

Questions for Nominees to the UConn Board of Trustees

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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? What steps can UConn take to mitigate student debt levels?
2. According to UConn's 2024 annual Undergraduate Career Outcomes report, 68% of recent employed graduates who utilized UConn's Career Services reported that their job is related to their career goals; that percentage decreases to 58% 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?

3. A recent CT Insider article reported that the UConn athletic department generated \$62.7 million in revenue during fiscal year 2024, according to its annual report filed with the NCAA, which is a \$7.6 million increase from 2023. Additionally, Connecticut recently passed a bill that allows UConn to enter into revenue sharing agreements with student athletes beginning this semester. What role do you think athletics should play at UConn, and what do you see for the future of UConn athletics? How do you think compensating athletes will impact UConn? The board recently gave the athletic director authority to sign athlete compensation agreements. How will the board oversee the use of this authority?
4. UConn recently entered a five-year contract with General Dynamics Electric Boat to support workforce development. How do you think this contract will benefit students at UConn and communities throughout Connecticut? Should UConn look to establish other workforce development initiatives?
5. Last year, 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 by fostering innovation, education, and collaboration. 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?
6. The number of students residing in on-campus housing continues to rise at UConn. In fall 2024, the number of students living in on-campus housing exceeded the projected number that was included in the fall 2024 budget. What steps can UConn take to keep up with this continuing rise in housing demand?
7. Higher education institutions may face a reduction in federal funding and grants in the near future, as well as facing challenges in state funding. How does UConn plan to manage these types of reductions and the potential budget issues that may result?
8. Last year, 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 the academic offerings?
9. Campus protests in recent years have led to debates about free speech and academic freedom. What is your opinion on these topics?
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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