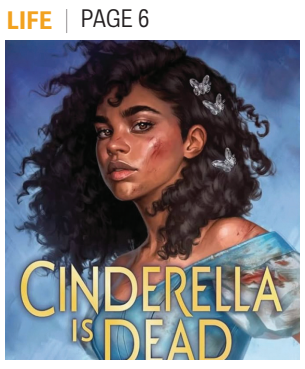
The Daily Campus

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies host Purdue in final preseason tune-up

SPORTS EVENTS OF THE WEEK

MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 26 | Maui, HI

MEN'S GOLF
Oct. 27 | Maui, HI

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 27 | 6 p.m. | Queens, NY

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Oct. 27 | 7 p.m. | Hartford, Conn.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 28 | 6:30 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 29 | 7 p.m. | Worcestor, Mass.

CROSS COUNTRY
Oct. 30 | Richmond, VA

FIELD HOCKEY
Oct. 30 | 3 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 30 | 6 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 30 | 6 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 30 | 7 p.m. | North Andover, Mass.

WOMEN'S SWIM
Oct. 31 | noon | Storrs, Conn.

FOOTBALL
Oct. 31 | 3 p.m. | USAF Academy, CO

VOLLEYBALL
Oct. 31 | 4 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

MEN'S HOCKEY
Oct. 31 | 4:30 p.m. | North Andover, Mass.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 31 | 6:30 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

MEN'S SOCCER
Oct. 31 | 6:30 p.m. | Storrs, Conn.

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RECORDS DETAIL UCONN PROFESSOR'S HARASSMENT INVESTIGATIONS

by Katie Servas
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University of Connecticut tenured history professor Ricardo Salazar-Rey was terminated on Oct. 20, following his third sexual harassment investigation.

Salazar-Rey was notified of his termination via letter on Oct. 20 by Amy Gorin, senior vice provost for Health Sciences and Interdisciplinary Initiatives. Salazar-Rey had been on administrative leave since April prior to his termination.

Students enrolled in Salazar-Rey's courses were notified of his leave by Mark Healey, associate professor and department head of history, through HuskyCT.

The complaint was filed on April 15 by a student enrolled in Salazar-Rey's freshman-level history course studying Latin America and the Caribbean.

The complaint said Salazar-Rey began texting messages, memes and videos to the student in February 2026. The series of text messages was received in a Freedom of Information request by The Daily Campus.

One of the messages included a screenshot of a YouTube video comment stating, "Just because she likes some bizzarro crap you do doesn't mean she's your soul mate," followed by text messages, "Want it to be us? Or US?"

In another message between Salazar-Rey and the student, Salazar-Rey stated his desire for a relationship and young children. The student replied to the message, telling him that he "would be able to find that again." Salazar-Rey replied to this message by stating, "Unless it's you, I'm not sure that you can be sure."

Salazar-Rey was placed on administrative leave on April 28, banned from campus and restricted from contacting students or faculty without authorization. He was issued a formal notice from Alison Cutler, a labor relations manager from UConn's human resources department.

The investigation was initiated by Jamila Goolgar, associate director of the Office for Inclusion and Civil Rights (OICR) and former equal employment opportunity investigator from OIE. The OICR proceedings were overseen by Sarah Chipman, director of civil rights compliance and Title IX coordinator, who tracked the prior institutional history between Salazar-Rey and his students.

Salazar-Rey expressed his frustration with his previous administrative leave with the university on his personal Facebook page between 2025 and 2026.

He posted a photo on Aug. 27, 2025, of a "motivational shirt." The shirt depicts the text "Per my last email," with images of stick figures punching, kicking and attacking another figure.

The second complaint against Salazar-Rey was filed by a former undergraduate student in 2023. The complainant alleged that from February to August Salazar-Rey had pursued an amorous relationship and engaged in in sex-based and sexual harassment.

UConn's Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence defines amorous relationships as "intimate, sexual and/or any other type of amorous encounter or relationship, whether casual or serious, short-term or long-term."

Sexual harassment is defined in the policy as "discriminatory harassment that consists of unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. This may include, but is not limited to, unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, inappropriate touching, acts of sexual violence or other unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non- verbal, graphic, physical, written or otherwise."

Salazar-Rey was notified of the investigation via letter on Sep. 26, 2023 by Chipman.

The complaint was filed on Sept. 7, 2023, by a student enrolled in a course taught by Salazar-Rey in the Spring 2023 semester.

The complainant said Salazar-Rey frequently complemented her appearance, writing skills and that he had purchased a LEGO flower set for her.

Salazar-Rey encouraged students to contact him via text message rather than email.

During the semester, the complainant met with Salazar-Rey during his office hours to discuss work for the class. In one of these meetings, both individuals shared personal information about their respective personal/sexual identities, as stated in the OIE findings report.

As the spring semester ended, Salazar-Rey approached the complainant, asking if they would be interested in working as a teaching assistant for one of his summer courses from May 31 to June 30, 2023.

The complainant accepted the position and began working with Salazar-Rey during the summer 2023 semester.

The professor sent the complainant $500 from his personal funds on July 9, 2023, to pay her for work during this time as she had yet to receive payment from the university. After receiving the payment from CoreCT, she returned the $500 back to Salazar-Rey on July 18, 2023.

