



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

I. Call to Order at 7:12 pm.

A regular meeting of the Graduate Student Senate with Safet Berisa presiding; Erin Eighan, secretary.

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Approval of Minutes: 11 April 2012

Minutes approved.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Chantelle Messier

i. Goals for the Year

1. Transportation Solutions
2. Better Relationship with Graduate Student Trustee
3. Parking Complaints
4. Social Space

ii. Executive Committee

iii. External Committees

1. Need representatives, not necessary to be a Senator
2. Please see the [GSS Bylaws](#), Section XI for your responsibilities as an External Committee Representative (which include compiling a report and submitting them to the Secretary prior to the next GSS meeting).
3. Graduate Students can serve on more than 1 committee
4. For a list of the external committees, please see the attached Addendum: External and Standing Committees.

a. Committees that have yet to be filled are marked in red.

b. For a description of each committee, please visit the [GSS website](#).

iv. Graduate School

v. Senate Meeting Guests

1. President Herbst (Fall or Spring)
2. New Chief of Police
3. Intellectual Property and Copyright Laws
4. New Provost
5. New Associate Dean

vi. Parking Services

1. Received an articulate letter of complaint from a Graduate Student
2. If you have further complaints, we will collect them



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

- vii. GAIN Information Fair
- viii. Graduate Student Trustee
 - 1. Rose Barham, UCHC
- b. Vice President – Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Committee
 - 1. University-wide survey conducted last year
 - a. Senator Kilroy is putting together a report of the findings
 - 2. Determine distribution of graduate student residencies across Connecticut and area (or elsewhere)
 - 3. Senator Kilroy and Senator Messick will join
 - ii. Goals for the Year
 - iii. Listserv Usage Guidelines
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Goals for the Year
 - 1. Standardization and Organization
 - a. Strengthening reimbursement policies (see amendments to the Finance Policies and Procedures)
 - b. Streamline short-term loan process
 - c. Make the Finance Policies and Procedures more understandable
 - 2. More information about GSS available electronically
 - a. FAQs
 - b. Information sheets regarding short-term loans and reimbursement sheets, etc.
 - 3. Clarify GSS's long-term financial goals
 - a. Funded by the Student Activity Fee
 - b. Allocate funds to Tier II groups and GSS events
 - c. Evaluate funds and budgets to determine future plans
 - ii. Finance Committee
 - 1. Gives the final recommendations for the GSS budget for the upcoming year and deals with financial policies and procedures
 - 2. Elections for the Finance Committee will begin next meeting
 - a. We will continue voting until the spots are filled
 - b. You may nominate yourself, but you must be nominated
- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Goals for the Year



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

1. More effective and efficient communication with the Graduate Student Senate; please send ideas.
 - ii. Public Relations Committee
 1. Branding efforts: include logo, slogan, face for GSS, etc.
 2. Have developed a Prezi information session presentation
 3. Initial efforts for a slogan and logo
 - iii. GSS Meeting Schedule: 9/12, 9/26, 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 12/5
 - iv. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
 - v. Name plates and Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
- i. Goals for the Year
 1. Increase attendance at events
 2. New events for the year
 - ii. Activities Committee
 1. Have 2 people (male) committed, but would like at least 2 more and would like to see women represented on the committee
 - iii. Ted's Social Nights
 1. Around happy hour (6-8 pm), usually a Tuesday or Wednesday
 2. Free pizza, wings, soda
 3. Typically 2 or 3 a semester, beginning late September or early October
 - iv. Speed Dating
 1. Mid-October
 2. Nathan Hale pavilion
 3. Cash bar, appetizers
 4. Cap at 50-75, tickets (free) given out ahead of time
 5. How to meet non-heteronormative preferences are a concern for this event; if there is not enough interest from non-heteronormative populations, then they might not get the same experience for this type of event. Hoping that the hired speed dating service will have more information about how to handle this issue effectively.
 6. As far as we know, there are no University regulations that would prohibit this type of event. SUBOG has held an event like this before, so we may contact them for more information.
 - v. Thanksgiving Dinner
 1. Biggest event in the fall



