of the date on which they declare their candidacy, during the campaign, and if elected, during the entirety of their term in office.

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Section B: Procedures for Candidacy

1. Declaration of Intent
Any person interested in becoming a candidate for the student-elected trustee position shall complete an "Intent to Run" form. This form shall be created by and submitted to the STEC chairperson by a date established by STEC.
2. Additional Materials
The prospective candidate shall submit to the STEC chairperson by a date established by STEC, the following materials:
 - a. A biographic sketch and/or position statement of no more than 175 words shall be submitted electronically. This sketch/statement shall be distributed by STEC at no expense to the candidate. A photograph is requested but not required.
 - b. A petition signed by fifty (50) plus 1% of number of registered students at the candidate's home campus. A registered University of Connecticut student is any person who has met all University requirements for registration at any campus of the University. The student may be full or part-time or day or evening division.
 - c. A Campaign Roster that lists any current registered University of Connecticut student who will be officially campaigning on behalf of the candidate.
3. Candidate Notification of Eligibility
Any decision that STEC makes about the prospective candidate eligibility shall be communicated to them and shall be followed by a written notice stating the decision and the reasons for it.

Section C: Withdrawal

Any candidate wishing to withdraw their candidacy shall send a letter of withdrawal immediately to the STEC chairperson.

If the letter of withdrawal is received by the STEC chairperson prior to the printing of the election materials, their name will be deleted. Names of candidates who withdraw after the printing of the election materials will appear on the ballot, but a list of their names will be published and votes cast for those candidates will not be counted.

Section D: Campaign Regulations

1. Campaign Spending & Accounting
STEC will determine campaign expenditure limits and accounting procedures and notify candidates prior to the election.
2. Limitations of Campaign
No candidate shall engage in campaign activity, as defined by STEC, except during the period designated by STEC, and shall not coerce nor incentivize a voter to vote for them, campaign directly to a voter while they are in the process of voting, and/or campaign immediately adjacent to an officially designated voting station. An officially designated voting station is one that is clearly identified by STEC. Candidates will be informed of these locations, if there are such locations.
3. STEC Policies
All candidates must adhere to all STEC policies. Failure to adhere may result in disqualification from the election at the discretion of STEC.

Section E: Campaign Violations

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Constituents with direct knowledge of alleged violations of Campaign and Election Rules may write to STEC by a deadline established by STEC which will occur before the candidates are notified of the numerical results of the election. Candidates will have a chance to respond to violations alleged to their campaigns (referrals shall be redacted before they are sent to the candidates). Review of violations of Campaign and Election Rules shall be at the discretion of STEC. Appropriate action may entail disqualifying a candidate should they be found in violation of Campaign and Election rules. The decisions of STEC related to campaign violations are final.

Section F: Voting Procedures

1. General Regulations
 - a. Only candidates' names and additional materials specified in Article II B 2 a. will be used on the ballots.
 - b. Candidates shall be placed on the ballot in order determined by random drawing conducted by STEC or by randomization determined by the voting platform.
 - c. Any currently registered student at the University of Connecticut is allowed to vote in an election appropriate to their academic standing (undergraduate students vote for Undergraduate Student Trustee, graduate and professional students for Graduate Student Trustee).
 - d. Each person shall vote for no more than one person per position available.
 - e. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes who has not been disqualified will be declared trustee-elect.

2. Election Procedure
 - a. The election shall be conducted in a manner to be approved each year by STEC.
 - b. The voting period designated by the STEC Committee shall last a minimum of two weekdays, shall take place simultaneously on all campuses, and shall be geared toward creating a more visible election that maximizes student voter turnout.
 - c. Within three days of the conclusion of the voting period, STEC shall meet to validate the election.
 - d. The Chairperson of STEC will notify candidates within 24 hours of the certification results.
 - e. A candidate who wishes to appeal the validation of the results as decided by STEC should do so in writing within 24 hours of notification by submitting a written appeal to the Executive Secretary of the Board of Trustees. Only candidates may appeal the validation of the results. Candidate's appeals, redacted if necessary, will be shared with all candidates within 24 hours of submission. The Secretary will consider the appeals and render a decision within 10 working days. The Secretary's decision is final.
 - f. The results will be announced to the University in a timely manner.

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Article III: Amendments and Revisions

Section A: Amendments and Revisions

The Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees, acting upon a motion passed by STEC, shall recommend to the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees amendments and revisions to these By-Laws.

Section B: Ratification

All amendments and revisions become effective upon ratification by the University of Connecticut Board of Trustees.