

Call for Faculty Nominations for UConn@COP24

The UConn@COP Governance Committee is soliciting self-nominations for faculty members who would like to join the UConn@COP24 team. This year, COP24 will be held in Katowice, Poland, and the UConn contingent will participate from December 1 – 7, 2018.

Responsibilities include: leading at least one UConn group discussion at the COP, mentoring and advising UConn@COP24 students, attending the fall orientation meeting, writing a blog and/or multiple posts for social media, and attending the COP24 Climate Change Café/poster session during the spring semester (and encouraging any of your students to do the same).

This is the fourth consecutive year that UConn is sponsoring a trip for a group of undergraduate students selected based on leadership, academic merit, demonstrated commitment to climate change-related activities, and diversity, to attend events associated with the UN's International Climate Summit and Conference of Parties.

UConn@COP focuses on building future leaders in climate science and policy through:

- Student Engagement
- Interdisciplinary Group Discussion
- Experiential Learning
- Cultural Immersion

If interested, please include a current CV and a brief statement (no more than 500 words) on how your participation in UConn@COP24 might improve the experience for the UConn group as a whole, and how it would benefit your teaching, research, outreach and/or public service objectives.

Please email your nomination to envpolicy@uconn.edu no later than Monday, August 20th.

UConn's Climate Leadership:

This will be the fourth consecutive year that UConn sends a contingent of at least 12 student environmental leaders to the U.N.'s annual climate summit. This international leadership has complemented our efforts to be a carbon-neutral campus, pursuant to UConn's Carbon Commitment, first endorsed in 2008 and reaffirmed by President Herbst in 2012. The University's 2010 Climate Action Plan and recent 2020 Vision Plan for Campus Sustainability and Climate Leadership have helped guide UConn to an 18% reduction in carbon emissions since 2007, despite a more than 20% growth in enrollment and considerable growth in building square footage at the Storrs Campus over the past 10 years.

On June 2nd, 2017, President Susan Herbst joined a "We Are Still In" (WASI) coalition of what is now more than 2500 business executives, university presidents, mayors, and governors. In signing, President Herbst stated the following:

"UConn is deeply committed to supporting environmental health and sustainability in any way we can. The decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement does not mean that we as a university should

abdicate our own responsibility to do what we believe is best for our state, the nation, and the world with respect to our environment. We will steadfastly continue to do our part in contributing to global efforts to address climate change.”

The WASI coalition had a significant presence at COP23 and will again sponsor several days of programming, among many educational panels, workshops, exhibits and other side events held at the COP24 venue. UConn has emerged as a WASI sector leader and last year sponsored a higher ed networking event that attracted 200 college students, faculty and staff, who were in in Bonn, Germany for COP23.

This year, UConn is rated among the top 5 greenest campuses in the U.S., as reported in the Chronicle of Higher Education, and in the Sierra Club’s recently published 2018 “Cool Schools” rankings. In 2016, UConn was recognized as a “top performer” for student engagement by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), specifically for the UConn@COP program.