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

2. Typically held in Student Union ballroom, Friday before Thanksgiving break
 3. May consider changing the dinner to a Wednesday and turn it into a real dinner in the (early) evening, which may make it more accessible to those who leave earlier than the Friday before Thanksgiving.
- vi. Grad Prom
1. Biggest event in the Spring, likely the beginning of March
- vii. PhD Comics Lecture / Movie Night
1. New Associate Dean of the Graduate School would like to partner with GSS once a semester to hold a social event
 2. Last year, brought the [PhD Comics](#) movie to UConn; the creator of PhD comics also does a lecture circuit, so we may want to invite him to UConn
- viii. GAIN BBQ and Follow-up
1. Successful night with roughly 592 attendees
- f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- i. Goals for the Year
 - ii. Procedures Committee
 1. Senate meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order
 - a. Action-oriented body, not just deliberative so we make *motions*
 - i. First, make a motion: Rise from your seat and say "Mr. Vice President" (who presides over the meetings).
 - ii. Second, say "I move that [action]".
 - iii. Third, someone else should second that motion.
 - iv. Fourth, ten minutes are allotted to discuss the issue across the Senate.
 - v. Then, the Senate will vote on the motion.
 - b. If you want to speak, please seek recognition from the chair of the meetings, the Vice President
 - iii. Senator Registration
 1. Why would one want to be a Senator-at-large?
 - a. Powers are identical, however senators-at-large are elected by the entire student body
 - b. As a senator charged with a particular constituency, you are meant to represent your constituency



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

- c. As a senator-at-large, you are meant to represent the entire graduate student population
2. If selected by your constituency to be a Senator, GSS would like verification. A verification form will be sent out via email after this meeting. Please fill them out and bring them to the next meeting.
- iv. As a reminder, most of GSS's political power exists in External Committee representation.

V. External Committee Reports

- a. Provost's Library Committee Report – Safet Berisa
- b. Parking Advisory Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Parking rates in the garages have gone up, regardless of vigorous opposition by our representative
- c. SUBOG Policy Council – Safet Berisa
 - i. Preparations for the 60th anniversary for the Student Union
- d. Associate Dean of the Graduate School Search Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Elected the new associate dean, unanimous decision
- e. University Senate and University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
 - i. For the full reports, please see the "Addendum: Committee Reports" below.
 - ii. Senator Colon – Will the new Space Committee be able to meet graduate student needs?
 1. Strictly administrative committee, no student representatives
 2. Reports will be given at University Senate Executive Committee
- f. Graduate Faculty Council – Chantelle Messier
 - i. For the full report, please see the "Addendum: Committee Reports" below.
 - ii. The [Graduate Assistant Maternity Leave Policy](#) is not ideal, so it will be necessary to keep looking into. It will continue to be monitored.
 - iii. Senator Chorrette: Clarification on the complaint procedures: distinguishing between workplace problem and student-to-student problem

VI. Issues Forum

- a. Green Grads
 - i. Revitalizing the group from its inactive status last year
 - ii. Students from 20 departments came to the first meeting this year



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

- iii. Please consider joining if their mission appeals to you and you want to participate
- iv. Can contact Senator Kilroy for more information
- b. Bulletin board in the graduate student lounge in the Union
 - i. Senator Harris: Issue sent to the SUBOG policy council and is in the “determination phase” as quotes are solicited re: pricing. The Senate voted to allocate funds to this, but we have a limited amount of time to so.
- c. Graduate Student Social Space
 - i. Steps towards getting to the point where we might have a graduate bar on campus
 - 1. Graduate-wide happy hour at the Nathan Hale
 - 2. The more people we can organize, the more data we can present to show the University this kind of space is needed

