

Greetings, SLE Colleagues,

Welcome to the second half of the spring semester! I know I'm not alone in feeling inspired by the incredible achievements of our student-athletes, especially our powerhouse women's basketball team. From the classroom to the court, our students are making waves—not just as scholar-athletes but also as student leaders, future philanthropists, and visionary entrepreneurs. Their talent, ambition, and drive are unmatched, and they've come to UConn with one goal in mind: to leave a lasting mark on the world.

As many of our current students register for the Fall semester, they're taking important steps toward their academic goals. Behind the scenes, the Office of the Registrar has been working hard to roll out new registration tools as part of a multi-semester implementation of CourseLeaf Path. This exciting upgrade will not only enhance the registration experience but also provide the university with powerful tools to optimize course scheduling, improve classroom utilization, and much more.

At the same time, many students have applied for graduation and are preparing for the next chapter of their lives. For some, this means stepping into careers they've worked hard to prepare for, while others will pursue graduate studies or commission into our armed services. It's a time of immense excitement and possibility as our students take bold steps toward their futures.

Later this month, we'll present our Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan to the UConn Board of Trustees, outlining key strategies and tactics to drive continued growth in enrollment and enhance student success, all in alignment with the goals of the University Strategic Plan. In addition, April will bring deeper discussions on housing expansion and improvements, both at Storrs and across our regional campuses, ensuring that we meet the evolving needs of our community. In the coming weeks, we expect to gain greater clarity on the General Assembly's appropriation of funds, which will play a crucial role in shaping UConn's future.

As we navigate through the challenges of our work, it's important to stay grounded in our mission and remain committed to putting students at the center of everything we do. The efforts each of you make have a direct impact on the success of every student we serve. They are on their way

to making a meaningful difference in the world, and through your dedication, you are helping to shape that future.

Go Huskies!

Nathan Fuerst

Vice President for Student Life & Enrollment

DIVISIONAL HAPPENINGS

Annual Student Loan Debt Notification

The Office of Student Financial Aid Services will send its annual loan debt email to all student populations in mid-April, notifying them of their total loan debt incurred while attending UConn. This notification aims to provide greater transparency regarding the cost of their UConn education through borrowing. It also assists in planning their finances postgraduation.

National Student Employment Week

Mark your calendars for April 14-18 as we celebrate National Student Employment Week! We're kicking things off with a swagtastic giveaway to show our appreciation for our amazing student employees. Send your student employees to Wilbur Cross near the One-Stop on April 14 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to grab some fun goodies and treats!

The celebration continues on the road with a collaborative event at the School of Law in Hartford on April 16, where we'll keep showing our gratitude for our student workers. Time and location TBA.

We're also bringing back the popular Husky Spotlights, featuring this year's Student Employee of the Year nominees through a fun Q&A series, which will be posted on our website.

Don't forget to join the fun and celebrate your student employees all week long! Be sure to check out some great ideas for both virtual and in-person ways to show your appreciation:

How to Celebrate On-Campus Student Employees.pdf

Remote Student Employee Appreciation.pdf

Undergraduate Admissions: Admitted Students Update

The Admissions Office released over 53,000 first-year decisions for Storrs and regional campus applicants on February 28. While we continue to review late Storrs and on-time

regional campus applications, our focus now shifts to efforts aimed at encouraging students to choose UConn.

The first UConn Bound Day took place on the Storrs campus on March 30. We welcomed 6,337 attendees (2,336 students) on campus, 22% more attendees than last year at this time. The next Bound Day will be held on April 12, with additional events at our regional campuses in Avery Point, Hartford, Stamford, and Waterbury. These events offer admitted students the chance to explore UConn's resources and make their final enrollment decision. While some students have already chosen UConn, most are still deciding and will use these opportunities to learn more and connect with our community.

We are also hosting Admit Day programs for in-state students and receptions for out-of-state and international students, along with virtual events for those unable to attend in person. Students can also sign up for campus tours, schedule 1:1 video chats with Admissions staff, or register for Spring yield events through their applicant portal.

Special thanks to all staff for their efforts in planning these Spring visit opportunities. We look forward to connecting with our admitted students and families in the coming months!

Spring Semester Housing Updates

RA Hiring Summary:

The Resident Assistant (RA) hiring process for the 2025-2026 academic year has successfully concluded. A total of 335 RAs have been appointed to the Storrs campus, with 137 new to the role. In Stamford, 20 RAs were hired, including 11 newcomers. On April 16, the new RA staff will participate in a Meet & Greet event, which will feature team-building activities and an introduction to the expectations for fall training. Additionally, on April 9, the Residential Life staff will gather for the annual end-of-year awards recognition banquet.

Housing Selection Times Now Available:

Approximately 8,100 students will soon receive their selection times for the upcoming housing selection process, during which they will choose their housing for Fall 2025. The process spans the first week of April, with students in specialty communities (Honors, Learning Communities, Wellness, ASL, Gender Inclusive, and Gender Neutral) selecting housing within their designated areas. The general housing selection process, which most students will participate in, will begin on April 9 and conclude on May 2.

