

A Statement from the Current Undergraduate Trustee

What is the undergraduate trustee?

The undergraduate trustee is the sole undergraduate on the UConn Board of Trustees, which is the executive board for the university. You have voting rights for the full board as well as your chosen few committee meetings. The fiduciary responsibility of being a trustee means that you must do what is best for the university in the long run, which means balancing your role as a student representative with the interests of other stakeholders. The undergraduate trustee should especially work with the regional students governments, administrators from all campuses, and Tier IIIs to increase efficiency, condense concerns, and progress the One UConn vision.

What is the time commitment like?

It varies depending on the needs at the time. There are in person meetings with the entire Board at the Storrs campus in Wilbur Cross' North Reading Room approximately once a month. The Financial and Academic Affairs Committees meet right before the Board meetings and typically in the same room. They tend to be pithy and of shorter duration than other meetings. Thus, if you are on them, you likely won't need to change your schedule much more than you otherwise would have. The Buildings, Grounds, and Environment Committee meets in South Dorms' Rome Ballroom and on separate days from the main Board meetings, so if you are on it, the time commitment would need to be about once a month for approximately 3-5 hours. All meetings tend to begin at 9:00-10:30 am, and the duration depends on the workload. You choose the committees that you are on.

The outside time commitment of the undergraduate trustee fluxes. During the budget crisis for instance, the work was equivalent to a full time job due to constant inquiries, deadlines, and important events. During future budget crises, the undergraduate trustee must devote the proper time to connecting the regionals' and Storrs' efforts to protect the university's budget. Other campus wide concerns tend to require more time as well. Typically, one should have office hours each week in the trustee office located in the student union; twice a week would be effective. This office is shared with the graduate trustee.

What was it like being the undergraduate trustee?

It was fulfilling to be able to use the position to help the masses. It is rare for undergraduates to have complete access to administration and be incorporated in university wide decisions, and thus it is imperative to use those rights to help others who do not have them. The undergraduate student body has only one representative on the Board, and thus one must provide as much representation for their constituents as possible. Examples include advocating for the Trustee

Bill, staying up to date on administrative as well as student concerns as to provide a proper fiduciary perspective, looking into all student inquiries and answering them, bringing student concerns to administration, balancing the needs of diverse perspectives, etc. However, it is a fully voluntary position, and thus no work is required. It is important that the undergraduate trustee thus be a good public servant that will work hard without supervision and through their own motivation. It is also a less public position than leadership positions in Tier III organizations such as USG, and thus most work is not public or noticed by the masses. The undergraduate trustee must therefore work with the core intent of fulfilling their fiduciary responsibility.

A background in budgeting or government is by no means applicable or necessary for candidates. I also strongly encourage undergraduates of all demographics and campuses to apply.

Would you recommend that I run for the student trustee position?

Of course, it is a fantastic experience.

How can I contact you for more information?

My email is christine.savino@uconn.edu or you can reach me through the Undergraduate Trustee UConntact page.