VII. New Business

- a. Presentation of proposed amendments to the Finance Policies and Procedures
 - i. Senator Mollmann: Time limits for reimbursements will be clearly indicated on the web site, correct?
 - 1. Response: Yes, that will be on the web site.
- b. GSS 12/13-01: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$200 to the NEAG Graduate Student Association’s “Brownbag” budget.
- c. MOTION by Senator Mollmann: Merge GSS 12/13-01 and GSS 12/13-02 together to be considered as a single motion.
 - i. Seconded: Senator Tomchek
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES**
- d. GSS 12/13-02: That the Graduate Student Senate reduce the Philosophy Graduate Student Association’s “Brownbag” budget by \$110.
 - i. To be merged into new GSS 12/13-01
- e. MOTION by Senator Tomchek: Extend meeting time by 30 minutes
 - i. SECONDED: Senator Gutierrez
- f. MOTION by Senator Sharpsteen: Postpone the vote of proposed GSS 12/13-01 and GSS 12/13-02 until next meeting after they have been merged and revised.
 - i. Seconded: Senator Shabtay
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES**



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Meeting Minutes 12 September 2012

- g. Amendments to budgets shall be considered at the next meeting
- h. At-Large Senator Elections
 - i. No nominations
- i. External Committee Appointments
 - i. VOTE: Approve appointments of graduate student representatives to External Committees.
 - 1. **MOTION PASSES**

Adjournment at 9:20 pm.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

12 September 2012

Name	Constituency	E-Mail	Role
Chantelle Messier	President (English)	chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Exec. Committee
Safet Berisa	Vice President (Linguistics)	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee
Ian Yue	Treasurer (Ag. and Res. Econ.)	ian.yue@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee
Erin Eighan	Secretary (English)	eeighan@gmail.com	Exec. Committee
Anish Kurian	Activities Director (Psychology)	anish.m.kurian@gmail.com	Exec. Committee
Leland Aldridge	Parliamentarian (Physics)	laldridge@gmail.com	Exec. Committee
Emily Slater	English	emily.slater@uconn.edu	Senator
Maureen Harris	History	maureen.harris@uconn.edu	Senator
Derek Doran	At-Large	derek.doran@uconn.edu	Senator
Mike Winder	Physics	mheinder@gmail.com	Senator
Eric Njuki	Agriculture and Resource Econ.	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	Senator
Ian Gutierrez	Psychology	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Senator
Allison Hale	Studio Art	hale.allison@gmail.com	Senator
Micah Cash	Studio Art	micahcash@gmail.com	Senator
Steve Mollmann	English	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	Senator
Hayley Kilroy	Ecology and Evolutionary Bio.	hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu	Senator
Troy Messick	Linguistics	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Senator
Ryan Tomchek	Mathematics	ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu	Senator
Eve Zhou	Mathematics	zihang.zhou@uconn.edu	Senator
Erin Matteau	Physical Therapy	erin.d.murphy@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Tim Rubino	Physical Therapy	tim.rubino@gmail.com	Not a senator
Talia Shabtay	Art History	talia.shabtay@uconn.edu	Senator
Danielle Wong	Political Science	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Senator
Jason Charrette	Political Science	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Senator
Gao Niu	Actuarial Science	gao.niu@uconn.edu	Senator
Betsy Sanz	HESA	betsy.sanz@uconn.edu	Senator
Rachel Sloan	Sociology	rachel.sloan@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Lauren Van Derzee	Sociology	lauren.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Senator
Indu Upadhyaya	Animal Science	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Senator
Matthew Histen	Economics	matthew.histen@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Matt Ross	Economics	matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu	Senator
Noah Sharpsteen	Philosophy	nesharps@gmail.com	Senator
Jiaxi Wang	Educational Psychology	jiaxi.wang@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Qian Du	Plant Sciences	qian.du@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Austin Johnson	Education	austinj@gmail.com	Senator
Jennifer Bento	Polymer Program	jennifer.bento@uconn.edu	Senator
Rodrigo Ojeda	Polymer Program	rodrigo.ojeda_mota@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Joon-Sung Kim	Polymer Program	joon-sung.kim@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Rich Colon	Medical Anthropology Forum	richardcolonjr@gmail.com	Not a senator
Nicole White	LANGSA	nicole.2.white@uconn.edu	Not a senator
Aidalí Aponte-Avilés	LANGSA	aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu	Senator