Roommate Matching Available Before Selection Dates:

All students participating in the housing selection process can match with and request roommates who are also part of the same process. Roommate requests are facilitated through an online platform called My College Roomie. Students can either identify someone they already know and want to live with or create a profile to search for students with similar preferences and living styles. The platform provides guidance and matching percentages to help students find their ideal roommate!

Cancellation Deadline for Fall Housing:

The current fee for students to cancel their housing is \$500, available through May 1. Starting on May 2, the cancellation fee will increase to 50% of the housing rate. Students can cancel their housing through a form in their housing portal or contact livingoncampus@uconn.edu with any questions regarding cancellation deadlines and fees.

New Student Onboarding Portal Now Open!

Students at all campuses who have paid their enrollment fee should have received an email invitation to begin their onboarding process and sign up for an orientation session.

In the first two weeks, over 1,100 students have logged into the onboarding portal, with nearly 400 already signed up for orientation.

An overview of orientation, the student task list, orientation dates, sample schedules, and the Storrs Family Guide can be found on the <u>Orientation website</u>.

To learn more about the specific items on the student onboarding task list, you can view a PDF of the full list here: VZ Onboarding Task List Overview - Summer 2025.pdf.

Bears Smokehouse Now Open in the Student Union!

On February 17, 2025, Bears Smokehouse officially opened its new location in the Student Union, marking the culmination of a year-long collaborative effort. We extend our appreciation to UConn Real Estate, Dining Services, Facilities Operations, Student Union and Event Services staff, the One Card Office, and SLE Division leadership for their support in making this happen.

If you haven't already, stop by the Student Union to try some delicious Kansas City-style BBQ! While you're there, be sure to explore other great dining options, including Sambazon (Açaí bowls), the Market Café, the Marketplace, Earth Wok n Fire, the C-Store (Convenience Store), Dunkin', and Subway.

Outdoor Space Reservations at the Student Union

Student Union and Event Services manages the reservation of outdoor spaces on the Storrs campus, including fields, green spaces, roads, and parking areas. This excludes spaces managed by Athletics, UConn Recreation, and UConn's agricultural areas (e.g., Horsebarn Hill).

While we facilitate the initial reservations, we collaborate with various University departments, including University Safety, Facilities Operations, Parking Services, and others, to ensure the proper coordination of each space.

Departments and Registered Student Organizations can request outdoor space by completing an <u>Outdoor Space Request form</u> or a <u>Tabling Request form</u>. External vendors should complete the **Vendor Request form** on the same site.

For questions, contact the SU Reservations team Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM:

Phone: 860-486-3421

Email: <u>sureservations@uconn.edu</u>
In-Person: Student Union, Suite 106

UCPEA Performance Evaluations

The annual performance review is an essential part of employee-supervisor communication, helping recognize performance, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen relationships. Supervisors are responsible for conducting performance management and submitting evaluations, as outlined in Article 21.1 of the UCPEA contract.

Activity & Achievement Report:

Supervisors may require or employees may voluntarily submit an Annual Report of Activity and Achievement by April 15, 2024, covering job-related activities and achievements between May 1, 2024, and April 30, 2025.

Evaluation Forms:

The Annual Evaluation form and more details are available on the UConn HR <u>UCPEA</u> Performance Evaluation website.

Important Dates:

- April 15 Deadline for submitting Academic & Achievement Report
- May 1 Deadline to present performance evaluations to employees (Article 21.2c)
- May 15 Deadline for submitting evaluations to Human Resources

Strategic Planning and Assessment

Announcing SLE's U-LEAD Academy!

We are excited to share more information about a new opportunity within SLE! SLE's **U**Conn **L**eadership, **E**ngagement, **A**nd **D**evelopment Academy (U-LEAD) is a new initiative for staff focused on enhancing the leadership skills that foster an environment of connection and success for us and the students we serve. For more information and to nominate yourself or someone else, <u>click here!</u>

In Partnership,

Liza Boritz

Director, Planning, Assessment, and Evaluation

Important Dates, Deadlines & Events

April 10: UConn Spirit Awards Reception

April 12: UConn Bound Day, Storrs

April 12-20: Passover (Please click <u>here</u> for information on Passover Meals)

April 21-22: UConn Gives

May 2: Last day of classes

May 3-4: Reading Days

May 5-10: Final Exams

May 10-12: Commencement Ceremonies

2025 Religious & Cultural Important Dates

UConn is a great university.

But it's more than that. A top-ranked Land and Sea Grant research institution, with campuses and staff across Connecticut, built to inspire the global community that is UConn Nation. UConn's talented students exceed expectations. Our expert researchers, faculty, and alumni drive Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIE) for a better tomorrow. We fuel the State's economy and are committed to inclusion with emotional intelligence in benefiting the greater good. **This is UConn.**

STUDENTS FIRST. UCONN ALWAYS. HUSKIES FOREVER.

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