



\$435K approved for UConn garage repairs

By Mark Ginocchio
Staff Writer

*Reprinted from The Stamford Advocate
June 25, 2007*

STAMFORD - The University of Connecticut board of trustees approved \$435,000 last week to repair the Stamford campus parking garage, which has been partially shut down since late April.

Nearly a third of the 913-space garage at Broad Street and Washington Boulevard has been roped off since heavy rain caused Mill River to overflow, eroding the banks and damaging a garage support column."

The closure drew the ire of student leaders, who said UConn's main campus in Storrs has not done enough to maintain its satellite site in Stamford.

"We feel like we're being treated like second-class citizens," said Elly Koskorelos, student affairs officer for the Stamford campus. "It seems like as long as the garage doesn't collapse, they're going to do what they can just to patch it."

Junior Bryan Campbell, vice president of the Student Government Center, said the garage, which has been around since the Stamford campus was a Bloomindgale's department store more than 10 years ago, must be replaced, not repaired.

But Storrs officials said they made it a priority to fix the garage. In the first meeting of the board of trustees since the incident was reported, the funding was approved, UConn spokesman Richard Veilleux said.

"As soon as the damaged was done, we acted immediately," Veilleux said.

Stamford campus Associated Vice Provost Michael Ego said he planned to meet with Storrs officials last week to discuss garage fixes.

Storrs officials completed the design work for the garage and are waiting for one more permit to be approved before putting the project out to bid, Veilleux said.

The ramp leading to the section of the garage that borders Mill River and Broad Street will remain fenced off, campus officials said.

The closure has been mostly since the spring semester ended, Ego said.

"Without any question, the load and demand is lighter now," he said.

During the semester, students used the Burlington Coat Factory lot a few blocks away when the UConn garage filled up, Campbell said.