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

External Committees

Notes	Committee	GSS Rep 1 Contact Info	GSS Rep 2 Contact Info	Associated With	Last Known Meeting Info	Committee Contact
General Election	Board of Trustees	Rose Barham rbarham@student.uconn.edu		BOT		
Approved	Capital Projects Planning and Advisory Committee	(unable to find info about committee)		University Admin.		
Approved	Distinguished Professor Nominations Committee	Nicole White nicole.2.white@uconn.edu		BOT		Mary Dean mary.dean@uconn.edu
Approved	Diversity Committee			University Senate	M 9:30-11 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	Environmental Health and Safety	Eric Njuki eric.njuki@uconn.edu		University Admin.	T 9 am	Jane Miner jane.miner@uconn.edu
Approved	Faculty Standards	Danielle Wong danielle.wong@uconn.edu		University Senate	M	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	General Education Oversight Committee	Noah Sharpsteen nesharps@gmail.com		University Senate	M/F 11-1 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	GFC Policies and Procedures	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com		GFC		Dr. Tom Peters thomas.b.peters@uconn.edu
Mandated	Graduate Faculty Council	President: Chantelle Messier chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com	GFC		Dr. Tom Peters thomas.b.peters@uconn.edu
Approved	Growth and Development Committee			University Senate	Th am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	Joint Elections Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com		Student Activities		Becca Herman rebecca.herman@uconn.edu
Approved	Mansfield Downtown Partnership			Other		Cynthia van Zelm vanZelmCA@mansfieldct.org



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

Requested	Parking Advisory Committee	Ryan Tomchek rtomchek@gmail.com		University Admin.	W/Th pm	Karla Fox karla.fox@uconn.edu
Requested	Parking Appeals Committee	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu		University Admin.	M 10 am	Martha Funderburk martha.funderburk@uconn.edu
Approved	President's Honors and Awards Committee	Micah Cash micahcash@gmail.com		President	one meeting: T, 10/30/12	Joanne Fazio joanne.fazio@uconn.edu
Approved	Provost's Commission on Institutional Diversity			Provost		pcid@uconn.edu
Approved	Provost's Library Advisory Committee	Noah Sharpsteen nesharps@gmail.com		Provost		Khara Leon khara.leon@lib.uconn.edu
Approved	Public Arts Committee	Allison Hale hale.allison@gmail.com		President		?
Approved	Scholastic Standards	Ryan Tomchek rtomchek@gmail.com		University Senate	W 9-11 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Activities Election Week Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com		Student Activities		
Mandated	Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu		University Admin.		David Clokey david.clokey@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Leadership Group	Exec Member		Other		
Mandated	Student Life Committee	Grad Student Trustee Rose Barham rbarham@student.uhc.edu		BOT		
Approved	Student Technology Advisory Group	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu		Other		Matt Smith matt.smith@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Trustee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge		Other	Exists on alternating	



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

	Election Committee	laldridge@gmail.com			years	
Mandated	Student Union Partners	Exec Member		Other	W 1:30 pm	Tonya Lemire tonya.lemire@uconn.edu
Approved	Student Welfare Committee	Ian Gutierrez ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu		University Senate	F 12-1 pm	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Requested	SUBOG Policy Council	Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	(same as Student Union Partners?)			
Appointed by President	UConn Branding Committee	Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu		President		Scott Brohinsky scott.brohinsky@uconn.edu
Appointed by President	UCONN Reads Steering Committee			President		uconnreads@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Budget Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu		University Senate	T/Th late am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Senate	President: Chantelle Messier chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Vice President: Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	University Senate	M 4-6 pm	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Senate Executive Committee	President: Chantelle Messier chantelle.messier@gmail.com		University Senate	F 11-2 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	Windham Regional Transit District	Hayley Kilroy-Mollmann hayleykilroy@gmail.com		Other	4th W of month 5 pm in Willimantic	Melinda Perkins melinda@wrtd.net

Standing Committees

Committee	Chair	Members and Contact Info
Student Life	Vice President: Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Hayley Killroy hayleykilroy@gmail.com Troy Messick troy.messick@uconn.edu
Public Relations	Secretary: Erin Eighan eeighan@gmail.com	Rich Colon richardcolonjr@gmail.com



