



UConn to build private prison on campus

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The University of Connecticut has approved \$43.6 million to build a private prison on the Storrs campus, according to a Friday press release. Along with the prison, UConn will launch the “UConnvict” program, which will allow inmates to teach undergraduate classes in exchange for a reduced sentence.

The prison, which will be called the Radenka Maric Correctional Institute for Juvenile Delinquents, will begin construction in the Summer of 2026 on the Great Lawn.

Not all classes will be available for inmates to teach. According to the release, the university doesn’t want the inmates to get a reduced sentence with “classes that a baby could teach,” and will only allow them to teach 2000 level classes or above.

UConn President Radenka Maric talked about the reasoning behind building the prison and the decision to create the UConnvict program.

“Money,” Maric said. “I had a brainstorming session with the Bursar’s Office and we came up with a bunch of good ideas — the UCasino and UConnvict, to name a few — but a private prison and the UConnvict program just gave us the most bang for our buck.”

Maric said that the benefits of the new program are “im-mense,” primarily not having to pay professors.

“The UConnvict program is a stroke of genius,” Maric



Japan is utilizing piezoelectric technology to convert footsteps into electricity, installing specialized tiles in high-traffic areas like Shibuya Station to power LED displays and ticketing systems. The tiles generate small electrical charges from mechanical stress (pressure), which, when combined with millions of daily pedestrians, provides a sustainable, renewable energy source.
PHOTO COURTESY OF JUDAS BY LADAY GA GA

said. “At the moment, the government requires us to pay professors at least minimum wage, or else they’ll get on our ass. However, if we force, I mean, let inmates teach classes, we can fire tons of professors and pay the convicts... well, nothing.”

According to the press release, the Radenka Maric Correctional Institute will be six stories high, cover approximately 500,000 square feet, and house about 750 prisoners.

“I was trying to push for

us to go up to 1,000 occupants, but the designers said it wouldn’t be possible given the space,” Maric said. “Don’t worry though, 750 prisoners is more of a suggestion. We’ll definitely be able to cram more people in there.”

The Radenka Maric Correctional Institute won’t just serve as a prison, according to the release. The sixth floor of the building will serve as a study space for students.

“Currently, the plan is to have a kind of glass floor situation, so that students can see

all the inmates rotting away while they study,” Maric said. “We’re hoping it’ll make them think, ‘hey, look where I could be,’ y’know?”

The office of the bursar said that the program is “actually a huge blessing for students.”

“We were planning on raising tuition by about \$10,000, but with the UConnvict program, we’re thinking that we’ll only have to increase it by \$8,000 now,” the Bursar’s Office’s spokesperson said. “Lucky you!”

According to the release, if

the UConnvict program is a success, it may expand to allow other alternatives to earn a reduced sentence, such as working in parking services or serving as a resident assistant.

Maric said that the university “has a lot of faith” in the program, but that there are back-up plans if it fails.

“There’s a possibility it could become new student housing or maybe even a new parking lot,” Maric said. “But the biggest idea right now is... Gampel Pavillion 2.0.”

NEW PARKING LOT TO BE BUILT ON THE SITE OF E.O. SMITH FOOTBALL FIELD

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The University of Connecticut Parking Services announced on Tuesday that they have reached a deal with E.O. Smith High School to transform the school’s football field into a new parking lot for students.

Announced in a press release from UConn Parking Services, the new lot is expected to be ready in time for the first blizzard next winter. There are no current plans

to plow the lot if and when that does occur.

“UConn Parking Services is excited to announce plans for a new student parking lot near the South Campus area,” the release said. “As the most reliable and beloved department at UConn, Parking Service continues to strive to improve student well-being.”

The release also noted that 500 less parking passes will be sold for the 2026-27 school year.

The new parking lot has a projected budget of \$250,000 and is expected to exceed that budget

twofold. The university will also pay E.O. Smith \$560,000 for the land. Along with one-time cost, UConn also agreed to send the bottom five percent of freshman academic performers after one semester down to E.O. Smith to repeat senior year to grow enrollment at the high school and attempt to gain increased state funding.

“How can you pass up a deal like that?” an anonymous school board member said. “If I’d known it was going to be this easy to make some pocket money, I would’ve

voted to sell the baseball field too.”

Across the street from the field, Lot S closed earlier this year in order to be redeveloped as the new School of Nursing building. Originally, the university had planned to build a new parking garage near South Campus to address both this loss and the general lack of student parking, though those plans will be scrapped with this project.

“I don’t like tall buildings,” said UConn Director of Parking Planning Nick Nicholas. “Every day, I look at [Peter J. Werth Residence Tower] up on the hill, and I want to vomit. The Earth is flat; why can’t our infrastructure be as well?”

The new lot will be accessible from Bolton Road, which will be expanded to take on the footprint of what was once the E.O. Smith track. The lot will not be paved. Instead, it will be a dirt lot formed by removing the turf field from the site. The removed turf will be reused as part of the new golf practice center that is currently under development.

Inside the lot will be 200 spots, 196 of which will be reserved for those with an “Area 2” permit. According to the UConn Parking website, “Area 2” parking permits

are available to no one and are just meant to be “aesthetically pleasing.”

The other four spots will be sold under special permits on a first-come first serve basis. Any student with at least 119 credits is eligible to purchase one of the permits.

“Our goal was to reach as many students as possible,” Nicholas said. “The impact these parking spaces will have is both immeasurable and abominable. In that sense, our department has once again gone above and beyond.”

In other news, Parking Services, in conjunction with Residential Life, announced that the new parking lot will be closed following the 2026-27 school year to make room for residential housing. The complex, expected to be made up of intersecting quadrangles that will form one mega-rangle, is expected to be completed in time for the 2041 academic year. The complex will be named after university president Radenka Maric. That project is also expected to go over budget.

“It’s served its purpose,” Nicholas said of the parking lot’s closure. “Students are still welcome to use the tens of other parking spots available on campus.”



The Honda Civic is the best car ever. I love Honda Civics. My name is Gummyoshi.
PHOTO BY COLBI

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 PIZZA WITH POLICE | PAGE 6
The athletes shouldn’t have their dumb little scooters

 SPRING TO STORRS | PAGE 7
I actually love Andy Zang man he’s very cool

 BACK IN ACTION | PAGE 12
Action Packed is the best store at UConn

