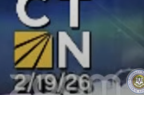


UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT PROPOSED BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027  
Appropriations Committee Meeting



## INSIGHTS

### From the Interim Provost

On February 19, members of the University's leadership team attended the State Appropriations Committee hearing. At the hearing, we stressed how UConn has a presence and makes an impact in every town across the State of Connecticut. Our academic programs, extension activities, health and research initiatives, and community outreach all benefit the State tremendously. We drive the State's economy, improve the quality of life, health and wellness of our citizens, and generate the knowledge needed to confront the challenges of the future. At the hearing we emphasized that the State's support is critical to our ability to fulfill our public mission, particularly in an environment where funding from the federal government is declining.

Last week, the provost's office presented the [Regional Campus Strategic Assessment](#) to the Board of Trustees. In it, we reaffirmed our commitment to the regional campuses as core to the University's public mission. We would like to strengthen the identity of each campus by focusing on its unique contributions to Connecticut and the UConn ecosystem. Our initial efforts will concentrate on stabilizing enrollments and operations of each campus by taking targeted actions with maximum impact and nominal financial investment. Our current fiscal climate makes it imperative to optimize existing resources and avoid expenditures that could compromise the University's long-term financial outlook.

The assessment was guided by elements of the University's [strategic plan](#) for advancing its academic mission summarized as:

**Students First:** Student success, as measured by retention and graduation rates and post-graduation outcomes;

**Reputation, Recognition, Rankings:** Significant improvement in national and international rankings, with the goal of being recognized as a Top 25 public university, and

**Research Excellence** through generating innovative, high-quality scholarship that advances knowledge, addresses complex societal challenges, and elevates the institution's global reputation.

I am grateful to the over 70 individuals in units across the university who contributed to the assessment.

In addition, in the past two weeks I've continued connecting with faculty, staff, and school and college leadership to listen and discuss our shared challenges and opportunities. A recent meeting with over 45 department heads led to difficult conversations about the outlook for the University, focusing on the budget, resources, and federal and state funding.

Similar topics were raised in a recent meeting with CAHNR faculty, staff, and leadership. We recognize and deeply appreciate the role that CAHNR and its Extension faculty and staff play in advancing our public land grant mission.

Let me conclude by thanking all of you for your commitment to the University. Your dedication has been evident in every conversation I've had with you. I recognize that our community is experiencing anxiety and concern about what the future may bring—Please know that in all we do, we will put the University's academic mission first.

With best regards,

Pamir Alpay  
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## NEWS



### School of Pharmacy renamed School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences

With 100 years of nationally recognized academic and research excellence already to its credit, the UConn School of Pharmacy is entering its next century with a new name to better reflect the full scope of its comprehensive mission and impact in the field. The new name—the [UConn School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences](#)—went into effect Wednesday with a [vote from the Board of Trustees](#), which joined the school's administration, faculty, alumni, and others in supporting the change. The new name better reflects the school's comprehensive offerings in training future pharmacists and advancing pharmaceutical sciences through research, graduate education, and innovation that translates into advances in the field.

UConn Pharmacy students are among the best prepared in the country. In 2025, UConn School of Pharmacy students exceeded the national average and had the highest pass rate in New England on the North American Pharmacist Licensure Exam (NAPLEX). In the last issue of the Update, we reported School of Pharmacy students' excellent outcomes on the NAPLEX, but cited 2024 outcomes. Read the full story on the [2025 NAPLEX](#).

