

- I. Call to Order** at 7:07 pm
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 13 November 2013 approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Executive Committee Pay
    - i. GSS 13/14-9 That the Graduate Student Senate award \$500 to the Vice President, Steven Mollmann; \$500 to the Secretary, Danielle Wong, \$1000 to the Treasurer, Safet Berisa; \$800 to the Activities Director, Anish Kurian; and \$500 to the Parliamentarian, Ian Gutierrez, according to the Senate Bylaws
      1. Senator Bowman motions, seconded
      2. Approved with a vote of 25 yay 0 nay 0 abstain
  - b. Graduate Union Allocation
    - i. GSS 13/14-10: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$250.00 from the General Operations budget for unionization-relating printing and/or copying related expenses
      1. Senator Piantek motions, seconded
      2. Leland Aldridge: Are we legally able to do this
      3. Treasurer Beriša: Yes
      4. Motion carries
  - c. GAHS Special Allocation
    - i. Senator Bowman motions
    - ii. Senator Bowman: Dr. Rose is an Art Historian from Fairfield University, we invited for her to come and she is going to discuss ancient Greek and Roman hairstyles, it is an interdisciplinary topic and will advertise it on the list serv
    - iii. Leland Aldridge: do you know how many people are anticipated?
    - iv. Senator Bowman: I would say about 30
    - v. Senator DuPont: will this come out of the special allocations budget?

vi. Treasurer Beriša: it can, but we can talk about it if you would like it to come out of the general fund

1. Motion carries

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

a. President – Jason Charrette

i. Graduate Unionization - I Received information for those who want to help with the unionization, about 35 people. We want to kick this off quickly, have announced this in graduate faculty council, senate executive committee, USG may start to fight this, want to work to make sure we are successful about this

ii. Update - If you have taken emergency loans over the summer, right now what the bursar does, will take first in first out, I'm trying for the loan to be exempted, right now it is considered a fee in people soft

1. Treasurer Beriša: Right, right now you are fined \$6 dollars a day until you pay it off for 10 days maximum (takes 60\$)

2. President Charrette: if you don't pay it then there is a hold on your account

iii. Elections/Positions

1. How fees are constructed on campus, it goes through SASFAC compiled of administration, there is going to be a new term for a SASFAC person, right now graduate person has no contact with us, have an opening, we want another graduate student on the body, the body operates on consensus so this is a great opportunity for us

2. BOT trustee election – they make big decisions, the position really matters and we haven't had a Storrs representative for a long time. Typically they are from the medical or law school, they don't pay the same fees, don't share the same interests. We want to help put up a sponsor or put up a candidate and get out the vote to help beat the law school/medical school

3. Leland Aldridge: The BOT trustee is an ex-officio member of GSS exec but unfortunately in the past there has not been much communication

4. President Charrette: yes we have tried to talk to her and she hasn't responded
  5. Senator DuPont: how do we go about going about this
  6. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: so there is going to be an application process, sit on the trustee election committee, application process has not yet been made available will announce in January
  7. Vice President Mollmann: the main hurdle, is that they will need to collect a certain number of signatures at your campus
  8. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: I have the paperwork somewhere, numbers are not set in stone, petition may need to require 50-70 signatures
  9. Senator DuPont: is it the same for SASFAC?
  10. President Charrette: it is an application process and we can walk you through that
  11. Vice President Mollmann: the last two successful trustees from Storrs were affiliated with GSS
  12. Leland Aldridge: You also need to be active student for 2 years, meets every month on Wednesday morning
- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
- i. Next Semester Meeting Dates (7pm Whetten 200)
    1. January 29
    2. February 19
    3. March 12
    4. April 2
    5. April 23
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
- i. Budgeting workshops – will send out email to find point of contact, going to have a couple of meetings, some in January if you can't make it then feel free to email me
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
- i. Attendance