Following this work with Salazar-Rey, the complainant withdrew from UConn and transferred to another university on matters unrelated to the allegations, according to the OIE report. The complainant continued to work with Salazar-Rey as arranged through the history department, as an outside/non-University affiliated contractor.

The two continued to message back and forth, including a series of photos and videos, one of which included a video sent by the complainant about trying to build a chair on Aug. 23, 2023. Salazar-Rey commented on the video stating that she needed to "seduce" a male student to assist. He then replied, "Why go seduce another [male] when I come pre-seduced and I'm ready to help."



The UConn Stamford building located in downtown Stamford. UConn Stamford professor, Ricardo Salazar-Rey was fired on Tuesday following sexual harassment complaints.
PHOTO COURTESY OF @JOHN9474 ON WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

On Aug. 29, 2023, Salazar-Rey shared a photo with the complainant which showed a whiteboard and the complainant's name written at the top.

The message was written in Spanish but was translated as saying, "I am falling in love with you. What I feel is wrong. It is probable that I am reading the signals wrong."

The complainant then replied to the photo asking him [Salazar-Rey] if she misunderstood the writing on the whiteboard, to which he replied she did not.

She then expressed that she did not have any romantic attraction to him, strictly viewing him as a mentor, continuing to state that he had "betrayed [her] trust" and caused her "serious distrust," as stated in the OIE findings report.

"Complainant stated that she viewed Respondent as a mentor and knew he was a father. She stated that she tried to 'rationalize' his behavior toward her by assuming his actions were intended as 'fatherly' or expressing 'kindness,'" as stated by the complainant in their OIE interview.

The two have not communicated since this interaction.

"The evidence does not support that Respondent's interactions with Complainant first demonstrated romantic intent only after Complainant's status as an undergraduate student ended. But rather, prior to end Spring 2023 semester (while Complainant's status was still as a University undergraduate student)," according to the fact and analysis section of the OIE case.

The case found that Salazar-Rey violated university policy against discrimination and harassment. He was then given a 15-day unpaid suspension from work for pursuing a relationship with an undergraduate student.

The suspension was set to be served across two different time periods in 2024. One from March 11 to 15 and the other from May 8 to 21.

A notice was given to Salazar-Rey after his suspension by Gladis Kersaint, the vice provost for academic affairs, which warned him of larger repercussions if he violated the policy again. "Please understand that similar incidents cannot occur in the future. Any further incidents will result in more severe disciplinary action, up to and including termination of your employment," Kersaint said.

Salazar-Rey, a tenured professor, was informed of his approval of tenure and of a promotion to associate professor in the department of history, on April 20, 2020, by a letter from John Elliott, the former interim provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

A discrimination and discriminatory harassment complaint form was submitted to the Office of Institutional Equity on Oct. 12, 2019, marking the first investigation into Salazar-Rey's conduct with students.

This complaint was filed with the Office of Institutional Equity and the investigation was initiated by Goolgar.

As stated in the form, the complainant was in one of Salazar-Rey's courses and met with him to work on a project for the course on Oct. 4. During this meeting, the complainant left the Stamford campus and offered Salazar-Rey a ride home.

At approximately 6 p.m., Salazar-Rey told the complainant that he was going to the liquor store and asked her if she wanted anything. She declined, but when he returned to campus, he made a drink in the faculty office containing a mixture of gin and tonic.

The two left the campus and went to Scalzi Park to play a round of tennis before arriving at Salazar-Rey's home. At approximately 8 p.m. the complainant prepared to leave the apartment and Salazar-Rey said he hugged her around her shoulder, denying that he tried to kiss her. Salazar-Rey also said he does not typically hug his students, but did in this case following his "intense conversation" with the complainant about their families'.

They arrived at Salazar-Rey's apartment at approximately 7 p.m., the complainant helped carry his belongings to the upper level and asked to use the bathroom. When exiting the bathroom, the complainant reached down to pick up her keys and alleged that Salazar-Rey "grabbed" her by the waist, pulled her toward him and tried to kiss her. According to the OIE case, the complainant responded by pushing Salazar-Rey away while saying "Salazar, what the f**k are you doing?"

Following this interaction, the complainant exited Salazar-Rey's apartment and received a text message from him approximately an hour later asking if they would be interested in discussing a project he was working on that needed another administrator. The complainant said they did not reply.

Salazar-Rey was placed on administrative leave on Oct. 9, 2019, pending the outcome of the investigation. He was notified of the investigation on Nov. 1, 2019.

Salazar-Rey replied to these allegations by saying the complainant was "good friends" with his eldest son and that they attended the same high school. He said the complainant had visited his home once or twice, but had minimal interactions with him.

The complainant reported this incident to the UConn Police Department the day after, prior to the submission of the OIE complaint.

Following the UCPD and OIE reports, the police noted minor inconsistencies between the complainant's interviews. The complainant told police that Salazar-Rey did not physically touch her during the attempted kiss, but in the OIE interview she said he grabbed her by the waist.

The investigation concluded that based on the contrasting accounts of both parties and the "lack of corroboration of either party's account," there was not enough information to support the allegations concerning Salazar-Rey.

OIE concluded that there was insufficient evidence finding Salazer-Rey in violation of the UConn Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence. It was noted that Salazar-Rey's conduct may implicate other university policies outside of OIE's jurisdiction. The case was then referred to management, with a consultation with human resources.

Salazar-Rey returned from administrative leave after the first student complaint in 2019 and received a written discipline.