



QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEES TO THE UCONN BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: Marybeth Sullivan, Associate Analyst

UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CGS § 10A-103 AND -104)

- 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; agriculture, economic and community development, and education commissioners; and the chairman of the UConn Health Center Board of Trustees are ex-officio members.
- The board makes rules for governing the university and develops a mission statement for it, including 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, sets tuition and fees, promotes fundraising, and establishes gift policies for its foundation.

QUESTIONS

1. You have been nominated for reappointment to the board. How has UConn changed since your initial appointment (e.g., the university's mission, its role in the state's economic development efforts, faculty and student body composition, campus appearance, etc.)?
2. What steps should UConn take to encourage more of its students to remain in Connecticut after graduating?
3. Student loan debt has become increasingly burdensome for college students and graduates. What is your assessment of the amount of debt that UConn students and graduates have? What steps can UConn take to mitigate student debt levels?
4. The state's Planning Commission for Higher Education recently released a Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education in Connecticut. The plan set a target of having at least 70% of the state's working age population possess a postsecondary credential by 2025. How can UConn assist the state with meeting this goal?
5. Demographic projections indicate that the size of the state's high school graduating cohorts will decrease over the next decade. How will UConn increase enrollment levels in light of these projections?
6. UConn reported that it surpassed an enrollment benchmark last fall for its main campus in Storrs. Have UConn's branch campuses been as successful in meeting enrollment targets? What steps can the board take to ensure that the branch campuses thrive?
7. UConn aspires to be a world-class research university. What is it doing to achieve this ambition? What additional steps should it take?
8. In 2013, the legislature authorized \$1.55 billion in bond funds for the Next Generation Connecticut capital improvement program under the UConn 2000 infrastructure program. The law required the Board of Trustees to approve a comprehensive plan by July 2014 to guide Next Generation investments. What are the plan's key elements? What progress has the university made toward meeting the plan's goals?

9. Several bills were introduced in the current legislative session that would subject university foundations (e.g., the UConn Foundation) to the state's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). UConn and its foundation opposed these bills. Do you think it would benefit the university to maintain the foundation's FOIA exemption?
10. According to university policy, the Board of Trustees must approve UConn Foundation disbursement requests that compensate the university president. The foundation recently made such a disbursement to increase President Herbst's salary. What are your thoughts on this increase?
11. UConn recently announced that it would end its relationship with the UConn Alumni Association and ask the UConn Foundation to assume alumni relations duties. What are your thoughts on the dissolution of this relationship?
12. The legislature's Higher Education Committee is considering a bill (SB 861) that would allow higher education institutions to discipline faculty members for criminal conduct while employed by the institution. It would also allow the institution to require the faculty member to submit to a criminal history records check prior to promotion. What are your thoughts on the bill? What impact would it have on UConn?
13. Last year, the General Assembly passed a law that, among other things, requires all Connecticut colleges and universities to (a) establish a campus resource team to recommend protocols for providing support services to student and employee victims of sexual assault and (b) enter into partnerships with community-based agencies that offer sexual assault and domestic violence counseling (PA 14-11). What progress has UConn made in implementing these requirements?
14. The Higher Education Committee is considering a bill that would require colleges and universities to include affirmative consent as part of their sexual assault policies as a key element in determining whether sexual activity was consensual. UConn testified that affirmative consent is already incorporated into its investigation practices and has proven to be an effective tool. Do you believe that affirmative consent should be incorporated into the sexual assault policies of all colleges and universities in Connecticut?

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