- ii. PR Committee – will be emailing my committee over break to start ordering promotional items
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
  - i. Thanksgiving Dinner Recap - Great attendance, over 650 Grads! Ran out of food. Maybe move to a bigger venue next year? Rome Ballroom? Thank you to Exec, Activities Committee members, and others who helped with the event.
  - ii. Activities Committee – keep on coming on
  - iii. Mohegan Sun Casino Trip – Friday, January 31, 2014 - We will have 2 coach buses, appx 100 seats. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of next semester, perhaps a few days before the semester starts.
  - iv. Cosponsored event with Graduate School – Guest Speaker Ellen Prager – “How to Communicate Science to a Broad Audience” <http://www.earth2ocean.net> - We have a date finalized for this, Tuesday March 4th. Time still TBD, will be afternoon/eveing. This event will be cosponsored with the Grad School to kick off their Spring 3MT (3 minute thesis) competition. For more information on 3MT you can visit the website: <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2013/10/the-three-minute-thesis/>
  - v. Grad Prom – Friday, February 21 – Rome Ballroom - Still deciding on a theme. Under the Sea? Casino? Email Anish with thoughts/suggestions
  - vi. Suggestions for other events? Email me!
- f. Parliamentarian – Ian Gutierrez
  - i. Presidential Pay - At the last senate meeting of each month – motion can adjust pay of president
  - ii. Elections - Email went out today about elections for graduate students came from student activities, spirit is nice, misleading about the positions, seats that are open through the joint election process, is the at large position, senators are elected through constituencies
  - iii. Procedures Committee - Last in conjunction with procedures committee going to be proposing changes to bylaws and procedures next semester, if you have interest in constitution then please feel free to email me

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. Smoking Task Force – Michael Ambroselli
  - i. Last March passed resolution convening a task force to recommend policy, our charge is to make recommendations of how to change the current policy which is ambiguous, would like to have input from constituencies are represented so if any body feels strongly, please let me know via email or talk to me

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Graduate Union Presentation – Laura Wright and Maria Seger
  - i. Maria Seger presented the chart (emailed out)
  - ii. Laura Wright: these unions were chosen by the task force, we solicited questions by people who are on the mailing list, this chart answers a lot of questions that have been brought up regarding about where the dues go and concerns for graduate students
  - iii. Maria Seger: the chart is pretty self-explanatory, some ways in which they differ, in the kind of campaign they imagine, UAW and CWA more oriented to grassroots, burden with organization would focus on graduate students, CWA would give formal training
  - iv. Laura Wright: in terms with experience with graduate students – UAW has the most, AFT have not unionized with graduate students
  - v. Maria Seger: in this region, they did some campaigns in the 80s and 90s, AFT have the strongest connection to the Connecticut legislature, they are all connected to AFLCIO, think all will be supportive of campaign, UAW and CWA are very similar, 5% sliding scale, CWA same percentage 1.5% some would go to national and others would stay local, no dues until first contract, raises have more than covered costs of dues
  - vi. Laura Wright: AFT have different structures, full time TA would have to pay one of their higher brackets
  - vii. Maria Seger: since AFT CT represents the state, need to pay state and national then have to pay another percentage for local, to have office, will be more for 2.5%

- viii. James Mickley: maybe not too much maybe only .5%
- ix. Leland Aldridge: ½ would be in line with the others too or the local
- x. Maria Seger: the raises section they have been given in the past couple of years, a lot of this was subjective judgment, we also did the relative enthusiasm of the representatives, who would be working with us etc.
- xi. Laura Wright: one of the representatives had already come here before
- xii. Maria Seger: the CWA representative was a history phd that worked at the SUNY schools, on board with unionizing GAs, AFT not as knowledgeable about the others, since didn't have experience directly with other groups, but she did seem willing to help and willing to find information
- xiii. Senator Ambroselli – from what I understand, public employees in CT are not allowed to strike, if this is true what leverage will we have
- xiv. Maria Seger: this is true, what happens is the state will bring in negotiator that can work so business can carry on
- xv. Laura Wright: can do visibility campaigns, can bring classes to quads, grade offs, grade to help demonstrate the work that we do and raise awareness
- xvi. Senator Hutson – how prepared each union is to the legal work, do they have idea of legal strategy?
- xvii. Maria Seger: they all have similar campaign strategies, CWA interested in self-governance, bargaining would be UConn employees, doesn't seem to be the case for AFT, lead heavily on lawyers, UAW would be somewhat in-between
- xviii. James Mickley: don't think have the sense that they would be unprepared, may be faster or slower
- xix. Leland Aldridge: don't recall if this was on the table but all of the different union reps, could only make to CWA, AFT, all had strategies and outlines, all sounded like had very clear though differing strategies, going to governor to get waiver or going through legislative routes
- xx. Senator Rodriguez: hard to have timeline, after talking have you found any more information?
- xxi. Maria Seger: we want a card drive next semester