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

Finance Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu	
Procedures Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com	Steven Mollmann steven.mollmann@uconn.edu
Activities Committee	Activities Director: Anish Kurian anish.m.kurian@gmail.com	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu Ryan Tomchek ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu Austin Johnson austin.johnson@uconn.edu Danielle Wong danielle.wong@uconn.edu Talia Shabtay talia.shabtay@uconn.edu Indu Upadhyaya indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

University Senate Executive Committee meeting, 4/13:

This was the year's last meeting of SEC with the Senate committee chairs.

Announcement about the Provost

Provost Nicholls was recently in a car accident, and will be on medical leave while he recovers. It's still unclear whether he will be able to return to his duties before he is scheduled to step down. Mun Choi is prepared to step in as Interim Provost earlier than originally scheduled.

Zero Waste Resolution

Undergraduate Student President Sam Tracy presented proposed a motion/resolution from ConnPig, which has already been passed by USG. The motion is for UConn to adopt a "zero waste" policy and "solid waste management policies that would dramatically reduce the environmental impact" of the University. SEC members suggested sending the motion to the Growth and Development Committee for consideration.

Scholastic Standards Committee

- Still considering policy to require a syllabus for all courses.
- Credit-hour policy is still being researched. I brought up the line in the current policy draft that defines graduate credits as requiring "more than three hours" of work. I suggested that since this policy will go into the bylaws, it would be wise to consider placing an upper limit on graduate credit hours.

Faculty Standards

- Found that some graduate courses lack a syllabus, and advised that this is an issue that needs to be addressed.
- Family and Medical Leave Policy
 - Current practice is to stop the tenure clock on faculty whose insurance records indicate a "major life event."
 - The committee is considering whether this practice is intrusive, restrictive, or unequally applied.
 - Because this policy is linked with the AAUP contract, changing it would require collaboration with the union.
 - An SEC member expressed concerns about Human Resources linking private health information to the tenure process.
 - The FS committee chair indicated that the health insurance reporting practice is meant to circumvent any pressure faculty may feel from department heads not to report tenure-clock-stopping events. However, there are clearly issues with the system, and the committee plans to continue examining this complex policy in collaboration with AAUP.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees 12 September 2012

- Discussion of revisions to Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET) continues.
 - The committee considered proposed revisions to the SET in a summer pilot that seemed aimed at improving students' scoring of online courses.
 - Faculty Standards protested any deletions to the SET, or revisions explicitly geared toward inflating the evaluation of online instruction.
 - SEC members expressed concerns that proper process be followed in any such revisions or similar projects.

General Education Oversight Committee (GEOC)

- Reorganization of the Institute of Teaching and Learning (ITL)
 - W and Q Centers will not be moved from where they are currently being housed, but they may still be re-organized.
 - GEOC will propose in the Fall that the Foreign Language Center, which has been started with a very small budget, should be funded like W and Q, because foreign language is a general education requirement.
- There may not be enough W courses for writing within students' academic majors, but more data is needed.

Building and Grounds Committee

- University has a \$1 billion maintenance backlog, which is being worked on continually.
- Importance of properly coordinating and prioritizing between maintenance and campus beautification.
- The new Space Committee, which is in charge of managing space on campus, will not include any faculty or students. SEC will be meeting with Amy Donahue to discuss, among other things, how faculty and students can have input on space decisions.

Other Business

- Shared governance
 - Amy Donahue, the Chief Operations Officer, has suggested that SEC institute a monthly "space-meeting" with her (which isn't as cool as it sounds) to get early input on space and construction decisions.
 - It was suggested that the Senate form a small advisory committee instead.
 - The SEC resolved that a small group be formed to meet with Amy Donahue and other administrators about space and construction, and come up with a resolution to form an appropriate committee or decide on modifications to the old Space Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

SEC special meeting with Amy Donahue and Sally Reis, 4/17:

NOTE: The information discussed in this meeting will not be made public until Monday, 4/23. Please do not post these minutes until that date.

