



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 196

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 997

Senate, March 29, 2021

The Committee on Higher Education and Employment Advancement reported through SEN. SLAP of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 10a-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) There shall continue to be a Board of Trustees [for] of The
4 University of Connecticut to consist of [twenty-one] twenty-five
5 persons, twelve to be appointed by the Governor, who shall reflect the
6 state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity; two to be elected by the
7 university alumni; [two] four to be elected by the students enrolled at
8 the institutions under the jurisdiction of said board; two to be elected by
9 the University Senate of said university; and five members ex officio.

10 (b) On or before July 1, 1983, the Governor shall appoint [members]
11 trustees to the board as follows: Four [members] trustees for a term of
12 two years from said date; four [members] trustees for a term of four

13 years from said date; and four [members] trustees for a term of six years
14 from said date. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint trustees of said
15 university to succeed those appointees whose terms expire, and each
16 trustee so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the
17 first day of July in the year of his or her appointment, provided two of
18 the trustees appointed for terms commencing July 1, 1995, and their
19 successors shall be alumni of the university, one of the trustees
20 appointed for a term commencing July 1, 1997, and his or her successors
21 shall be such alumni and one of the members appointed for a term
22 commencing July 1, 1999, and his or her successors shall be such alumni.

23 (c) The Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of
24 Education, the Commissioner of Economic and Community
25 Development and the chairperson of The University of Connecticut
26 Health Center Board of Directors shall be, ex officio, members of the
27 board of trustees. The Governor shall be, ex officio, president of said
28 board.

29 (d) The graduates of all of the schools and colleges of said university
30 shall, prior to September first in the odd-numbered years, elect one
31 trustee, who shall be a graduate of the institution and who shall hold
32 office for four years from the first day of September succeeding his or
33 her election. Not less than two or more than four nominations for each
34 such election shall be made by the alumni association of said university,
35 provided no person who has served as an alumni trustee for the two full
36 consecutive terms immediately prior to the term for which such election
37 is to be held shall be nominated for any such election. Such election shall
38 be conducted by mail prior to September first under the supervision of
39 a canvassing board consisting of three members, one appointed by the
40 board of trustees, one by the board of directors of the alumni association
41 of the university and one by the president of the university. No ballot in
42 such election shall be opened until the date by which ballots must be
43 returned to the canvassing board. In such election, all graduates shall be
44 entitled to vote by signed ballots which have been circulated to them by
45 mail and which shall be returned by mail. Vacancies occurring by death
46 or resignation of either of such alumni trustees shall be filled for the

47 unexpired portion of the term by special election, if such unexpired term
48 is for more than eighteen months. When the unexpired term is eighteen
49 months or less, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the board
50 of directors of said alumni association.

51 (e) On or before November 1, 1975, the students of The University of
52 Connecticut shall, in such manner as the board of trustees of said
53 university shall determine, elect two trustees, each of whom shall be
54 enrolled as a full-time student of said university at the time of his or her
55 election. One such [member] trustee shall be elected for a term of one
56 year from November 1, 1975, and one for a term of two years from said
57 date. Prior to July first, annually, until and including the election held
58 on or before July 1, 2021 such students shall, in accordance with this
59 section and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect one
60 [member] trustee of [said] the board, who shall be so enrolled at said
61 university at the time of his or her election and who shall serve for a
62 term of two years from July first in the year of his or her election. On or
63 before July 1, 2022, such students shall, in accordance with this
64 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, elect three
65 trustees, each of whom shall be enrolled as a full-time student at said
66 university at the time of his or her election. One such trustee shall be
67 elected for a term of one year commencing July 1, 2022, and the other
68 two trustees shall be elected for a term of two years from said date. On
69 or before July 1, 2023, and annually thereafter, in accordance with this
70 subsection and in such manner as the board shall determine, such
71 students shall elect two trustees of the board who shall be enrolled as
72 full-time students at said university at the time of their election and who
73 shall serve for a term of two years from July first in the year of their
74 election. The student [member] trustee elected to fill the term expiring
75 on June 30, 2003, and the student trustee elected to fill the term expiring
76 on June 30, 2023, and such elected [member's] trustees' successors, shall
77 be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student at a school or college
78 of the university and shall be elected by the undergraduate students of
79 the schools and colleges of the university. The student [member]
80 trustees elected to fill the term expiring on June 30, [2004] 2024, and such
81 elected [member's] trustees' successors, shall be enrolled as a full-time

