

News

UConn President Radenka Maric resigns

by **Wendy's William**
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University of Connecticut President Radenka Maric announced that she's leaving her position as university leader at the annual State of the Arches address held in Gampel Pavilion Tuesday.

Approximately 16,007 attendees cheered during Maric's announcement that Ronald McDonald will be the UConn president, replacing her as soon as April 20, 2026.

"It has been an honor to watch UConn flourish in academic, athletic and research excellence under my leadership. After being so successful, I made the difficult decision to move on to bigger and better things," Maric said to the stadium filled past capacity. "I am excited to take Ronald McDonald's place as mascot of McDonald's."

Maric said she hopes to remain influential to the UConn campus after her departure, citing changes to South Dining Hall as one of her primary goals as mascot.

"Although I'll have a different role, I want the Huskies to know that this is not goodbye," Maric said. "Ronald McDonald and I have an amazing rela-

tionship because of our shared initials, and he told me he plans to keep me in close contact for university decision making."

Maric then described her desire to completely deconstruct the South dining hall and replace it with a buffet-style McDonald's that



PHOTO COURTESY OF (L) AND (R)

employs students. "South dining hall has suffered from poor food quality and utensil cleanliness for a while now, and my new job creates a great opportuni-

ty to finally change that. Big Macs, French fries and Chicken McNuggets don't need any utensils and can stay out for a long time before they look unappetizing," Maric said.

One change that Maric didn't announce during the address was the proposal for the McDonald's to not accept any meal swipes. Each student will have to pay \$12.34 to enter the McDonald's instead, according to the agenda for the next board of trustees meeting.

Goals for Maric as McDonald's mascot also extend beyond the UConn campus. One example she gave was

world when I visit as mascot. Accommodating the business and revenue I'll bring to McDonald's should take precedence over the limits for people's comfort," Maric said.

After Maric made her presentation and announcement, McDonald surprised students with a style switch-up when he came on stage wearing a bright red and yellow pro-

pack with even more clown behavior than you're used to."

McDonald also used his time on stage to discuss the changes he's most eager to make as president, including a complete overhaul of the current \$99 million renovation at the Gampel Pavilion.

"Pay attention and take pictures of where you're standing today because soon it will be unrecognizable," McDonald said. "Gampel brings great joy to so many students on campus, which is why I am discarding the current renovation to make room for a giant playscape."

Replacing the renovation plan with a playscape will not just reduce the cost of the project but also raise profits for UConn, McDonald said.

His plan to fundraise for UConn through the playscape proposal was to have McDonald's sponsor it.

"I'm sure this will make UConn students even happier than a Happy Meal," McDonald said.

Conditions for the sponsorship include removing the UConn husky logo in favor of the McDonald's golden arches and having prominent UConn ath-

letes like Braylon Mullins and Sarah Strong to feature in ad campaigns going down the slides in the playscape, according to a statement by McDonald's CEO Chris Kempczinski.

"I'm lovin' it," McDonald said, gesturing towards the audience's wild reaction when he came on stage. "I can't wait to lead the husky

New parking policy: no tickets, straight to jail

by **Tommy Two-Toes**
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Starting in the 2026-2027 school year, the University of Connecticut Parking services will end the practice of parking tickets and will start sending parking violators to a recently opened private prison, near Depot Campus, after running a short two-month pilot program.

In an email with the Daily Scampus, a university spokesperson highlighted that a change in procedure was needed to crack down on an influx of violations on parking rules.

"After discussing with the university administration — and one or two private prison contractors — we decided to go forward with this change to more strongly enforce our parking rules, so that parking pass holders get the parking they paid for," said the spokesperson.

When asked about UConn's involvement with the prison, the spokesperson said "UConn vehemently denies any involvement in the building of the new prison. There is no coincidence between

their involvement in the company offered the contract to build the prison, and the fact parking services is providing free labor — NOT providing free labor in the form of parking violators. Don't include that in your article."

According to documents I found lying around on the floor, the prison was built with the help of BetterPrisons, a for-profit private prison contractor based in New England. The board of directors includes Brett Favre, Peter Thiel and Sam Altman.

When the Daily Scampus reached out to all three men for comments, they responded with "Get the fuck out of my house"

"You don't have to be naked to piss yourself."

GHEE BUTTERSNAAPS

According to another host of documents on the floor, several university administrators are listed on the prison's board of directors, including president Radenka Maric, and the spokesperson

arrived to our interview in a brand-new Tesla Cybertruck.

It begs the question: How is the new depot campus prison?

Benjamin Ballyhoo is a 12th semester joy and whimsy double major who recently did two months in the Depot Campus prison for parking without a pass. He described his time in prison as "one inconvenience after another."

"The guards deliberately give you a bed smaller than you are, so your toes stick out and get cold while sleeping," said Ballyhoo. "They'll run the showers at random time intervals, depending on this massive wheel they spin, ranging from three seconds to four seconds. The cafeteria has plastic cutlery that breaks as soon as it touches any food, so you end up eating with your hands; the food's not even good, it's just dog food."

"The only time the guards give a shit about you is when we're sewing clothes, which they swear we have to do to keep us busy and 'serve our time,' but I've seen them being shipped off in Shein trucks," Ballyhoo said. "The only positive of my prison stay was that I got excused from doing

assignments and I found out I'm really good at sewing."

Labra Duddle is a fourth semester brewing student who works as a guard. When asked why he decided to work here instead of literally anywhere else, he responded with "dude it's \$40 an hour. All I gotta do is make

sure the prisoners are sewing shirts and serve them dog chow, I spend half my day playing Clash [Royale]."

"Some prisoners hate the dog food, but I'm quite fond of it because I get a lot of protein in," said Duddle. "I've gained 10 pounds of muscle since working here and everyone's complementing my gains; Radenka gave me a wolf whistle when she came to visit. Only side-effect I've noticed is that I started craving belly rubs, but who doesn't want belly rubs?"



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