
Campus Planning Newsletter

The Office of Finance and Administration

CONNECTICUT
COLLEGE



March 2026

Facilities Management and Campus Planning Update

Dear members of the Connecticut College community,

As we move further into the spring semester, Facilities Management and Campus Planning continue to advance critical infrastructure projects while supporting the daily operational needs of the campus. March brought renewed construction activity, ongoing system upgrades, and continued investment in long-term campus vitality.

Crozier-Plex Pedestrian Connector Project

With the arrival of milder weather, construction activities have resumed. Work is now focused on amphitheater construction, site grading, and final pathway connections. Protective fencing remains in place along the north side of Crozier to ensure safety during active construction. Weather permitting, the remaining scope of work is expected to be completed in early May.



Harris Renovation

Interior finishes were completed over the spring break. The installation of the hood system remains the final major construction milestone. Minor punch-list work will continue throughout April, with limited impact to operations. We thank Dining Services and the campus community for their collaboration and understanding throughout this phased project.



Switchgear Project

Installation of generators and auxiliary equipment continues. Electrical integration work is progressing in preparation for utility coordination. While substantial progress has been made, final utility cutover and full standby power testing remain scheduled for Summer 2026.

Grandstand Project

As announced in President Chapdelaine's March update, a major enhancement is in the works at Silfen Track and Field. Planning began this past July for a grandstand and press box at the field. This project will create a 500-seat, accessible grandstand to be named in honor of Fran Shields, athletics director emeritus, with a fully equipped press box designed to improve the spectator and media experience. This project reflects the College's commitment to creating engaging spaces for athletics, student life and community events. It will modernize Silfen Track and Field to support the program's growing needs while integrating seamlessly with existing campus infrastructure.

In addition to the grandstand and press box, the project objectives and scope include new stairways to the field, ADA access and seating, improved utility connections for power and data to support live event coverage. Construction started in November 2025 following site surveys, geotechnical work and design development. Completion is targeted for Spring 2026. We are grateful to the generous donor and campus partners who have made this project possible. Once complete, Silfen Field will offer modern seating, enhanced accessibility and a press-ready facility that will showcase the incredible talent and spirit of the Conn community.



Capital Project Planning

As highlighted in the spring budget newsletter on March 24, the College is actively working to address significant deferred maintenance, outdated technology, and aging equipment in labs resulting from inadequate investment in our physical assets over recent years. To begin tackling this problem, a capital budget was developed for FY 2027. The Board approved the capital plan at the February meeting.

The campus planning department has already begun work to implement these approved capital projects. Over the next few weeks, we will reach out to the appropriate stakeholders and committees to begin planning for anticipated summer construction, and we will provide project specifics in our next spotlight.

Please note that projects submitted but not funded this year will be kept for possible inclusion in future capital plans. Going forward, we want to develop a list of capital needs over a rolling five-year period to help future planning.

Cro Renovation Feedback Session

As part of our ongoing collaborative planning, the architects for the Cro renovation (KSS) will be in the Cro lobby on **April 1** to hear your feedback on the renovation. We highly encourage you to stop by and share your thoughts!

Facilities Management

With trades staffing now at approximately 92% filled, the department continues to improve response times and preventive maintenance coverage. Current priorities include:

- Seasonal HVAC changeover planning
- Grounds preparation for spring growth
- Preventive maintenance scheduling for summer projects

Work requests should continue to be submitted through the campus ticket management system. For follow-up questions related to existing requests, please email workreq@conncoll.edu.

Sincerely,

Justin R. Wolfradt, MSM CM, FMP

Associate Vice President of Facilities Management and Campus Planning
