

Podcast Title: Inside UConn: The Housing Crisis

Host Introduction:

Kausshik (Host):

"Hello everyone! Welcome to another episode of Inside UConn, where we address the most significant issues affecting students, faculty, and the broader UConn community. I'm your host, Kausshik, and today we're addressing a topic that's been on many students' minds: the housing shortage."

As enrollment numbers continue to rise steadily, on-campus housing has become more competitive than ever. But what's ultimately behind the shortage? And what's UConn doing about it?

To break it all down is second-year sophomore Will Hodges, who's been very involved with UConn's housing services. Will, thanks for being on—it's great to have you!

Guest Introduction:

Will Hodges (Guest):

"Thanks for having me, Kausshik. Good to be here."

Segment 1: The Current Situation

Kausshik:

"Let's start with where things are today. Will, can you give us a snapshot of the housing situation at UConn currently? How bad is the shortage?"

Will:

"Sure. Over the past few years, we've seen a noticeable spike in undergraduate enrollment, but the available housing hasn't kept pace. This year especially,

demand has far outstripped supply. A lot of students have had to scramble for off-campus options, and some are living in temporary setups or crowded arrangements they didn't expect."

Segment 2: Contributing Factors

Kausshik:

"What are the biggest drivers behind this deficit? Is it exclusively enrollment growth, or are there other dynamics at work in creating the issue?"

Will:

"It's a mix. Enrollment is definitely a major factor, but there's more to it. Some of our older dorm buildings are reaching the end of their lifespan or undergoing renovations, which limits space. There's also more demand for apartment-style living, which isn't always available or affordable. And we're still recovering from delays and disruptions caused by the pandemic, which threw off a lot of our long-term housing plans."

Segment 3: Effect on Students

Kausshik:

"Let's talk about the students. How is this really affecting them? Do you have any stories, any examples that reflect what they're going through?"

Will:

"Absolutely. I've spoken to students who've had to dwell in converted public areas or triple up in rooms meant for fewer people. Others must look far off-campus where prices are high and transportation may be tricky. Some even question whether they can afford to stay in school because of housing costs—it's a real burden."

Segment 4: Solutions and UConn's Response

Kausshik:

"That does sound difficult. What is UConn doing about it—are any short- or long-term solutions being worked on?"

Will:

"Yes, UConn is trying on both fronts. In the near future, they're trying to transform underused campus areas into temporary housing and are coordinating with local landlords to find off-campus options. Long-term, they have proposals to build more dorms and renovate existing ones. The administration knows about this issue and is doing something to expand our housing capacity."

Segment 5: Student Engagement

Kausshik:

"It's good to know there is movement happening. How do students get involved or stay informed? Is there anything they can do to assist in advocating for solutions?"

Will:

"Definitely. Students must stay engaged with UConn Housing Services—take surveys, attend town halls, and make some noise. Getting involved with student government or advocacy organizations can have a tangible effect. When students make their voices heard, the administration does listen."

Closing Thoughts:

Kausshik:

"Before we wrap up, Will, would you like to add anything else on the topic of the housing crisis or what you would like students to know going forward?"

Will:

"I just want students to know that we're hearing their concerns. This is not a hypothetical issue, and the university is taking it seriously. We're working towards long-term, sustainable solutions to ensure everyone has access to safe and affordable housing."

Kausshik:

"Thank you very much, Will, for being on the show today and giving us a closer look at this important question. Your insights are greatly appreciated."

Will:

"Thanks again for having me, Kausshik. It's been a pleasure."

Kausshik:

"And to all of our listeners, thank you for tuning in to Inside UConn. Subscribe so you won't miss our next episode, as we keep telling the stories that matter most to the Husky community. Until next time—take care and stay informed!"