82 student in the School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of
83 Dentistry, the School of Social Work, or as a graduate student of a school
84 or college of the university, and shall be elected by the students of the
85 School of Law, the School of Medicine, the School of Dentistry, the
86 School of Social Work and the graduate students of the schools and
87 colleges of the university. Any student [member] trustee elected after
88 July 1, 2013, shall be enrolled as a full-time student at the time of his or
89 her election and for the duration of his or her term of service. Any
90 vacancies in the elected membership of said board shall, except as
91 otherwise provided in this section, be filled by special election for the
92 balance of the unexpired term.

93 (f) On or before November 1, 2021, the members of the University
94 Senate of The University of Connecticut shall, in such manner as the
95 Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall determine, elect
96 two trustees from among the elected and voting members of the
97 University Senate, one of whom shall be employed as a full-time faculty
98 member of said university for the duration of such trustee's term on the
99 board. One such member shall be elected for a term expiring on June 30,
100 2022, and one for a term expiring on June 30, 2023. On or before July 1,
101 2022, and annually thereafter, in accordance with this subsection and in
102 such manner as the board shall determine, the University Senate shall
103 elect, from among its elected and voting members, one trustee of the
104 board who is employed by said university for the duration of such
105 trustee's term on the board and who shall serve for a term of two years
106 from July first in the year of such trustee's election. The trustee elected
107 to fill the term expiring on June 30, 2022, and such elected trustee's
108 successors, shall be employed as a full-time faculty member of said
109 university for the duration of such trustee's term on the board. Any
110 vacancies in the trustee positions elected pursuant to this subsection,
111 shall be filled by a special election for the balance of the unexpired term.
112 No trustee elected to the board pursuant to this subsection may (1)
113 attend or participate in a meeting of the board held in executive session
114 concerning personnel matters, or (2) vote on matters relating to
115 collective bargaining negotiations or agreements.

116 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 10a-1a of the general statutes is
117 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*
118 *2021*):

119 (a) There shall be a Board of Regents for Higher Education who shall
120 serve as the governing body for the regional community-technical
121 college system, the Connecticut State University System and Charter
122 Oak State College. The board shall consist of [twenty-one] twenty-three
123 members who shall be distinguished leaders of the community in
124 Connecticut. The board shall reflect the state's geographic, racial and
125 ethnic diversity. The voting members shall not be employed by or be a
126 member of a board of trustees for any independent institution of higher
127 education in this state or the Board of Trustees for The University of
128 Connecticut nor shall they be public officials or state employees, as such
129 terms are defined in section 1-79, during their term of membership on
130 the Board of Regents for Higher Education. The Governor shall appoint
131 nine members to the board as follows: Three members for a term of two
132 years; three members for a term of four years; and three members for a
133 term of six years. Thereafter, the Governor shall appoint members of the
134 board to succeed such appointees whose terms expire and each member
135 so appointed shall hold office for a period of six years from the first day
136 of July in the year of his or her appointment. Four members of the board
137 shall be appointed as follows: One appointment by the president pro
138 tempore of the Senate, who shall be an alumnus of the regional
139 community-technical college system, for a term of four years; one
140 appointment by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall be a
141 specialist in the education of children in grades kindergarten to twelve,
142 inclusive, for a term of three years; one appointment by the speaker of
143 the House of Representatives, who shall be an alumnus of the
144 Connecticut State University System, for a term of four years; and one
145 appointment by the minority leader of the House of Representatives,
146 who shall be an alumnus of Charter Oak State College, for a term of
147 three years. Thereafter, such members of the General Assembly shall
148 appoint members of the board to succeed such appointees whose terms
149 expire and each member so appointed shall hold office for a period of
150 four years from the first day of July in the year of his or her appointment.