This was a special meeting of the SEC with COO of Academic Affairs Amy Donahue and Vice Provost Sally Reis, to discuss the reorganizations of several programs at UConn.

Center for Continuing Studies (CCS)

- Budget deficit in most programs.
- Because CCS had to be financially self-sustaining and was in debt, it had a number of profit-gained units that it isn't in the University's interest to retain, because they don't meet the academic mission and quality standards.
- Problems coordinating with Graduate School.
- Has its own separate administration, including a separate Bursar and Registrar, who didn't coordinate with the central admin.
- Online program logistics had some serious issues.

Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL)

- Has a good core mission, but staff is over-extended
- Time spent on classroom tech support made it difficult for ITL to fulfill its instructional support and learning missions
- ITL no longer has a teaching specialist on staff
- Issues with ITL having the staff to serve graduate teaching and learning; because under-staffed, ITL had to focus mostly on serving undergrads

Reorganization

- Core functions of CCS and ITL will be merged into the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL).
- ITL Instructional Design unit will be merged with central University Instructional Design.
- ITL classroom tech support will be merged into UITS. Tech support functions were originally transferred to ITL from UITS because of a need for better response time, but with consolidation of UITS underway, this is no longer a problem, and in fact classroom support is already being done by the same former ITL staff, but now under UITS management.
- All units will now be under ownership of academic schools/colleges. The University will keep any program that a school/college wants to take responsibility for, but eliminate programs that no school/college wants (e.g., Homeland Security).
- The W and Q Centers will remain unchanged.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees 12 September 2012

- Union contracts will protect the jobs of most of the faculty and staff involved in the reorganization.
- Event Planning, Conferencing, and space booking services also need to be consolidated to make it easier to access and book space at UConn.

Relocations

- CETL will go into CUE, which will be re-arranged to make more sense spatially.
- Career Services (by request of John Saddlemire) will have centers in Wilbur Cross and Student Union.
- DISP will move into McMahon with International Living and Learning Community and UCAELI, forming a nexus for International services.
- Bishop Center will be vacated. The second floor will temporarily house Mental Health until a new building goes up, and its basement will hopefully house the Print Shop, Art Design, and Digital Media. Plans are still in the works for what to do with the first floor.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

University Senate Executive Committee meeting 4/20:

Enrollment

- Open house on Saturday 4/14 went very well.
- Enrollment process is going well.
- Early acceptance program has been eliminated; all undergrad applications will now be due on January 13th.

Provost's Office

- New faculty hires
 - Hiring plans came in last month
 - 270 line requests for approx. 70-90 slots
 - At the stage of asking deans for more details as the process begins to narrow down hiring decisions.
 - Deans have been sharing hiring proposals to promote transparency, healthy competition, and collaborative hiring.
 - Hires will be made on the basis of whether a department has existing strengths to build on, and plans for specific opportunities to strengthen a program.
- Provost Nicholls is recuperating after his recent hospitalization, and anticipates being able to fulfill his duties from home for the rest of his term until Interim Provost Mun Choi takes over in the summer.
- The weekend formerly known as "Spring Weekend"
 - State, local, and campus police and Public Safety have been working in close cooperation under new Police Chief Barbara O'Connor to promote on-campus security.
 - As of today, activities have been relatively low-key, with only 7 arrests (a decrease from last year, and a massive decrease from the year before).

Finance Division

- The Chief Financial Officer (currently Rich Gray) will now be responsible for a much wider array of administrative departments. This will include taking over the duties of COO from Barry Feldman. The CFO's purview will now encompass Finance and Budget, Facilities, Public Safety, Purchasing, Human Resources, and Payroll.

Other Business

- Anne Hiskes, Associate Dean of CLAS, has accepted a job offer in Michigan and will be leaving UConn.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees
12 September 2012

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

University Senate Report, 4/23:

President's Office

- UConn Reads program was successful.
- UConn has brought in outside reviewers to look at CCS and UITS to evaluate those departments' practices and make recommendations for improvement.
- President thanks Public Safety, students, administrators, and police for helping the weekend-formerly-known-as-Spring Weekend to pass without incident.

