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Volume CXXX, Issue no. 52 | Wednesday, November 18, 2026 | dailycampus.com

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WOMEN'S SWIM
Nov. 17-20 | Iowa City, IA

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 18 | 9 p.m. | Tuscon, Ariz.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 19 | 7 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 20 | 6 p.m. | Burlington, VT

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Nov. 20 | 8 p.m. | Hartford, Conn.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 21 | Durham, N.H.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Nov. 21 | 3 p.m. | Burlington, VT

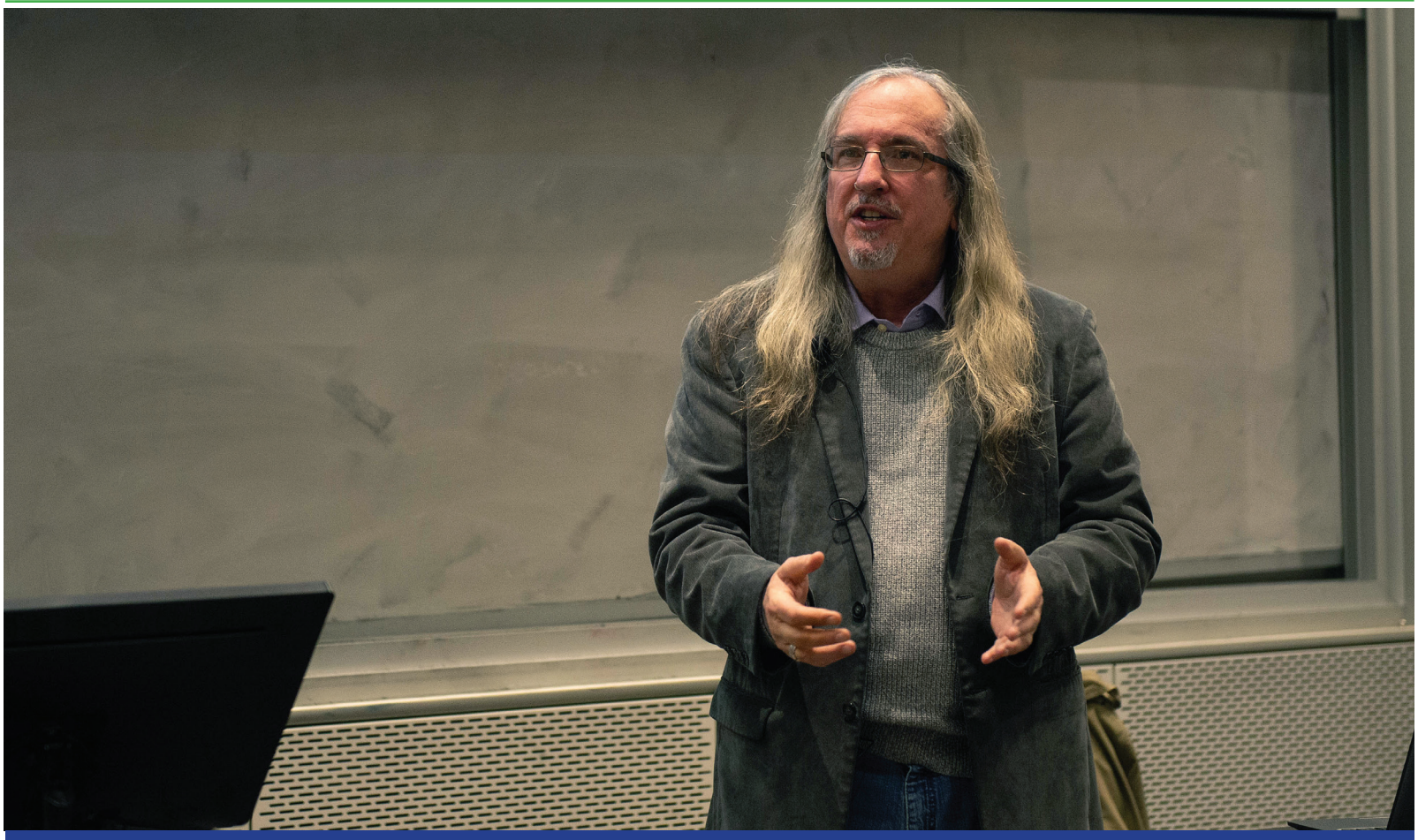
FOOTBALL
Nov. 21 | 3:30 p.m. | East Hartford, Conn.

