

Questions for Nominees to the UConn Board of Trustees

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

The board 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 oversees the financing and construction of UConn 2000, prepares the university's budget, sets tuition and fees, promotes fundraising, and establishes gifts 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? What steps can UConn take to mitigate student debt levels?
2. In fall 2019, UConn announced the Connecticut Commitment program. Under the program, Connecticut residents with lower household incomes who are admitted as undergraduates beginning in fall 2020 are eligible to receive free tuition. What can the board do to ensure that tuition remains affordable for all students, including those who are not eligible to receive assistance through this program?

3. What role do you think athletics, including major sports such as basketball and football, should play at UConn? Do major sports programs help or hurt the university?
4. California recently passed legislation allowing college athletes to receive compensation for endorsements. What are your thoughts on Connecticut considering similar legislation? Should UConn athletes be allowed to receive compensation for endorsements?
5. UConn has plans to build a new utility plant to supplement its central utility plant. Currently, plant construction is halted pending policy recommendations from a student-faculty working group on sustainability. Moving forward, what steps will UConn take to create sustainable energy and remain committed to its pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050? How does the university plan to increase transparency and collaboration between the students, faculty, and administration regarding climate adaptation planning?
6. What steps should UConn take to encourage more students to remain in Connecticut after graduating?
7. UConn recently released an economic [report](#) providing a measurement of the economic value the University provides to the state through direct and indirect employment, clinical care, and other research and academic activities at its campuses. What can the board do to help UConn publicize its role in the state's economy?
8. A recent *CT Mirror* article (<https://ctmirror.org/2019/12/05/cost-to-attend-uconn-rises-23-3-over-next-five-years-under-new-tuition-plan/>, December 5, 2019) reported that Connecticut students comprise approximately 80% of the UConn student body, and without non-residents attending the university, UConn estimates that the in-state tuition rate would have to increase by 56% to maintain academic standards. With the number of high school graduates in Connecticut projected to decrease over the next decade, how can UConn attract students from other regions?
9. Have UConn's branch campuses been successful in meeting enrollment targets? What steps can the board take to ensure that the branch campuses thrive?
10. Two UConn students recently died by suicide on the Storrs campus. UConn students are [advocating](#) for increased mental health services across UConn's main and regional campuses. What can the board do to ensure UConn students at all campuses have access to mental health care?

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