- xxii. Laura Wright – all unions want us to pick someone asap, want to go forward, and get everything as soon as possible and they can be with us from the beginning
- xxiii. Maria Seger: we want to move as quick as possible but don't want to jump the gun
- xxiv. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: the speed of organization ultimately depends on us than on the particular union that will organizes it
- xxv. Leland Aldridge: just wanted to mention, these were the 3 unions that wanted to meet with us
- xxvi. Maria Seger – SEIU focused on unionizing adjuncts, contracted other two locals, also contacted AUUP, some don't consider a real union, they were a little boy who cried wolf with graduate students, do represent professors, interests may conflict, were in touch and they did not show interest
- xxvii. Senator Hutson: what point are we at, what do we need to do now?
- xxviii. Maria Seger: I think we are at that point and task force is meeting on Friday and we have been getting a significant amount of feedback and it is very similar, decision shouldn't be too difficult, can't go wrong at the end of the day, make it by the end of the semester
- xxix. Leland Aldridge: we are also here to get further feed back
- xxx. Maria: right if there is something that is important to you then it would be important to know ie. dues
- xxxi. Senator DuPont: is it going to be opt in
- xxxii. Laura Wright: it depends on the contract, does weaken structure of union, if you opt out then you may have to still pay a service fee because you are still benefitting we would negotiate that during the bargaining process
- xxxiii. President Charrette: so what GSS is doing part of this committee doing – trying to provide the critical mass for this task force, need to be able to approach people and need to be willing to do that, need to convince people that this is a good thing, there is a lot of things we can discuss, lots of negotiation, do you think you're better off without one, what is to gain if you don't have one

- xxxiv. Senator Hutson: what about holding public forums where graduate students can come and talk
- xxxv. President Charrette: during grad thanksgiving we laid out case for unionization, task force, while people were waiting in line, and helped hand out fliers, best strategy could do public forum, a lot will be point to point contact
- xxxvi. Maria Seger: it is also hard to find space and time for meeting, a lot is that we can do it on email, no way to invite only graduate assistant, not sure that we want to be out and proud before we align with a union
- xxxvii. Senator Ambroselli: we should have a union, I don't know if you got the letter from UConn, but UConn has opportunity to recover some social security taxes that fulfill some criteria, I didn't fall into category, they are talking about employees does that mean were employees? and if I am an employee then I should have those benefits that are given
- xxxviii. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: if you get paid you do have a state of CT employee id number
- xxxix. President Charrette: if you have an opinion, feel free to make your opinion and let it known, they will be making the decision soon
  - xl. Senator Reeds: two points, continuing employee conversation, can look up state employee, continue what Jason said about the different charts, what hits me is that obviously want dues at 1.5 what goes to the national and local and what goes to the strike fund
  - xli. Senator Dupont: the middle one seems to be the best deal, want someone who is enthusiastic, if I were to vote I would choose them
  - xlii. Laura Wright: I know it sounds scary to make a decision on Friday, I want to emphasize a couple of things, task force are graduate students and would not do things that would hurt other students, if we pick something that you don't want you don't have to sign the contracts which need to be negotiated
  - xliii. Leland Aldridge: would like to reemphasize what Jason said, all senators official spokesperson great if constituency can inform, what is going on



- xliv. Senator Cordeaux: need to make sure there is organization, one thing to have conversation, need to go moving forward
- xlv. Maria Seger: they will need to sign the card when the time comes
- xlvi. President Charrette: the thing were going to do is first question if union is good then join the task force, the committees will be able to do this, messaging, contact and want to organize, create the message, get the message out, etc.