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University Senate request's role in the presidential selection and evaluation process



Michael Morrell speaks to the University Senate in Gant West on Monday, Nov. 16th, 2026. The University Senate met to discuss their proposal to the Board of Trustees regarding a new university President.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS

by Garret Saxonhouse
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
HE/HIM/HIS
dmo25007@uconn.edu

The University of Connecticut university senate held a hybrid special senate meeting on Monday to pass two motions requesting the Board of Trustees include students, staff, alumni and faculty in the process of selecting an interim president or evaluating the performance of UConn's current president.

The senate, which typically meets at the beginning of every month during the academic year, called a special session, which requires approval from 25% of voting members. The special meeting comes on the heels of news that current university president Radenka Maric, whose term is set to end in June 2027, may be replaced or leave the school entirely. Several trustees would not vote to renew Maric's contract, WNTH reported.

At the same time, Maric may be eyeing a future outside of UConn, becoming one of three finalists for the position of chancellor at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

According to the University By-Laws, while the Board of Trustees selects the next president, board members are expected to appoint an advisory committee of up to 15 members to seek input on potential candidates and select finalists to present to the board. Six members of the board must be faculty, and one undergraduate and graduate student are also selected. This process, however, is not required in the search for interim president or evaluating a sitting president.

During the meeting, Micheal Morrell, senate chair and associate professor of political science made clear that he hoped to see the advisory committee involved in future evaluations and interim president searches, especially if a national search is being conducted. Senator Andrew Bush agreed with Morrell's sentiment mentioning that a contract review or interim president search will happen soon and "not talking to the community would be detrimental."

"What is the history in our involvement in choosing a university president?" Senator Beth Ginsburg asked. "The fact that this has not been resolved seems odd to me. We can make all the resolutions we want; the board of trustees may not listen."

Del Siegle, senator and meeting moderator, responded to Ginsburg's comments by talking about his own experience being on the committee that selected the president, which was run by an outside consulting group. Siegle felt that his inputs were valued by the board.

Morrell mentioned the board has previously excluded non-members from the decision-making process for interim presidents. After the resignation of former president Andrew Agwunobi, Maric was named interim president without outside input.

Another concern of meeting attendees was increasing the precision of the proposed motions to ensure that people outside the board could have input on the selection process in most scenarios. Accordingly, several amendments to the resolutions were proposed.

An amendment was proposed to involve non-trustee stakeholders in the renewal of the president's contract rather than just evaluations as proposed by the original resolution. That amendment was passed through a voice vote.

Another amended resolution involved the board including community stakeholders in the selection of interim president unless "impossible or impractical." The word "impractical" was seen as too vague and eliminated from the resolution.

Another amendment to the resolutions proposed a change to the by-laws to give the non-trustee stakeholders a role in presidential performance evaluations and contract renewals. This amendment was seen as too confusing and got voted down, but Morrell said he would work on revisions to the resolution and bring it back to the senate as soon as possible.

Del Siegle writes on a piece of paper in Gant West on Monday, Nov. 16th, 2026. The University Senate met to discuss their proposal to the Board of Trustees regarding a new university President.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL JEFFERS, GRAB PHOTOGRAPHER/THE DAILY CAMPUS



After going through the amendment process, the senate then voted to pass the resolution requesting the inclusion of more stakeholder input in the presidential selection process.

The second motion requests that the board's start the presidential search process when they become aware the president is not going to finish their term. According to the resolution, an early beginning to the search process could ensure input from relevant stakeholders beyond the board of trustees.

"Such proactive planning would support leadership continuity, minimize the need for interim appointments, and promote stability, institutional trust, and shared governance," the resolution read. The second motion also passed by unanimous voice vote before the meeting was adjourned.