

# Academic Affairs UPDATE

February 16, 2026



## INSIGHTS

### From the Interim Provost

On January 29, President Maric, Campus Dean Annemarie Seifert, and I along with other UConn colleagues hosted Connecticut state representatives at the Avery Point campus. A world-class Sea Grant research campus, Avery Point is a special place. We shared with them our deep commitment to Avery Point as a prized asset in our research, academic, and outreach missions. Our Department of Marine Sciences, CIRCA, Sea Grant, and the CT National Estuarine Research Reserve programs are all located at Avery Point, along with several other research and graduate programs. These initiatives not only advance critical marine-based research programs but support the local economy and contribute significantly to resilience initiatives across Connecticut, from the coastal communities to urban centers. Our vision for the campus focuses on making the most of existing resources to deliver on UConn's Sea Grant mission while serving our existing student population.

To better understand the needs of academic units across the University, I've been attending faculty and staff meetings in the schools and colleges. Last week, I was with the School of Fine Arts (SFA) faculty and staff. We talked about the importance of the arts in our educational portfolio. Our SFA faculty are outstanding in their disciplines and elevate the reputation of the university while contributing significantly to the cultural life of the University through concerts, plays and performances, and exhibits at venues across campus. I hope you can attend one of the SFA's events, listed [here](#).

At a recent School of Business faculty meeting, I participated in an open conversation on a wide spectrum of topics, including student success, institutional strategy, rankings, governance, and the evolving landscape of higher education.

A visit to the Waterbury campus rounded out my recent listening sessions. I toured the campus with Campus Dean Fumiko Hoeft and met with faculty, staff, and students. The campus community shared real excitement about recent developments. These include the return of a bookstore, the expansion of nursing programs, and new opportunities to partner with UConn Health at Waterbury Hospital to support workforce development.

I look forward to connecting with more of you in the weeks to come. Hoping your semester is off to a great start.

Pamir Alpay  
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## NEWS



### Student Success Units Support Strong Fall-to-Spring Retention Numbers

The University posted very strong fall-to-spring retention numbers, achieving a 97% retention rate among all bachelor-degree seeking students on the Storrs campus and a 96% retention rate across all campuses. Fall-to-spring retention is an early signal of whether students are successfully adjusting, staying engaged, and remaining on track toward completing their degrees. A range of student success initiatives, including those led by Vice Provost Tadarayl Starke, have focused on proactively identifying and supporting students who are at risk of leaving the University. At the end of last semester, student support units implemented an "Academic Support Surge" that increased temporary tutoring and support staff to help students successfully close out the fall term. Additional efforts include a "Solutions Lab," a partnership among Undergraduate Advising, the Dean of Students, OneStop, and the Bursar, to work with students to resolve registration holds. OneStop also implemented a call campaign that reached 1000 students through calls and text messages to get students enrolled. These initiatives contributed to the University's excellent retention results.

Starke and his team are stepping up efforts to take support programming to students throughout the year, for example by increasing tutoring in key courses in STEM and other disciplines and by offering satellite support in the cultural centers, residence halls, and the library. A mentoring program being piloted in the African American Cultural Center is testing the effectiveness of targeted mentoring to improve graduation rates.

Overall, the student success team works to engage students across the UConn system and find solutions that enable them to have a robust academic experience and successful outcomes.



### UConn Ranks in Top 25% of Global Universities in new TIME Ranking

A [new ranking](#) of world universities by TIME in collaboration with Statista ranks UConn 111 out of 500 universities internationally. A closer look at the ranking shows UConn at 22 among US public universities. The ranking considers universities' performance in three areas: academic capacity and performance, innovation and economic impact, and global engagement.



### NAPLEX Scores Released: UConn Pharmacy Students Exceed National Average

UConn School of Pharmacy's commitment to student success is reflected in its students' performance on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam, NAPLEX. In 2024, UConn Pharmacy graduates reached a pass rate of 84% compared to the national average of 78%, outperforming pharmacy students across the nation. A good result on the NAPLEX opens doors for students professionally and reflects the commitment of our faculty and staff to deliver a quality education that positions students for a lifetime of success. Read more [here](#).

## UPDATES

### Budget Transformation Initiative (BTI) Working Group Summit

On February 6, faculty and staff from across the University came together for the BTI Working Group Summit to share progress and discuss early recommendations for UConn's new budget model. The five working groups presented their preliminary frameworks and engaged in thoughtful dialogue about alignment with our strategic and operational priorities. This marks an important step as recommendations now move to the steering committee for formal review. Campus engagement will continue this spring with unit meetings and town halls, as the model is refined ahead of a planned shadow year implementation in FY27. More information about the Budget Transformation Initiative can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

## DATES and DEADLINES

### UConn Reads 2025-2026

Pick up a copy of this year's book and get ready to join in an engaging discussion with author Chelsea Harvey Garner, around this year's selection - **A Pity Party is Still a Party: A Feel-Good Guide to Feeling Bad**, a candid and comical book that explores the idea that sadness can be the key to happiness.

**Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 4:30-6:00pm**

This is a virtual event. RSVP information will be available soon.

Co-sponsored by UConn Library, Dean of Students, and Student Health & Wellness

UConn Reads

### 2026-27 Catalog Deadline for Graduate Program Revisions and Publication of Program Learning Objectives

Graduate program revisions for the 2026-27 academic year course catalog are due in the Curriculum Inventory Management (CIM) system by **March 1**. Graduate program learning objectives, which appear in the academic catalog, must also be submitted [through CIM](#) by **March 1**. The graduate and undergraduate course revisions deadline and the undergraduate program revision deadlines have passed.

If you have any concerns about meeting catalog deadlines, please contact the Registrar's Office at [registrar@uconn.edu](mailto:registrar@uconn.edu) as soon as possible to discuss. If you have questions about program learning objectives, please contact [assessment@uconn.edu](mailto:assessment@uconn.edu).

### PTR Forum

The Faculty Standards Committee of the University Senate in collaboration with the Office of the Provost and AAUP is hosting two forums on faculty promotion, tenure, and reappointment (PTR). These forums aim to ensure that all faculty are aware of the University's PTR and PR procedures and expectations and have an opportunity to ask questions of the administration.

**PTR Forum (Tenure Track): Friday, April 17, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

**PR Forum (Clinical, In-Residence, and Extension Faculty and Lecturers): Friday, April 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

Registration can be accessed through the [University Senate Event Calendar](#).

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