**X. Adjournment** at 8:12pm.

**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Senator</b>
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	President
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Vice President
Safet Berisa	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Treasurer
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Secretary
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Parliamentarian
Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Yes
Alexandra Merceron	alexandra.merceron@uconn.edu	GSCA/Communications	No
Amy Gaesser	amy.gaesser@uconn.edu	Counseling Education	Yes
Asif Rehan	asif.rehan@uconn.edu	GSA, CEE	Yes
Cara Cordeaux	cara.cordeaux@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
Chanee Ford	chanee.ford@uconn.edu	HDFS/GSCA	Yes
Christopher Tomaszewski	christopher.tomaszewski@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Yes
Dawn Savage	dawn.savage@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
Eileen Rodriguez	eileen.rodriguez@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	Yes
Eleanor Reeds	eleanor.reeds@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Heidi Obach	heidi.obach@uconn.edu	Sociology	No
Indu Upadhyaya	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Yes
Karen Piantek	karen.piantek@uconn.edu	Communications	At Large Senator
Kobby Amponsah	kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	Yes
Laura Wright	laura.wright@uconn.edu	English	No
Leland Aldridge	leland.aldridge@uconn.edu	Physics	No
Matt Bowman	matthew.bowman@uconn.edu	Art History	Yes
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Yes
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	Yes
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology/MAF	Yes
Mike Mudrick	michael.mudrick@uconn.edu	Ed Leadership/NGSA	Yes
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Yes
Morad Behandish	m.behandish@uconn.edu	ME, CSE, SAGE	No
Nicole Flaig	nicole.flraig@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
Nicole White	nicole.2.white@uconn.edu	Langsa	Yes
Partick Butler	pbutler9148@gmail.com	Medieval Studies	Yes
Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Song Li	song.li@uconn.edu	Chemistry	Yes
Tanesia Beverly	tanesia.beverly@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	At Large Senator
Valeri Kolev	valeri.kolev@uconn.edu	GSA, CEE	Yes
Vanessa Lovelace	vanessa.lovelace@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Will DuPont	william.dupont@uconn.edu	EKIN	Yes
Lazri DiSalvo	lazri.disalvo@uconn.edu	Political Science	No
Maria Seger	maria.seger@uconn.edu	English	No



**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
*University of Connecticut*

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

**Minutes**  
4 December 2013

Nick Thomas	nicholas.w.thomas@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
Iman Nashadi	iman.nashadi@uconn.edu	Chemical Engineering	No
James Mickley	james.mickley@uconn.edu	EEB	No

**GAHS Special Allocation Request**

*Organization: Graduate Art History Society*

*Event: Spring 2014 Guest Speaker and Professional Development Workshop*

*Proposed date: 2/20/2014*

*Contact person(s): Jean Nihoul and Matt Bowman*

*Date submitted: 11/1/2013*

*Exec. Cmte. approval: 11/20/2013 (unanimous with two members absent)*

*Presented to the Senate: 12/4/2013*

**Budget proposal**

Code	Description	Proposed	Outside Revenue	Exec. Cmet's Recommendation
606 Printing	Fliers	\$10.00	\$10.00	
615 Contractual Services	Dr. Marie Rose honorarium	\$350.00	\$350.00	
620 Refreshments	Light lunch	\$180.00	\$20.00	\$160.00
623 Rental	Benton room rental	\$50.00	\$50.00	
	GSS Budget		\$430.00	
Totals		\$590.00	\$430.00	\$160.00

**Summary**

This special allocation request was presented to the Executive Committee by Treasurer Beriša. After a discussion, the Executive Committee was of a unanimous opinion that this proposal should be forwarded to the Senate and that the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$160.00 to the Graduate Art History Society for their event "Spring 2014 Guest Speaker and Professional Development Workshop."

**Smoking Policy Task Force**  
**12/02/13**

*Chair:* Michael Kurland  
Director of Student Health Services  
Michael.kurland@uconn.edu

*Representative:* Michael Ambroselli  
Senator, Physics  
[michael.ambroselli@uconn.edu](mailto:michael.ambroselli@uconn.edu)

*Website:* URL Address

*Committee Type:* University

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Task force charged with recommending changes to University Smoking Policy
- GSS/graduate student input wanted

**Detailed Report**

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**Purpose:**

As part of a resolution passed by the University Senate on Mar. 25, 2013 (see Attachment #41 of the corresponding minutes), Provost Choi convened this task force and officially charged the task force on Dec. 02, 2013 with recommending changes to the current Smoking Policy of the University (<http://www.policy.uconn.edu/?p=1038>).

**Time frame:**

The task force is to come up with a set of recommendations by mid February 2014.

**Minutes:**

The task force is to make recommendations based on best practices and existing policies at other / peer Universities. The current policy is ambiguous and virtually not enforced. Things like electronic cigarettes are not addressed by the current policy. Some peer Universities, like U Mass, have instituted a complete, campus wide smoking ban. Policy changes may affect Union contracts and may not be implementable until new contracts are negotiated.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- The task force is looking for input from the graduate students – what kind of changes would we like to see?



**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
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