Provost's Office

- Provost Nicholls is recovering from a broken sternum, but will continue to fulfill his duties until his retirement to faculty status in May. Interim Provost Mun Choi will take office in May.
- New faculty line decision-making process is on schedule, with the Provost's Office going over proposals with the deans. Next year's new faculty lines will be allocated in May.
- Vice Provost for International Affairs and Vice Provost for Diversity searches have strong pools of applicants and are beginning to look at applications.

Center for Continuing Studies (CCS) & Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) Reorganization

- CCS and ITL will be merged into the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL), which will comprise Outreach, Incubator, UConn Online, ITL, and Bachelors of General Studies programs.
- CCS will no longer have its own separate Registrar and Bursar; these offices will be moved to the central Registrar and Bursar
- ITL will still run:
 - Faculty Development & Teaching Assistant Program (with International Teaching Assistant Program) with a new staff position for faculty development
 - Q and W Centers
 - Technology Services (including Education Technologies, Interactive TV, and Studio/Media Design)
- ITL will no longer run classroom tech support; the same employees will do those repairs, now reporting to UITS
- For more details on this, see my report from the SEC Special Meeting on 4/17 with Sally Reis and Amy Donahue.

Consent Agenda

The items on the consent agenda, including the annual reports of the senate standing committees, were approved. Please see the following link for complete documentation of these items: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423senatemeeting.html>.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee presented its nominations for next year's standing committee members. The nominations were accepted by the Senate.

Online Learning and UConn e-Campus (Sally Reis, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs)

See the full report at: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423.online.pdf>

- Why universities across the nation are turning to online learning: career readiness, flexibility for students, revenue generation, addressing the needs of a new generation, and blended programs.
- Studies show that online learning can be as effective as classroom learning.
- Demand for online learning is high, with online courses often filling up within 48 hours of opening.
- UConn is developing its online learning program, which will be called e-Campus
- UConn's goals in online learning include:
 - Provide quality, not quantity
 - Bolster 4-year graduation rate
 - Retain and grow market share in key programs
 - Develop online certificate and Masters' programs
 - Provide high-demand courses
 - Give all faculty the option to teach online
 - Attract top students who can't come to Storrs, including international students
 - Provide instructional support for faculty who teach online
- UConn has been slow to implement its online learning goals, due to logistical problems. These problems are being addressed with UITs, Bursar, Admissions, and CCS.
- Developing a business plan; online learning will probably not make UConn money right away, but shouldn't lose money.
- Working with AAUP and University Senate on quality and standards of online learning.
- Assessing IP and copyright issues.
- Will be working with deans and faculty to begin offering more online courses, and support those faculty who already are offering online courses.

Regional Campus Reports

See the full report at: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423.regional.pdf>.

- Graduate students at regional campuses:
 - Avery Point
 - Recently added grad programs and a Teaching Certification Program for College Graduates.
 - 82 grad students.
 - Greater Hartford has >600 grad students
 - Stamford



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

- 508 grad students
- Adding grad student housing
- Torrington (no info on grads)
- Waterbury
 - Offers courses in 5 grad programs

Parking Advisory Committee

See the full report at: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423.pac.pdf>.

- Plans to make middle of the campus exclusive to bikes and pedestrians in order to make traveling through campus more efficient for both vehicles and pedestrians.
- Parking fees have been the same since 1999, but an increase is possible in 2014.
- Task team is looking at regulations for use of motorized scooters and bikes on campus.
- Goal is to keep trucks and utility vehicles off the sidewalks.

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

See the full report at: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423.plac.pdf>. For more details on individual meetings, refer to our PLAC rep Safet Berisa's reports on the GSS website.

Commencement Committee

See the full report at: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120423.commence.pdf>.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees 12 September 2012

University Senate Executive Committee Meeting, 9/7/12

Budget Committee was charged with monitoring graduate tuition-on-grants for three years, a charge which expires this year. This is an issue GSS needs to continue tracking, as well as one the SEC expressed interest in. The Senate will expect a full report on what this "monitoring" has entailed, and what the Budget Committee has discovered.