151 The [chairperson and vice-chairperson] following members of the
 152 student advisory committee created under section 10a-3 shall serve as
 153 members of the board: (1) The chairperson, (2) the vice-chairperson, and
 154 (3) two members elected by a consensus vote of the members of the
 155 student advisory committee, one of whom shall be a student of the
 156 Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College and
 157 the other of whom shall be a student of the regional community-
 158 technical colleges. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the faculty
 159 advisory committee created under section 10a-3a shall serve as ex-
 160 officio [, nonvoting] members of the board, [for a term of two years and,
 161 in their respective roles as chairperson and vice-chairperson, may be
 162 invited to any executive session, as defined in section 1-200, of the board
 163 by the chairperson of the board] provided no such member of the board
 164 may (A) attend or participate in a meeting of the board held in executive
 165 session concerning personnel matters, or (B) vote on matters relating to
 166 collective bargaining negotiations or agreements. The Commissioners of
 167 Education, Economic and Community Development and Public Health
 168 and the Labor Commissioner shall serve as ex-officio, nonvoting
 169 members of the board.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	10a-103
Sec. 2	July 1, 2021	10a-1a(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 1(a), the opening and closing brackets and "four" were moved to the next line for accuracy.

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill, which adds members to the University of Connecticut's Board of Trustees and to the Board of Regents, results in no fiscal impact to the constituent units because governing board members are not reimbursed for their duties. The bill also gives voting rights to the faculty members of both boards, within certain limits, which results in no fiscal impact to the units.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 997*****AN ACT CONCERNING STUDENTS AND FACULTY MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.*****SUMMARY**

The bill increases the number of UConn Board of Trustee (BOT) members from 21 to 25 by adding two additional trustees elected by students and two elected by University Senate members, with the latter restricted from voting on or participating in certain matters. The bill also increases the number of Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) members from 21 to 23 by adding two additional voting student advisory committee members.

Under current law, the BOR includes two non-voting members from the BOR faculty advisory committee. The bill generally converts these positions into voting members, except it prohibits them from voting on matters relating to collective bargaining negotiations or agreements. The bill also prohibits these members from attending or participating in meetings held in executive session about personnel matters; under current law, the BOR chairperson may invite them to executive sessions.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

ADDITIONAL UCONN BOT TRUSTEES

Under existing law, the UConn BOT includes two student members: one elected by undergraduate students and one by graduate students, with the elections of one each in alternate years by July 1.

The bill requires, for the elections held by July 1, 2022, (1) UConn

undergraduate students to elect an additional undergraduate trustee to serve a one-year term and (2) UConn graduate students to elect two graduate students to serve two-year terms (one under existing law and an additional one under the bill). As under existing law, the graduate student members must be enrolled in the School of Law, School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, or School of Social Work, or be a graduate student in a UConn school or college.

These student trustee positions (1) carry two-year terms after their initial terms and (2) must be filled by full-time students for the duration of their terms. Starting in 2024, the bill requires that two members be elected per year, with the graduate and undergraduate positions elected in alternate years.

The bill also requires UConn University Senate members, by November 1, 2021, to elect two trustees from among the elected voting members of the University Senate: one full-time faculty member to serve a term expiring June 30, 2022, and one member to serve a term expiring June 30, 2023. Both trustee positions carry two-year terms after their initial terms, and the successors to the term expiring June 30, 2022, must both be full-time faculty members. The initial full-time faculty member position, and successors to both initial appointments, must be employed by the university for the duration of their terms.

The bill prohibits University Senate-elected members on the UConn BOT from (1) attending or participating in meetings held in executive session about personnel matters or (2) voting on matters relating to collective bargaining negotiations or agreements.

For both the student and University Senate members, any vacancies must be filled by special election for the remainder of the unexpired term.

Under existing law, the BOT also includes (1) 12 trustees appointed by the governor, (2) two trustees elected by alumni, and (3) five ex-officio members.

ADDITIONAL BOR MEMBERS

Under existing law, the BOR’s membership includes the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the student advisory committee. The bill increases the number of BOR members from 21 to 23 by adding two additional student advisory committee members: one Connecticut State University System or Charter Oak State College student and one regional community-technical college student. Under the bill, these new members are elected by consensus vote of the advisory committee.

Under existing law, in addition to the student advisory committee and faculty advisory committee members, the BOR also includes (1) nine members appointed by the governor; (2) four appointed by legislative leaders; and (3) four ex-officio, nonvoting members.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 19 Nay 3 (03/11/2021)