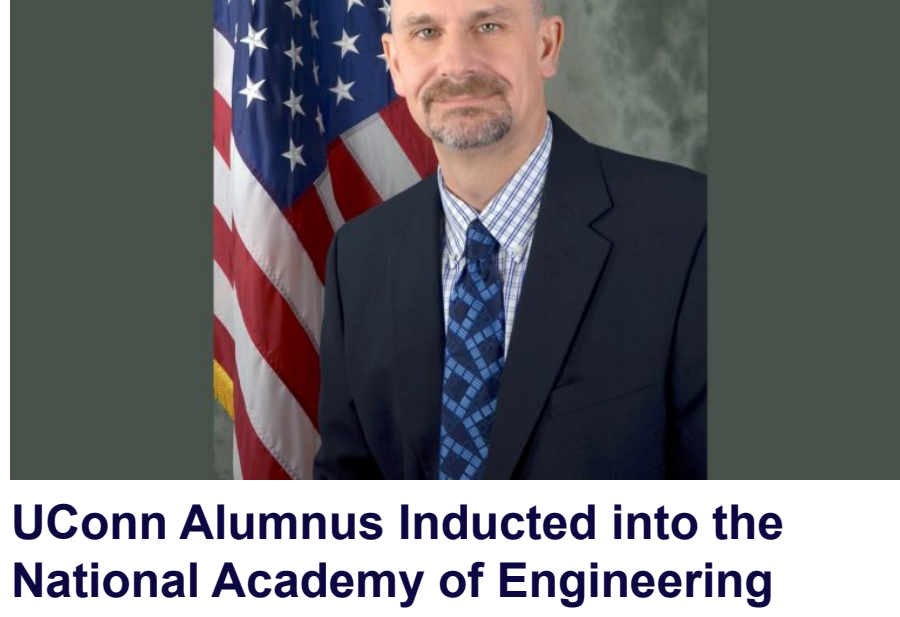


### New Cohort of University Scholars Announced

This year, 22 students were selected to join the University Scholar Program. Open to undergraduate students from all of the University's schools and colleges, the University Scholar Program allows students to design and pursue an in-depth research or creative project during their final three semesters at UConn. Projects bring together multiple fields of study, methodologies, and/or points of view, and graduation as a University Scholar is the highest academic honor bestowed on undergraduates by the University.

Please visit the [2026 University Scholar Profile Page](#) to become acquainted with the newest cohort of this challenging and prestigious program. Congratulations to all!

Current UConn sophomores are eligible to apply next fall. Visit the [University Scholar Timeline](#) to learn more about information sessions for prospective applicants on April 15 and 16.



### UConn Alumnus Inducted into the National Academy of Engineering

The National Academy of Engineering (NAE) recently inducted Timothy Bunning '87 (ENG), '88 M.S., '92 Ph.D., a three-time UConn College of Engineering alum and high-impact materials research engineer. Membership in the NAE is by invitation only and is highly competitive. Election to the NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

[Bunning joins the other UConn Engineering alumni](#) who have been inducted into the NAE for outstanding engineering contributions in industry, education, research, government, and other organizations. Bunning was the Chief Technology Officer for the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) before his recent retirement.



### Marth Mentorship Award Recipient: Yaakov Bar-Shalom

Please join us in congratulating Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Professor Yaakov Bar-Shalom, this year's winner of the [Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award](#). Named for Edward Marth, former Executive Director of the AAUP UConn Chapter, the award recognizes outstanding mentoring of graduate students by members of the UConn graduate faculty. Professor Bar-Shalom brings almost 50 years of mentorship experience, having chaired or served on the PhD committees of more than 40 graduate students. His students describe him as someone who is "truly dedicated to his students' success," has had a "transformative influence," and is "demanding yet deeply supportive, offering clear direction while fostering independence." His students have gone on to excel in academia, national laboratories, and industry.

In honor of his contributions, Professor Bar-Shalom will give an address at The Graduate School doctoral commencement ceremony.

Past Recipients of the Marth Award include Željko Bošković (2024), Diane Burgess (2023), David Knecht (2022), Crystal Park (2021), Preston Britner (2020), Sandra Chafouleas (2019), Maria-Luz Fernandez (2018), Elizabeth Jockusch (2015-2016), Shareen Hertel (2014-2015), John Mathieu (2013-2014), JC Beall (2012-2013) and Dipak Dey (2011-2012).

## UPDATES

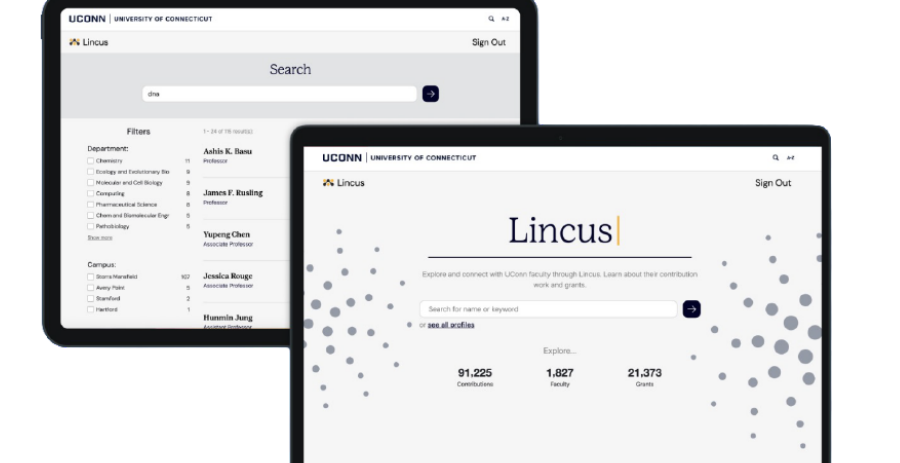


### Upcoming Online Public Forums Introduce CAHNR Dean Candidates to the UConn Community

Candidates for the position of Dean of the College of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources are visiting campus to share their perspectives on the future direction of the College and its work across teaching, research, and extension. Visits began last week and will continue through next week.

You are encouraged to hear directly from each candidate at the [upcoming public forums](#) on March 4th, 5th, and 9th at 9:45 a.m. Community engagement and feedback are an important part of the search process.

Please share your impressions of the candidates through the feedback surveys found on the [Provost's Office website](#). The website also gives details about the candidates, dates and times of the upcoming sessions, and recordings of the completed sessions.

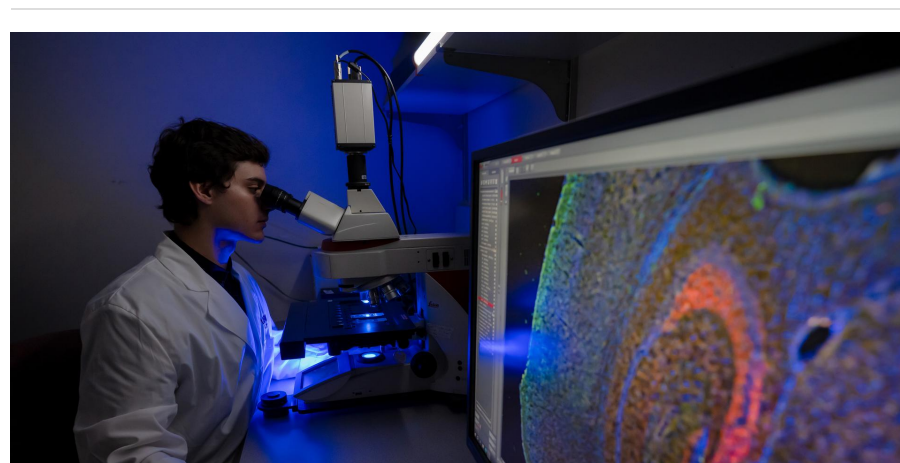


### Lincus V2 Launched

The Institutional Insights & Innovation (i3) team ([i3.uconn.edu](#)) is proud to announce the re-launch of Lincus ([lincus.uconn.edu](#)), a research discovery and collaboration tool designed to make faculty expertise more visible and accessible across UConn.

Lincus brings together scholarly activities, research interests, and publications into a single searchable platform. Faculty and staff can use it to identify potential collaborators across schools and disciplines, while administrators and the greater university community can locate expertise to support initiatives, grant proposals, and reporting.

The platform aggregates data from UConn's [Interfolio Faculty Activity Reporting \(FAR\) system](#), as well as data from faculty profiles found in [Scopus](#), to generate comprehensive profiles and map co-authorship and collaboration networks.



### 230 Students Apply to the Health Research Program in 2026

Application numbers to the [Health Research Program](#) have more than doubled since 2024. Student applications have grown from 105 in 2024, to 159 in 2025, and now to 230 in 2026. These numbers reflect an increasing demand for undergraduate student opportunities in the health sciences.

The Health Research Program works with faculty at UConn Health to introduce undergraduate students to research underway at the Farmington campus through transformative experiential learning opportunities. Research experiences offered through the Health Research Program help position students for competitive post-graduation placements in graduate school and professional training programs.

## DATES and DEADLINES



### Prof. Solomiya Ivakhiv to Perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 with the Hartford Symphony

Prof. Solomiya Ivakhiv's world-class talent will be showcased when she performs as soloist with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra in its Masterworks series concert at the Bushnell's Belding Theater, March 13-15, 2026. Prof. Ivakhiv will perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3 in G major, also known as the Strassburg-Concert.

Prof. Ivakhiv's interpretation will feature the North American premiere of Ukrainian composer Bohdana Froylak's Cadenza. A cadenza is a virtuosic interlude played by the soloist in the middle of the piece while the orchestra is silent. The Froylak Cadenza was commissioned by Prof. Ivakhiv, reflecting her support of new music and Ukrainian composers and musicians.

The program also includes crowdpleasers such as Smetana's The Bartered Bride Overture and Respighi's The Pines of Rome. Performances take place Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Visit the [ticketing website](#) to support our outstanding faculty in the arts.

Prof. Ivakhiv is Head of Strings and Professor of Violin and Viola in the School of Fine Arts.