Faculty Standards Committee

- Still consulting about mandatory Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET's) policy. Progress seems stalled as committees debate wording and where the policy will be recorded.
- Search in progress for University ombudsperson.
- SEC member asked committee to look at the national shift in tenure standards toward less abstract and more prescriptive/empirical.

Student Welfare Committee

- Looking forward to getting grad student input on issues of student welfare. GSS's rep on this committee may want to bring up social space for grad students.
- Plans to look at bunched finals, student finances, and proposed student recreational facilities this year.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

- University has hired a space planner
- New policies will speed up process of building and renovation projects under \$50K
- There will be 3 public meetings of B&G this year, to get input on how to spend budgetary funds on building projects
- B&G will work harder to inform departments if there has been a change to a building project they've granted

GEOC is still waiting for vetting on a policy that would establish language centers (parallel to W and Q centers) on campus.

Other Business

- The Provost's Office is considering recommending to the governor that UConn uses peer institutions to review its new degrees and programs, rather than the ACA. Even under this suggestion, UConn would still communicate with other colleges at all levels about its programming.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

- The schedule of annual reports to the Senate has been distributed. Senate meetings are public, so if you may be interested in attending to hear one of this year's reports, see me for more information about the schedule.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees

12 September 2012

Graduate Faculty Council meeting 9/12

(Leland Aldridge and Chantelle Messier in attendance)

GSS Report

As GSS hasn't met yet, I outlined some of the most prominent graduate concerns we will address this year.

- Housing (plans for housing survey to find out where grads live)
- Parking and Transportation (our student life survey says that 25% of grad students find it "difficult" or "very difficult" to travel off-campus for any reason at all!)
- Graduate student social space
- Graduate student maternity leave policy (at a previous GFC meeting it was said that a policy was in existence but not through the vetting process; I requested an update on its status and got the following answer)
 - Grad school has recently investigated and found there *is* a 6-week paid maternity leave policy in place on the UConn Policy Website (exact policy is at: <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=693>).
 - *BUT* this is a maternity leave policy, not "family leave" or "medical leave"
 - *AND* there is no provision for funding leave; it will be up to individual departments
 - It will be necessary to continue looking into this policy as far as its functionality, funding, and applicability to post-docs
- Raising GSS senator attendance rates and making constituents more aware of us
- Created ex-officio non-voting position on Exec for Grad Student Trustee

Graduate School Updates

- Dr. Sandra Chafouleas from the Neag School of Education is now serving as the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School
- President Herbst met with the GFC Exec Board and emphasized that UConn needs to take grad education seriously in order to remain a great university and become a greater one.
- Funding has been restored to re-institute a GA position in the W Center to run a series of 5-week writing workshops for grad students. Demand has far exceeded space in the workshops, and the Grad School plans to make the workshops a regular thing.
- Grad School will be running a series of professional development workshops from 4-6 p.m. at the Whetten Grad School, advertised on the Daily Digest. Workshops will include academic writing, stress management, and the academic hiring process. Email Martha Marroni (martha.marroni@uconn.edu) or Sandra Chafouleas (sandra.chafouleas@uconn.edu) for details.
- UConn now has an informal post-doc association (email Kent Holsinger for details) that may evolve into a more formal or official organization.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: External and Standing Committees 12 September 2012

- The Grad School website is under construction, undergoing revisions to be more user-friendly and better disseminate information.
- GSS and the Grad School will be collaborating on twice-annual social event for grad students.
- A small group of administrators will be meeting to review problems with the Academic Misconduct and Complaint procedures. Plan to present suggestions for revision to GFC at a future meeting.
- The provost has asked for task force to examine post-baccalaureate and graduate certificate administration and standards with goals to:
 - Review certificates formerly supervised by Continuing Studies (which has now been folded into CETL)
 - Regularize post-bacc and grad certificates
 - Aim at UConn offering 15 new certificates a year, evolving these certificates to respond to the job market and academic trends

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier