



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Minutes

10 April 2013

I. Call to Order at 7:10 pm.

Regular meeting with Vice President Safet Beriša presiding, Secretary Erin Eighan recording.

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Approval of Minutes: 27 March 2013

a. Approved.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Chantelle Messier

i. Executive Committee

1. Started to organize a plan for a GSS orientation

ii. GA Health Insurance Benefits Changes

1. Please see details in the Addendum.

2. Significant changes to graduate student benefits in the next academic year. These will be publicized beginning May 1 through mailings.

iii. Meeting with Vice President for Student Affairs Search Firm

1. Someone with a coherent vision that has a sense of how to serve our needs as graduate students. Rather than thinking about our population as an “exception to a rule,” we are interested in finding a system that fits our needs explicitly.

2. Austin Johnson will serve on the search committee.

iv. Rec Center Town Hall: Tuesday, April 16 and Wednesday, April 17 @ 4-6 pm
(Konover Auditorium at the Dodd Research Center)

1. Please pass this on to your constituencies and please try to attend one of these meetings.

2. Anything said during these meetings will be part of the public records that go before the administration as they make decisions.

3. The more people they can hear from, the better it will be.

b. Vice President – Safet Beriša

i. Student Life Committee

1. Meeting postponed until the end of this week or beginning of next week.

c. Treasurer – Ian Yue

i. Finance Committee

1. Updates

a. The Committee has gone through multiple sessions of the Budget Hearing.



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- b. The Committee has also reviewed a Tier II petition, but Treasurer Yue cannot get into the details due to confidentiality reasons.
 - 2. Budget Hearings
 - a. The last budget hearing will be tomorrow. You can see the schedule on the GSS website at the bottom of the homepage.
 - ii. Monthly Financial Report for March 2013
 - 1. Please see details in the Addendum.
 - 2. The net profit is slightly misleading. The bill for our KFS (Kuali) account only gets charged once every month, and we have not yet received this bill.
 - d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 - 1. Rec Center Survey Analysis
 - 2. University Fee Survey Analysis
 - 3. University Fee Resolution Draft
 - ii. GSS Meeting Schedule for Spring: 4/10, 4/24
 - iii. Blog, *The Commons*: gssuconn.wordpress.com
 - iv. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
 - v. Attendance
 - e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Ted's Social Night: Tuesday, April 16 @ 6-8 pm
 - 1. Karaoke will be featured.
 - iii. Nathan Hale Happy Hour: April 25 or April 26
 - iv. Summer Social Event
 - 1. If there is any additional funds leftover from the year, we may be able to host a summer social event.
 - f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Procedures Committee
 - 1. A dispute on the interpretation of the Finance Policies and Procedures came before the Procedures Committee. Regarding the appeals process, the FPPs say that if an appeal reaches the Senate, the Senate's decision on the appeal is final. The interpretation of the Procedures Committee is that should the appeal be passed, the amount decided on by the Senate shall go into the Finance Committee's budget



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recommendation to the Senate and shall not be changed by the Finance Committee at that point. But when the budget comes before the Senate for the Senate to make its final decision on the budget, they can modify that just as they would any other item in that budget.

- ii. Structure of Executive Committee Elections
 - 1. Nominations will be closed directly before each election.
 - 2. Candidates need a strict majority to be elected. If no candidate receives a strict majority, the vote tallies are read and there is another round of voting until the position is filled or the Senate postpones the vote.

V. External Committee Reports

- a. Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- b. SUBOG SU Policy Council – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- c. Provost's Library Advisory Committee – Mary Goodrich
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- d. Search Committee for the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School – Micah Bruce-Davis
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- e. GSS Special Committee on Professional Development – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.

VI. Issues Forum

- a. Senator Wong: Was there any
- b. Senator Mollmann: Where does the insurance change come from?
 - i. President Messier: Unfortunately we weren't part of the decision-making process, but I'm assuming that they've accepted the best bid. It is unfortunate that they have not presented this to us earlier.
 - ii. Senator Charrette: I would like to know if the actual mechanics for paying for a spouse's insurance will change. I saw that it will go through a broker. Are there going to be any differential fees?
 - iii. Treasurer Yue: One of the reasons the change arouse was because if they continue on with the State plan, they would have to cover sky-rocketing costs. That would likely fall on the shoulders of graduate students, so they opted to find a better, more cost-effective plan.
 - iv. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The rebate goes entirely back to the students.
 - v. Senator Charrette: Will it come in the form of a check?



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- vi. President Messier: I will check on that.
- c. Senator Johnson: I am interested in receiving any feedback anyone has on the Vice President for Student Affairs Search. Please feel free to contact me at austinj@gmail.com.

VII. Unfinished Business

- a. GSS 12/13-23: That the Graduate Student Senate uphold the Linguistic Club at UConn's appeal of the decision of the Finance Committee regarding the NELS 44 event, in the amount of \$350.00 in expense code 615 (Contractual Services) and \$2040 in expense code 624 (Travel).
 - i. Motioned by Senator Messick. Seconded.
 - ii. Senator Charrette: I am in full support of this event and think it is the kind of event that GSS should be funding.
 - iii. Treasurer Yue: In terms of the things that GSS is funding, would Ling Club be using those funds to offset the costs for graduate students.
 - 1. Ling Club President: The registration fee will be dropped from \$55 to \$30 for UConn graduate students. The non-student fee will be \$80. We've already made a significant effort to decrease the funds for graduate students, and now an extra effort to reduce it for UConn graduates.
 - iv. Senator Sharpsteen: Do we know specifically where the total funds will be coming from?
 - 1. Parliamentarian Aldridge: We've been working with the knowledge that this may be returned under the budget. So we're on track to meet the fiscal budget that has been assigned by the budget. The main cuts that we've made so far are things that weren't appropriate or were asking for restraints in terms of refreshments/honoraria/etc. It's not going to be the case that if this were to come back into the budget, we would have to axe another event in its entirety. Percentage-wise, this isn't a huge chunk of the budget so I think there's room for it without taking away too much from other graduate organizations.
 - v. Treasurer Yue: When the Finance Committee puts a recommendation before the Senate regarding any specific budget, that budget must stay within a cap set by the Treasurer.
 - vi. VOTE: Motion passes.

VIII. New Business

- a. Nominations for Executive Committee



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b. Executive Committee Elections

i. President

1. Jason Charrette: Address

- a. One of the things that I will do if elected is devolve more of the funds to Tier-II organizations. One of the other things I would like front-load GSS meetings to streamline meetings. I also want to emphasize graduate student advocacy. One thing I can guarantee I will do is advocate on behalf of graduate students regardless of personal opinion.

2. Safet Berisa: Address

- a. I've been in GSS for about 2 years, about as long as GSS and have served on nearly all of the standing committees except the Public Relations committee. I would also like to push back against this Rec Center proposal. I will also follow the Senate. I would like to focus on shifting our activities from feeding graduate students to actually doing something. I am for getting a Professional Development Coordinator who would do more activities that are actually useful for our careers.

3. Question/Discussion Period

- a. Senator Njuki: How much time do you have left in your graduate career?
 - i. Senator Charrette: I'll be here at least a year maybe two.
 - ii. Vice President Berisa: I'll be here at least two more, maybe three years.
- b. Senator Mollmann: Senator Charrette, do you have an opinion about the Professional Development Coordinator?
 - i. Senator Charrette: I would be in favor of making it an Executive level position and funding it.
- c. Senator Sharpsteen: I'm wondering how much the experience on the Executive Committee is going to make a difference.
- d. Senator Wong: I think that the fact that both of them have been on GSS for the same amount of time, I think puts them on a relatively equal level.
- e. Parliamentarian Aldridge: One thing that I do feel is a bit relevant is that Safet has been serving on the Graduate Faculty Council. Whoever is elected will need to continue serving on



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the Graduate Faculty Council next year. There would be a form of continuity there.

- f. Senator Mollmann: As a factual tidbit, I've been in the Senate 4 years and I can think of 2 Presidents that have not served on Exec prior.
- g. Senator Sharpsteen: I did not recognize too much of a difference between the two.
- h. Senator Gutierrez: I would say that from what I've heard, especially as far as the budget is concerned, they do have quite a difference between each other. I think Safet is pursuing a budget proposal and a plan for spending that is line with the way things are operating this year. What Jason is suggesting is a major shift away from internal-GSS financial operations toward Tier-II funding.
- i. Activities Director Kurian: How much impact does the President have on the budget as opposed to the Treasurer? My impression was not a lot.
- j. Treasurer Yue: In terms of direct impact, not a lot. The President does have the opportunity to propose things to the Treasurer, but it's up to the Treasurer to set those caps.
- k. Activities Director Kurian: The budget for next year seems to be set, so any changes would be for the following year, right?
- l. Treasurer Yue: The budget for next year will be determined at the final meeting of this year.
- m. Senator Wong: One of my concerns since coming to UConn is having this disconnect between the University and graduate students when we're the ones that support UConn's R1 status. And so just knowing Jason's personality, I know he could help make changes to this on a significant level. He would be a really good advocate for us.
- n. President Messier: I would like to share my philosophy about what the Presidency has been about. What has struck me really is that the President is in a tremendous position of needing to mediate between a lot of people. There are subdivisions of populations, not just the administration and graduate students. The President forming their own personal agenda is kind of problematic because you find that as a student in the English



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department or any specific department you can't see beyond that particular constituencies issues.

- o. Activities Director Kurian: I've known Safet for a long time and I've seen him participate on a number of committees. Any time that Chantelle has needed someone to step up, it's almost always Safet. I think he has a lot of experience with GSS. I think that Jason is a good candidate, though I'm not sure if he's as experienced with all the other committees. I want you to think about what is more important, but these are the things to consider.
- p. Senator Cash: Could you speak about how much time you spend on average as President of GSS?
- q. President Messier: I undoubtedly spend more time on GSS than on my 20-hour GA-ship. Though the duties shift depending on when important issues come up.
- r. Secretary Eighan: I'd like to know what your philosophy on leadership will be and how you will seek to effect change in your position.
 - i. Vice President Berisa: We need to be polite but straightforward and fair. We don't need to accept everything that they say as a fact.
 - ii. Senator Charrette: We have in this body what's called soft-power. What I can do is use the influence of GSS. Some of that is advocacy, the opinion derived by GSS, making GSS a larger organization. One of the ways to do that is to provide more money to Tier-II organizations. If we get them on board, we have more soft power and we have more leverage. We also need a clear agenda. I'm going to advocate for what the Senate wants. I don't see my role as a resume-building exercise. Now, if being friendly gets us what we want, then ok. This is something I want to do as service. The important thing I want to stress is that my agenda is not derived from my personal views, but from what your constituencies need. I'm going to put the onus on you to represent your constituencies so that we can make this happen together.



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- s. Senator Shabtay: Senator Charrette, I'm wondering why you aren't running for Treasurer.
 - i. Senator Charrette: I don't think the Treasurer should be making those detailed decisions about the budget. My personal management style is that I tend to delegate and set a clear agenda. I think that when you give a lot of leeway, you end up with unnecessary conflict. I'm not running for Finance Committee because, frankly, I would like to set the agenda—or lead the Executive Committee to help set the agenda. Over the last several years, we have drifted toward a more centralized planning and a little less federalism. If there is an issue that I hear, it's that. This is our money we're talking about. Two people shouldn't be making those decisions. I know there's a lot of procedure, but I don't think there should be so many internal decisions.
 - ii. Vice President Berisa: I know it would be nice to give Tier II budgets more money, but where is that money going to come from. So central spending—sure it might be too much, but I wouldn't cut it extremely. In our central events we have people coming from all departments. Those events cut across the most groups as opposed to individual departmental groups. We can talk about shifting the funding from events that are more social to events that are more professionally oriented, but I don't think they should be radically cut.
 - iii. Senator Charrette: Any agenda is up to be vetoed by the Senate. Our job is to facilitate community, not to police the community. I don't think we should be doing it without a serious debate.
- 4. **VOTE:** Jason Charrette - 17. Safet Berisa - 7. 24 votes were cast. 13 votes were needed for majority. Jason Charrette is elected President by majority vote.
- ii. Vice President
 - 1. Steve Mollmann: Address
 - a. I'm a 3rd-year PhD in the English department, but this is my 4th year involvement in GSS and I'm pretty sure I've been in the



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Senate longer than anyone except maybe Leland. I spent 2 as department Senator, 2 as Parliamentarian. I know all the rules. I'll be the first Vice President never to turn to the Parliamentarian about what can be done when. The reason I decided to run for Vice President is because I've become more cognizant of what's a valuable use of meeting time. There should be a little more front-loading of information. I did chair four meetings of GSS. I think that there's a lot of data that we could potentially leverage from the Student Life Survey and so I'd like to make something of that data. I'd also chair meetings wearing a tie.

2. Shawn Washart: Address

- a. I'm a first-year graduate student and I'm in the Higher Education and Student Affairs department, so this is my domain. In my program I work with Administration so I know how that side of things works. The Student Life Committee is my passion, and that's why I'm running for the Vice Presidency. I would agree with the fact that we need to cut back on some activities that are purely social and events that are labeled social that aren't really social (i.e. Ted's Nights). We need to spend money on events that are giving us the right kind of return.

3. Question/Discussion Period

- a. Senator Njuki: Senator Mollmann, what are your views on Professional Development?
 - i. I'm not convinced that a University-wide push for professional development is very beneficial. I'm not so sure how much GSS can do to facilitate that. I'm not convinced that GSS is the venue for professional development in the sense that we've been currently discussing them.

4. VOTE: Steve Mollmann - 16. Shawn Washart - 8. 24 votes were cast. 13 votes were needed for majority. Steve Mollmann is elected Vice President by majority vote.

iii. Secretary

1. Danielle Wong: Address



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- a. I am in my 2nd year of the PhD for Political Science. I went to UC-Irvine for my undergraduate work. I was Secretary for an organization during my undergrad. I would love to apply the things that I've learned from being in that position to this current position. I know it's more than just taking minutes and that there's this whole PR aspect. Something that I'd like to implement is having a monthly newsletter to send out to graduate students. It would be nice to have other than the website to have this common place to look at announcements and updates. It would be great to send this to Faculty, as well. I work on voting data and understand how to craft survey questions effectively.
2. VOTE: Danielle Wong - 22. Kermit - 1. Geno Auriemma - 1. 24 votes were cast. 13 votes were needed for majority. Danielle Wong is elected Secretary by majority vote.
- iv. Activities Director
 1. Anish Kurian: Address
 - a. I've been requesting feedback from graduate students over the course of the last few months to start planning events for next semester. I'm going to push for some more refined events to attract a broader audience. I'm also considering some family-friendly events, as well. If there's a professional development coordinator, whoever that person is to figure out where to draw the line between the two positions and how the budget can be coordinated between those events.
 2. VOTE: Anish Kurian - 21. Geno - 2. 23 votes were cast. 12 votes were needed for majority. Anish Kurian is elected Activities Director by majority vote.
- v. Parliamentarian
 1. Ian Gutierrez: Address
 - a. I am a first-year graduate student in clinical psychology. I consider myself a consensus politician. One of the things I would like to do in this role is that I consider this role as the person who maintains the structure of this organization and organize elections. I think that we have strength in numbers, and so I would like to do everything I can to bring more people into GSS. Because I'm a first-year, I plan to be here for many



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more years. I care deeply about this community and want to continue my involvement with it on Exec.

2. Noah Sharpsteen: Address

- a. I am a 2nd-year PhD student in Philosophy. What I really want to do if elected is to make this a very transparent group and make the procedures and the rules as clear as possible for everyone involved. When I first got here, things were a bit dark—a bit unclear. I'm very happy to see that we're pursuing an orientation and would love to head something like that. As an undergraduate I did write a constitution for two groups that I created on my own, so I do have some experience with foundational documents.

3. Question/Discussion Period

- a. President Messier: One of the most important roles for the Parliamentarian is to educate the Senate about their roles and to give them the power to take action in the Senate. Could you speak to how you might do this?
 - i. Senator Sharpsteen: I think holding a thorough and engaging orientation is a start. I also like the fun facts idea. I want to motivate a voice in the Senate. As an individual, you may not be as powerful as you think you are, and I want to remind you that you do have power and that you do represent a constituency.
 - ii. Senator Gutierrez: I would like to work on the pragmatics—introductions, how-to packets, cheat sheets. If I wanted to take action in the Senate, it was a little unclear to me at the beginning; there's a transition period. As Parliamentarian, it would of course be my responsibility to understand the Constitution and Bylaws in detail. But in reality, a lot of the Parliamentarian's duties is helping people figure out how to do stuff.
 - iii. Senator Sharpsteen: I think that's a great idea actually. I think it would also be really good to kind of reach out and help the other committees as well. I think it would be good to work with the other standing committees and form a document for their policies and procedures



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as well, like the Finance Committee. So maybe having individual standing committee documents would be helpful as well.

4. VOTE: Noah Sharpsteen - 6. Ian Gutierrez - 17. 23 votes were cast. 12 votes were needed for majority. Ian Gutierrez is elected Parliamentarian by majority vote.

vi. Treasurer

1. Jing Jin: Address

- a. First-year PhD student. I have a very strong passion to serve the graduate student body. That's way I contacted Ian Yue the first time I received a message from Leland Aldridge about the chance to serve as Treasurer. I have been in communication with Ian, shadowing him these past two weeks. I have been trained to do my family's finance work by my mother who is an accountant, so that is one of the important reasons that allows me to understand all the documents. I appreciate being nominated for this position and for Ian training me over the past two weeks. If I'm able to get this chance to serve the graduate student body, I will keep working hard to be familiar with all the responsibilities of the treasurer and do my best to improve this job.

2. Linna Du: Address

- a. I'm a 3rd-year doctoral student in the School of Business studying Operations and Information Management, Math, and Statistics. So when I got the email about the Treasurer's position, I was very excited about it because it's a great opportunity to apply my knowledge and join the graduate student community. Just because I'm not very good at speaking publicly, doesn't mean that I won't be able to dispute or debate issues that refer to the budget. Working with the budget sounds like an optimization problem to me. I would like to apply my knowledge to help GSS and graduate students here to utilize limited funds in the most efficient and effective way possible. I'm confident that I will be a great treasurer and I want to work with the community.

3. Safet Berisa: Address



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- a. My qualifications: I've been my Tier-II organization's Treasurer for 2 years now. I also do my own taxes and I'm very proud of that.
4. Question/Discussion Period
 - a. Activities Director Kurian: How will you deal with a situation that may arise in which budgets that are being put in place for next year may want to be changed? What if GSS is heading in a new direction and want to allocate their money if a budget is established in the next week?
 - i. Ms. Du: The budget should have flexibility also. When you make a budget you have to look through the historical data and understand what the trends are. Once the budget is made, I think for most Activities you should follow the budget.
 - ii. Ms. Jin: The budget is the plan and we have to do our best to make the budget. We also can talk more about how we can organize the money and how to spend that and try our best not to make it to much over it.
 - iii. Vice President Berisa: I would use my power as Treasurer to try and set a course. But of course if there's a consensus that that course is wrong and if the Senate or the Executive Committee changes that, I would enforce that in the way they are set.
 - b. Bing Xu: I'm the one that works most closely with the Treasurer during the year. I know how many hours he put in during the week. He puts in over 20 hours a week and on certain weeks he puts in 40 hours a week. The thing about working as the Treasurer is that there are so many people you have to deal with and so many different situations that need to be handled gracefully and diplomatically. That requires a lot of experience and clear communication. There are a lot of issues we have to deal with regarding particular phrasing used in policy, and we have to be able to resolve those issues.
 - c. Activities Director Kurian: In terms of number crunching, I think any of the candidates will be suitable. I'm unsure if all of the candidates will be equally proficient in communicating with Tier-II groups.



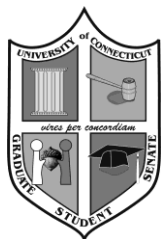
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5. VOTE: Jing Jin - 1. Linna Du - 3. Safet Berisa - 15. 19 votes were cast.
10 votes were needed for majority. Safet Berisa is elected Treasurer by majority vote.

IX. Adjournment at 10:07 pm.



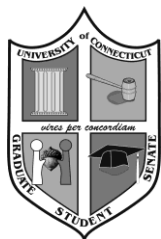
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Addendum: Attendance

10 April 2013

Name	Email	Constituency	Role
Chantelle Messier	chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	President
Safet Beriša	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee	Vice President
Ian Yue	ian.yue@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee	Treasurer
Erin Eighan	eeighan@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Secretary
Leland Aldridge	laldridge@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Parliamentarian
Anish Kurian	anish.m.kurian@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Activities Director
Shawn Washart	shawn.washart@uconn.edu	Higher Ed./Student Affairs	Senator
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Senator
Song Li	song.li@uconn.edu	Chemistry	Senator
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Senator
Talia Shabtay	talia.shabtay@uconn.edu	Art History	Senator
Micah Cash	micahcash@gmail.com	Studio Art	Senator
Troy Messick	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Senator
Peter Smith	peter.w.smith@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Beata Moshal	beata.moshal@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Bing Xu	bing.xu@uconn.edu	GSS	Office Assistant
Noah Sharpsteen	noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Senator
Mike Robillard	michael.robillard@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Salman Alzayani	salman.alzayani@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Alexandra Merceron	Alexandra.merceron@uconn.edu	GSCA	Senator
Abhinav Upadhyaya	abhinav.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Sciences	Representative



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Saurabh Sarkar	saurabh.sarkar@uconn.edu	Pharm. Sciences	Representative
Mary Goodrich	mary.goodrich@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Jing Jin	jing.jin@uconn.edu	Material Sciences	Representative
Matt Ross	Matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu	Economics	Senator
Michelle SanPedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Senator
Austin Johnson	austinj@gmail.com	Education	Senator
Ajith Pattammuttel	ajith.pattammuttel@uconn.edu	Tarang	Representative
Rahul Narayan	Rahul.narayan@uconn.edu	CSE	Senator



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Addendum: GA Health Insurance Benefits Changes

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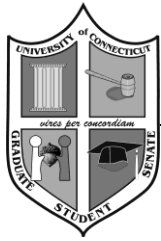
Graduate Assistant Costs

POE Plan Annual Premium

	#GAs		2010 – 2011	2011 – 2012	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014
GA Only	1101	Total	2620	2709	3374	3930
		Paid by GA	180	180	180	200
		Paid by UConn	2440	2529	3174	3730
GA +1	145	Total	5765	5961	7422	9600
		Paid by GA	1080	1080	1080	1440
		Paid by UConn	4685	4881	6342	8160
Family	91	Total	7075	7315	9109	12150
		Paid by GA	1530	1530	1530	1822
		Paid by UConn	5545	5785	7579	10328

POS Plan Annual Premium

	#GAs		2010 – 2011	2011 – 2012	2012 – 2013	2013 – 2014
GA Only	302	Total	2853	2950	3674	3930
		Paid by GA	413	421	480	200
		Paid by UConn	2440	2529	3194	3730
GA +1	30	Total	6277	6491	8082	9600
		Paid by GA	1592	1610	1740	1440
		Paid by UConn	4685	4881	6342	8160
Family	27	Total	7704	7965	9919	12150
		Paid by GA	2159	2180	2340	1822
		Paid by UConn	5545	5785	7579	10328



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Addendum: GA Health Insurance Benefits Changes

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Key Features	GA Plan	Student Plan (2013-14)
Network		
- Carrier	Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield	CIGNA
- Service area of network providers	CT only	Nationwide
- Number of providers	15,000 – 16,000	700,000
- Out of network coverage	Available to GAs for additional cost	Included
Healthcare Services - Network Provided		
- Office visit copays	\$10 primary care, \$20 specialists, \$35 urgent care	\$0 students seen at SHS, \$0 adult physical exams, \$25 all other
- Hospital	\$250 copay, then 100% paid by plan	90% paid by plan, 100% paid by plan after student's 10% reaches \$5,000
- Emergency room	100% paid by plan	100% paid by plan if admitted, \$150 copay if not admitted
- Outpatient surgery	100% paid by plan	90% paid by plan
- Laboratory	100% paid by plan	100% paid by plan
- X-rays	100% paid by plan	90% paid by plan
- Annual deductible	None	\$250 (waived if student seen by SHS)
Healthcare Services When Using Providers Who Are Not In Network	Available only if purchased: 70% paid by plan after GA pays \$1,000 annual deductible, 100% paid by plan when GA's 30% reaches \$3,000	70% paid by plan after student pays \$500 annual deductible, 100% paid by plan when student's 30% reaches \$5,000
Prescriptions	\$10 generic preferred brand \$30 non-preferred brand	\$15 generic \$30 brand name



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GA Health Insurance Benefits Changes

10 April 2013

Key Features	GA Plan	Student Plan (2013-14)
Medical Evacuation and Repatriation	None	Included
Effective Date of Coverage	September 1 (Note: GAs required to have coverage while at school, students without coverage must purchase short-term medical policy)	August 15
Administration		
- Enrollment	Human Resources Form	Automatic for GA, enroll through broker for family coverage
- Waiver	Human Resources Form	Peoplesoft Student Administration System for GA
- Payment	Deducted from stipend	Tuition and fee billed for GA, family coverage paid to broker
- Premium refunds to students	None	Payable based on loss ratios



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

University of Connecticut
Graduate Student Senate
Financial Statement FY 13
March 31, 2013

Income:		
501	Donations	-
502	Dues	-
512	Advertising	-
513	Awards and Prizes	-
515	Contractual Services	-
516	Co-Sponsorships	2,000.00
517	Food Sales	-
518	Merchandise Sales	-
519	Participation Fees	-
522	Registration Fees	-
523	Rental	-
524	Travel	-
530	Penalties and Fees	-
531	Miscellaneous	-
532	Prior Year Income	1,042.47
533	Change Fund Returns	-
540	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
546	Interest (Univ.)	-
547	Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	82,108.00
Total Income:		\$ 85,150.47
Expense:		
601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	720.30
604	Photocopying	395.91
605	Postage	52.02
606	Printing	323.20
607	Promotional Items	-
608	Refreshments -- Organization	2,000.87
609	Subscriptions	-
610	Supplies -- Organization	368.20
611	Telephone	906.47
612	Advertising	12.42
613	Awards and Prizes	249.12
615	Contractual Services	7,336.50
616	Co-Sponsorships	-
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-
619	Participation Fees	-
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	41,279.72
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	1,165.22
622	Registration Fees	-
623	Rental	1,973.10
624	Travel	1,069.14
625	Equipment	180.95
626	Equipment -- Capital	-
627	Insurance	-
628	Repairs and Maintenance	-
629	Utilities	-
630	Penalties and Fees	-
631	Miscellaneous	-
632	Prior Year Expenses	3.53
633	Change Funds	-
640	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
641	Employee Benefits (Tier III)	-
642	Wages -- Student (Tier III)	13,160.84
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	163.44
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
Total Expenses:		\$ 71,360.95
Net Profit (Loss)		\$ 13,789.52
Beginning Balance as of 7/01/12		30,442.55
Plus Net Profit (Loss)		13,789.52
Current Balance		\$ 44,232.07



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

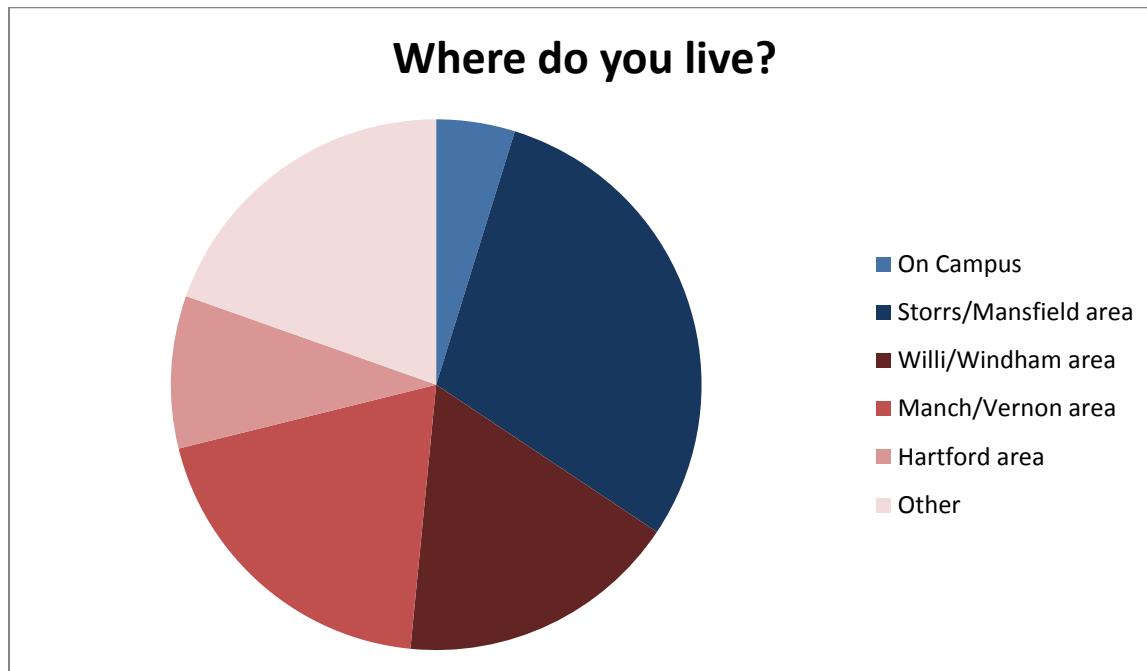
Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

The following data was collected from a survey distributed in March 2013 to the University of Connecticut graduate student community through the graduate listserv (GRADS_Announcements-L@listserv.uconn.edu). There were 291 participants. The analysis provided below was done by the Graduate Student Senate Public Relations Committee. For access to the raw data, please contact the PR Committee chair, Erin Eighan (eeighan@gmail.com).

Where do you live?

On Campus:	14	4.8%
Storrs/Mansfield area:	86	29.6%
Willi/Windham area:	50	17.2%
Manch/Vernon area:	57	19.6%
Hartford area:	27	9.3%
Other:	57	19.6%



Do you use the gym facilities at UConn?

Yes:	133	45.7%
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GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

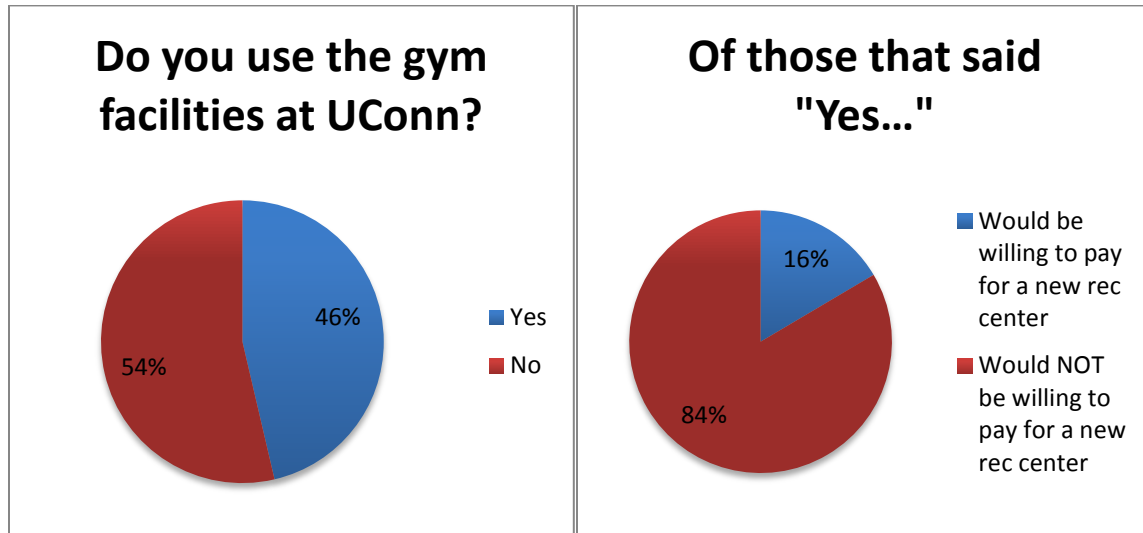
University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

No: 154 52.9%

- Of those that replied “yes” to this question—that is, those graduate students who *do* currently use the UConn gym facilities—83.5% said they would *not* be willing to pay a \$360-450 annual fee (\$30-37/month) for a new rec center with better facilities.



How often do you use the UConn gym?

Daily:	4	1.3%
5-6 days/week:	19	6.5%
3-4 days/week:	37	12.7%
1-2 days/week:	35	12.0%
A few times a month:	26	8.9%
Rarely:	32	11.0%
Never:	131	45.0%



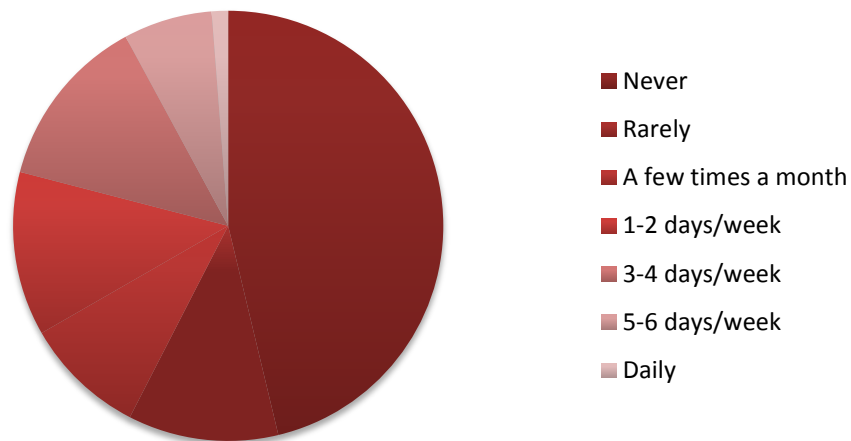
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

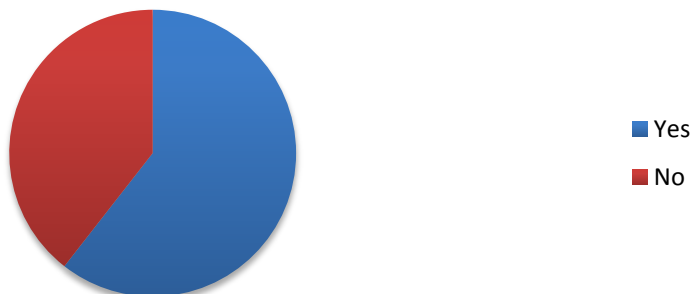
How often do you use the UConn gym?



Do you have a gym membership outside of campus?

Yes:	172	59.1%
No:	112	38.5%

Do you have a gym membership outside of campus?



How often do you use an off-campus gym?

Daily:	6	2.1%	5-6 days/week:	27	9.3%
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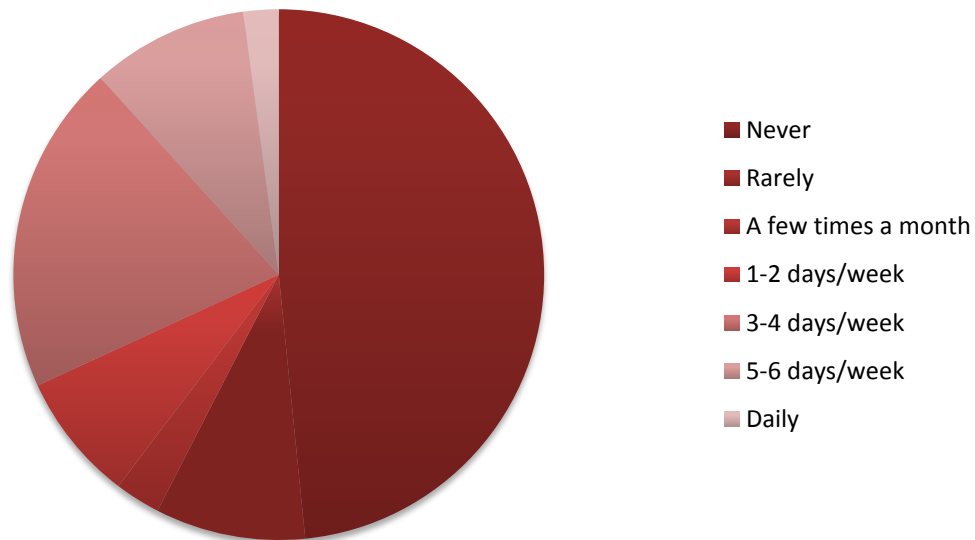
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results 10 April 2013

3-4 days/week:	57	19.6%	Rarely:	26	8.9%
1-2 days/week:	22	7.6%	Never:	137	47.1%
A few times a month:	8	2.7%			

How often do you use an off-campus gym?



How much do you pay for your gym membership?

I don't use a gym:	79	27.1%
I use UConn's gym:	86	29.6%
\$10-19/month:	45	15.5%
\$20-29/month:	36	12.4%
\$30-39/month:	16	5.5%
\$40+/month:	21	7.2%



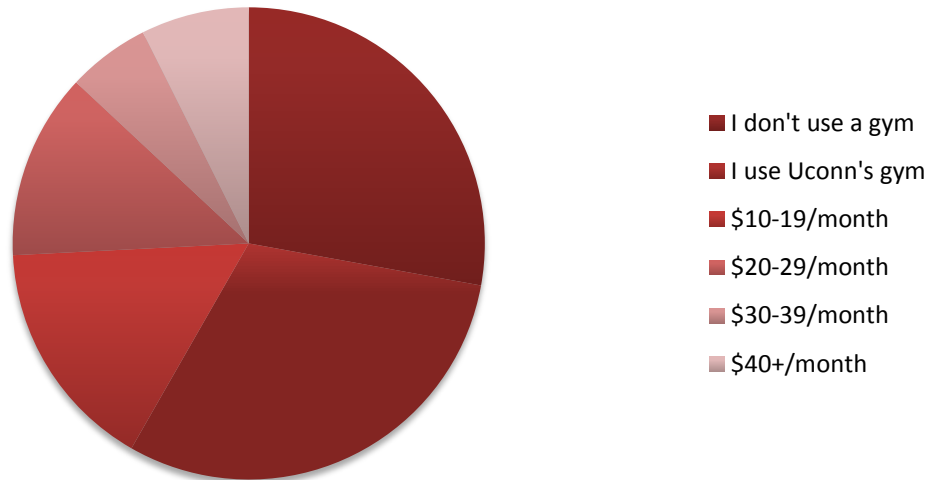
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

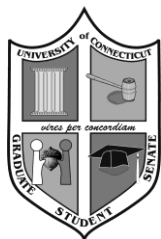
10 April 2013

Howmuch do you pay for your gym membership?



If UConn were to build a new recreational facility, what services would be most attractive/important to you?

Parking	workout rooms equipped with TVs and DVD players so that small groups of students could utilize instructional videos for workouts. The rooms ideally would be equipped with mats, yoga balls, hand weights in a range of sizes, and perhaps some medicine balls. Ideally there would be a library of instructional videos available for check out.
Classes (i.e. Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, dance classes)	
Separate space for Female Patrons	
Comfortable Showers	
Lockers	
Swimming Pool (lane swimming)	
Rock Climbing	Expanded free weight room, more cable weight room. More plyometric equipment such as weight balls, kettle balls, stretch bands. More cable weight machines.
Basketball courts for strict basketball use	Pull drums
Group Workout Rooms (like Group Study Rooms): Numerous group	



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

Squash and racquetball courts

TVs on machines

More casual activities like pool, ping pong, darts, and foosball. Not many bars in the area have them, probably because they get abused by undergrads.

Gymnastics equipment

Specific room for yoga

Indoor tennis courts

Separate space for graduate students

Pull up bars

More space to accommodate more students

Café for Grads

Bar for Grads

ADA Compliance

Indoor soccer

Windows inside

Hot yoga

Bodywise

Walking/running track (indoor and outdoor)

Power cages / squat racks are extremely important to me. I will never use the gym if I have to wait forever for

a rack to open up. In this regard Smith machines do not count as power cages (not to say that you shouldn't get one). You need to have extra barbells (not attached to any machine/cage). Also, you must get bumper plates. There will inevitably end up being a rule that you can't drop the weights, but for some lifts to be performed safely the weights must be dropped. Bumper plates are the solution as they are designed to be dropped. In general: It's unfortunate that we are a minority of the gym-going crowd, but to please the serious lifters you need to spend less on fancy machines and more on simple barbell equipment. At least compared to most school and commercial gyms.

Security

Tanning

Hair dryers

Hot tub

Steam room/Sauna

Childcare

Space for club/intramural sports to utilize

Meditation room

Quiet spaces

Meeting spaces students could reserve

Trampoline park



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

Board games

Rowing ergometers

Group trivia

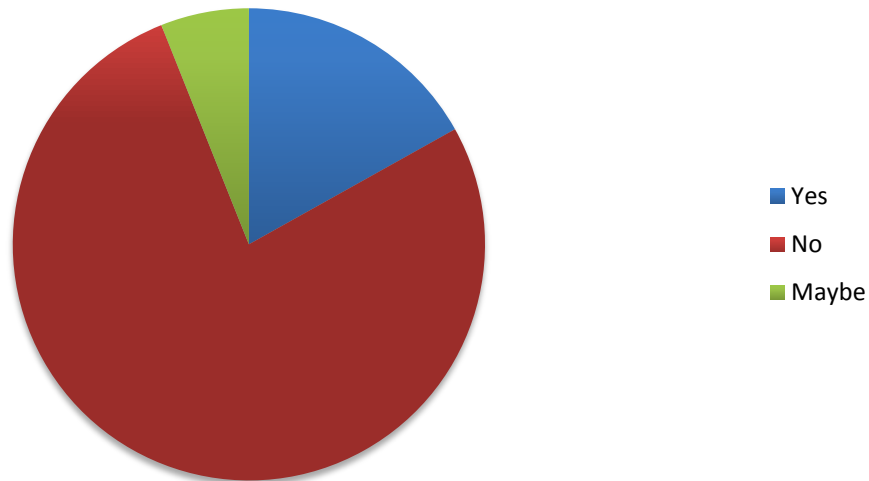
Food/smoothie bar

Karaoke

If you knew UConn's new recreational facility offered you better services, would you be willing to pay a \$360-450 annual fee (\$30-37/month)?

Yes:	47	16.2%
No:	215	73.9%
Maybe:	17	5.8%

Would you be willing to pay a \$360-450 annual fee?



Please Explain:

Common Reasons for answering "No"

- Don't use the gym, or don't use the UConn gym
- Amount of student fees in relation to stipends and cost of living



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

- Proximity to home
- Too expensive, lavish
- Should have the option to "opt-in"
- Need a professional distance from students

Additional Comments?

1. That bond money ought to be spent on something that furthers learning and education. You want fitness, buy a pair of running shoes and use the roads that are already there.
2. Please do NOT add any increased costs to those of use who do NOT use any of these resources as a grad student who works and has a family I have no extra time to do/use any of this
3. Most graduate students are bust from about 9am-5pm, so if this "facility" was reserved for graduate students, or had special areas of the gym reserved for graduate students before and after these times (from 6am-9am and from 5pm-10pm or something) I think this would be a big selling point. Otherwise it seems students can find much cheaper gyms probably closer to where they live (since most graduate students live off campus).
4. As it stands the facilities are okay but as I said the weight rooms are way too cluttered.
5. Please consider the large graduate community and the fact the grad students teach undergrads and need some level of differentiation.
6. Is it possible to finish it before 2015?
7. Our fee bill is already astronomical. This is a thinly veiled excuse to raise them even more for a facility that will mostly be for undergrads. I previously got my master's degree at the University of Kansas. There, the total annual fees paid by graduate students was \$888 (compared to UConn's \$2084, what we pay NOW). The fee for the very nice student recreation center was \$175 per year (compared to the proposed \$360-450 fee). There was a separate childcare facility fee, for KU's spectacular Hilltop Child Development Center, at \$8 per year. Of course there is a difference in the cost of living between Connecticut and Kansas, but it is not THAT severe. Please also note that the daycare facility at KU was incredibly student-friendly: they offer ""a sliding fee schedule, scholarship fee subsidies, priority to student families on the waiting list and optional care for periods when KU classes are not in session."" If we were to pay so much money for a new facility, the only way you could get me to be happy about it is if UConn had something like the Hilltop Child Development Center to offer graduate student parents."
8. I think this is a great idea and will go over well for the students and the surrounding community
9. Student Fees are already too expensive. If you raise them, how will your graduate students live?
10. If they want to do that, build a private gym or partner with someone and offer students rates for those who want a membership.
11. I'm greatly opposed to the construction of a new gym!



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

12. Services are limited during break or summer when undergrads are away. I wish this could change
13. Honestly, the field house is a disgrace for the stature UConn upholds. Please give students, present, past and future, staff etc something great.
14. I have a treadmill at home.
15. Using the gym together with my students, showers, etc. can be very, very awkward.
16. good luck to you, but it sounds something that i don't want to be included!
17. I know I said it a lot... Parking. Lots and lots of parking.
18. The current gym is woefully inadequate. Protect against this condition.
19. Hope this facility will be at the west hartford campus
20. We pay enough in fees already.
21. I find it difficult to use the gym facilities that are provided by Uconn at the moment for a variety of reasons. First, the gym is often crowded, and I spend more time waiting for equipment than I do actually working out. Second, the facility is often a bit grimy. I have a membership to Cardio Express right now partly because I feel they keep their facilities cleaner and I don't not get sick as often when I work out there as opposed to the Uconn gym. Third, the Uconn gym does not offer some of the amenities that I value from other gyms. These include drink coolers, TVs on cardio equipment, tanning, etc. Fourth and finally, as a graduate student, and a TA, I find it difficult to try to work out in a facility full of undergraduates, many of which are my students. I find that I am easily distracted by their class related questions in the middle of my work out. To begin using the Uconn facility again, I would need to have a graduate or graduate/faculty only facility. I do not feel that the university is meeting the needs of the graduate students in this aspect. So as it stands right now, I would prefer to keep my \$20/month membership to Cardio Express and pass on using the Uconn facility.
22. Please do not create a new facility only to turn around and charge a ridiculous amount to join. Graduate student budgets are tight enough as it is.
23. End or reduce graduate student fees. We pay far too much to provide undergraduates with facilities we do not use.
24. UConn gym is too small for everybody who wants to use it. I myself used to go regularly (3-4 times/week). It was bothering me that the gym was too crowded during the semester (not enough ellipticals for all students), too hot and too humid (not enough ventilation for all students working out). In addition, we were not allowed to wear tank tops and this made the environment feel even hotter and even more humid. I put up with this for 3 years because the gym membership was free. I finally gave up. Now I pay to go to the local gym and it is worth every penny.
25. The wisdom of making current students pay for a service that they will likely never be able to utilize is specious at best.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Survey Results

10 April 2013

26. I won't be in school anymore in 2016 - but I just wanted to say that I hope the new facility will be for all students, not just those at Storrs. There are always a number of School of Social Work students who live out this way who might be interested in using such a facility.
27. Having good safe equipment in numbers that are sufficient to handle peak hours is probably the biggest concern I would have.
28. This would make sense if I could opt-out of the fee. I don't want to pay for something I will not use. I am already paying for a crummy gym I do not use, so \$40 a month sounds crazy to me. I am sure it would be the same for other students who will be forced to pay. It is simply outrageous.
29. Please, please, please do not make us pay for this. Extra services are nice for people who can afford them, but I cannot afford to go further into debt to pay for fancy things that I do not use.
30. Hi - I am a graduate student in special Ed but also a triathlete. I have a connection with masterspas, who makes the Michael phelps swim spa, which I think would be a great addition to this facility. I am unable to attend the dinner meeting but wanted to send that information. If this is a possibility, you can email me to send more info! Thank you! Mari Cuticelli



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee

29 March 2013

Chair: David Clokey
Assistant Vice President for
Student Affairs
david.clokey@uconn.edu

Representative: Ian Yue
Treasurer
ian.yue@uconn.edu

Committee Type: External

Website:
http://www.dsa.uconn.edu/committees_sfac.html

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Many GUF-supported units request a fee increase every year. For most units, this is simply to account for increases in the cost of fringe benefits and collective bargaining – not necessarily to expand programming. This is particularly relevant given the change in UConn's work-study policy and the latest *estimates* (NOT official numbers) of the State of Connecticut's fringe benefit rate increase for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2013 (2.5%).
- Part of the personnel costs for many GUF-supported units is to fund Graduate Assistants.
- If the State of Connecticut passes the Next Generation Connecticut initiative, this could possibly stabilize or decrease GUF-related costs in the future, given the estimated 6,500+ additional students that would be able to enroll in the University of Connecticut system. However, a counteractive factor is that with more students, there is a greater demand for University units to provide needed services to students. Thus, the net effect of Next Generation Connecticut, if passed, on the magnitude of the GUF fee is uncertain.
- Career Services (supported by GUF) is no longer part of Student Affairs. It is now its own unit that will serve the entire University of Connecticut system, including the regional campuses. This change may affect how GUF funds are allocated to Career Services in the future, given that financial resources will now need to be pooled across all the University's campuses.

Detailed Report

GUF RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

SASFAC carried out preliminary discussions and deliberations on the GUF proposals for FY15. This part of the meeting is confidential.

GREATER HARTFORD UCONN PIRG HEARING

In FY10, SASFAC recommended that the University of Connecticut reconsider whether two chapters of the UConn Public Interest Research Group (UConnPIRG) – one on the Storrs campus and another on the West Hartford campus – should continue to be eligible to receive Trustee (student fee) funds, given the results of the Storrs-based group's internal audit. The reason for this was because SASFAC had concerns over whether the organization's funds and employees were distinctly managed and supervised by the on-campus student group (and thus the University of Connecticut), a State mandate for the use of Trustee funds. The audit revealed that much of the group's funds were given to the State's PIRG organization and much of the State's funds were passed along to the national PIRG organization. The Board of Trustees agreed with the SASFAC recommendation and rescinded any further student fee funding towards UConnPIRG. Both the Storrs and West Hartford groups are petitioning to start receiving Trustee funds again. However, it is not clear to the SASFAC Chair that either group has a newly defined organizational structure that stays in compliance with the State statutes that require Trustee funds to be solely managed at the campus level. SASFAC agreed to consider the petitions using two criteria: (1) Are the State statutes being met? and (2) Does either UConnPIRG group merit receiving funding via student fees?

On April 5, the West Hartford UConnPIRG group presented its revised organizational structure to SASFAC in the Greater Hartford Student Center, in support of re-instating the UConnPIRG-related student fee on the Greater Hartford Campus. A referendum vote will be held from April 18-22 on the Greater Hartford Campus to determine whether there is undergraduate student support for the fee reinstatement.

OTHER INFORMATION

Although the exact details and deliberations of the GUF Recommendations Review portion of the SASFAC meeting are confidential, there were a number of interesting (non-confidential) details revealed that may have relevance for graduate students:

- Many GUF-supported units request a fee increase every year. For most units, this is simply to account for increases in the cost of fringe benefits and collective bargaining – not necessarily to expand programming. This is particularly relevant given the change in UConn's work-study policy (the 25% of the work-study labor cost, currently covered by the central University budget, will, effective July 1, 2013, need to be covered by the unit hosting the work-study labor) and the latest *estimates* (NOT official numbers) of the State of Connecticut's fringe benefit rate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

increase for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2013 (2.5%, up from the 1% estimate from about a month ago).

- Part of the personnel costs for many GUF-supported units is to fund Graduate Assistants.
- If the State of Connecticut passes the Next Generation Connecticut initiative, this could possibly stabilize or decrease GUF-related costs in the future, given the estimated 6,500+ additional students that would be able to enroll in the University of Connecticut system. However, a counteractive factor is that with more students, there is a greater demand for University units to provide needed services to students. Thus, the net effect of Next Generation Connecticut, if passed, on the magnitude of the GUF fee is uncertain.
- Career Services, which is supported through GUF, is no longer part of Student Affairs. It is now its own unit that will serve the entire University of Connecticut system, including the regional campuses. This change may affect how GUF funds are allocated to Career Services in the future, given that financial resources will now need to be pooled across all the University's campuses.

Action Items for the Senate

- Pass on the information stated in the "Overview of Report" section of this Committee Report Form to your constituents in order to increase the awareness of the considerations that go into the determination of the GUF fee rate.
-



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

SUBOG SU Policy Council

28 March 2013

Chair: Paul Bloom
SUBOG VP for Policy
paul.bloom@uconn.edu

Representative: Safet Berisa
Vice President
safet.berisa@uconn.edu

Website: [studentunion.uconn.edu](http://studentunion.uconn.edu/u/policy_council.html)
[u/policy_council.html](http://studentunion.uconn.edu/u/policy_council.html)

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Food court seating expansion
- Hand dryers in SU restrooms

Detailed Report

A resolution was passed asking the University to do a feasibility study regarding the enclosure of the SU patio directly outside the main dining area. If done, this would increase the seating area by an approximately 200 seats.

If finances permit, SU will be installing hand dryers in the restrooms on the third floor.

Action Items for the Senate

- N/A



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

Provost's Library Advisory Committee

10 April 2013

Chair:	Sylvia Schafer History Dept. sylvia.schafer@uconn.edu	Representative:	Mary Goodrich Linguistics graduate student mary.goodrich@uconn.edu
Website:	N/A	Committee Type:	External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Demonstration of Pivot funding opportunity database
- Libraries collecting strategy
- Updates to research carrel policy

Detailed Report

- Pivot (<http://pivot.uconn.edu>) is a database of grant funding opportunities from federal, state, corporate, non-profit, and foundation sponsors. Faculty, staff, and graduate students may register for the site and create a researcher profile. The site may be used to search for grants and funding opportunities using keywords related to your research, and can also be set up to send alerts whenever new related funding opportunities become available.
- The UConn Libraries collecting strategy is to increase the quantity of electronic content offered. As of 2013, the libraries have eliminated all print journals that are also received electronically. There are currently 90,000 electronic journals accessible to UConn users. The library is aggressively digitizing materials from our own collection. In addition, when purchasing books of widespread interest, acquisition of the electronic format is preferable, although the Libraries recognize that most users still prefer print books, and so in addition to increasing the amount of electronic content available, the libraries have purchased 12,000 print volumes last year.
- Research carrels in the library are assigned to graduate students who have passed all comprehensive/general exams and are actively working on their dissertation or thesis. Carrel assignments last for one year, and doctoral students may renew the assignments for one additional year. The number of allotted carrels for graduate students has increased this year, giving us a total of 116 graduate student carrels. Because the demand for research carrels is



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Reports

10 April 2013

high, staff will be actively monitoring the use of the carrels to make sure they are being used within the guidelines (<http://lib.uconn.edu/about/rooms/carrels.html>).

Action Items for the Senate

- N/A



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Committee Report Form

Search Committee for the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School

9 April 2013

On April 9, the Search Committee for the Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School met to talk with the Kent Holsinger, the only applicant for the position. The questions from the committee focused on his vision for the Graduate School and the role that it will play in the University community.

He discussed his first priorities, which include increasing support of graduate students and post-docs by providing career and professional support opportunities, providing additional social support, and facilitating the recruitment of outstanding graduate students. He also recognized graduate students sometimes are unaware of what services they need so he'd like to host an orientation for graduate students and post-docs.

Dr. Holsinger would like to enhance the visibility of the graduate school and communication between the graduate school and the other colleges/departments. He highlighted current changes that are being made the graduate school website.

He would also like to provide support for graduate student faculty to help them provide better support for graduate students.

The committee chair is currently accepting comments from the committee on Dr. Holsinger's strengths and witnesses and will send a report to the Provost's office within the next week.

Thanks,
Micah Bruce-Davis
Doctoral Candidate
University of Connecticut



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Committee Report Form

Special Committee on Professional Development

10 April 2013

Chair: Eric Njuki
GSS Senator, A.R.E.
eric.njuki@uconn.edu

Committee: Eric Njuki, Chantelle
Messier, Erin Eighan,
Michelle SanPedro

Website: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Committee Type: GSS Internal/Standing

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Committee Mandate
- Observations of the Committee
- Recommendations
- Proposed Amendments to GSS Constitutional Documents

Detailed Report

Mandate

To explore potential areas in which GSS could support graduate student professional development, and to evaluate whether the GSS should establish a Professional Development Coordinator as an officer on the Executive Committee. The Professional Development special committee shall contain at least three members, and meet either in person or electronically as needed throughout the Spring 2013 semester. Its charge is:

- To explore potential areas in which GSS could support graduate student professional development;
- To evaluate whether the GSS should establish a Professional Development Coordinator as an officer on the Executive Committee, who would chair a permanent standing committee;
- To compose, if necessary, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws establishing a Professional Development Coordinator, outlining his/her duties as an officer, recommending a stipend, and outlining the composition and charge of that officer's permanent Professional Development Committee.
- The committee will present its recommendations to the Senate by the second- to-last meeting of



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the Senate, so that any Constitution and Bylaws changes can be voted on at the last meeting.

After having met both electronically and in person, the Special Committee on Professional Development, in fulfilling its mandate made the following observations.

Observations

- i. Graduate students at the University of Connecticut have a genuine need for Professional Development, which is not being adequately met.
- ii. There exist several Professional Development resources within the University. e.g. Career Services, Graduate School, UConn Alumni, Various Colleges and Departments on campus.
- iii. Most of these resources remain beyond the reach of most Graduate Students either because they are not tailored well enough for them, or because the Graduate Student population does not know their activities.
- iv. That the GSS can remedy this by charging someone with the responsibility of coordinating these resources and notifying GSS and the general Graduate Student population of these activities.

Recommendations

- i. That the GSS create the position of a Professional Development Coordinator as an officer of the Executive Committee.
- ii. The Professional Development Coordinator shall be charged with the responsibility of establishing relations and acting as a liaison between all relevant University of Connecticut units and departments that provide professional development resources, and the GSS.
- iii. That GSS create a permanent standing committee on Professional Development to be chaired by the Professional Development Coordinator.
- iv. The standing committee on Professional Development will be charged with planning, organizing and scheduling all Professional Development activities on behalf of GSS
- v. That the Professional Development Coordinator receives a stipend in line with their duties and responsibilities.
- vi. That GSS amend the constitution and By-laws in order to reflect the same.

I. Proposed Amendments to the GSS Constitution

Article IV, Section 1

ORIGINAL: "The Officers of the GSS shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Activities Director."



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AMENDED: "The Officers of the GSS shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Activities Director, and Professional Development Coordinator."

Article IV, Section 8

ORIGINAL: [NONE]

AMENDED: "Professional Development Coordinator

- A. The Professional Development Coordinator shall manage all GSS-sponsored professional development activities and initiatives.
- B. Management of activities shall include but not be limited to planning, scheduling, organizing, supervising, and advertising.
- C. The Professional Development Coordinator shall act as liaison between GSS and graduate programs, the Graduate School, Career Services, and other relevant University organizations on matters of professional development.
- D. The Professional Development Coordinator shall chair the Professional Development Committee."

Article V, Section 1.B

ORIGINAL: "The Standing Committees of the GSS shall be: the Executive Committee, the Student Life Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, the Procedures Committee, and the Activities Committee. The functions of the Finance Committee shall be defined in the Finance Policies and Procedures. The functions of the other standing committees shall be designated in the Bylaws."

AMENDED: "The Standing Committees of the GSS shall be: the Executive Committee, the Student Life Committee, the Public Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, the Procedures Committee, the Activities Committee, the Public Relations Committee, and the Professional Development Committee. The functions of the Finance Committee shall be defined in the Finance Policies and Procedures. The functions of the other standing committees shall be designated in the Bylaws."

II. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws

Bylaw II, Section1



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ORIGINAL: "Membership

The Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Senate shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Activities Director, and the Board of Trustees Graduate Student Representative."

AMENDED: "Membership

The Executive Committee of the Graduate Student Senate shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Parliamentarian, Activities Director, Professional Development Coordinator, and the Board of Trustees Graduate Student Representative."

Bylaw II, Section 4.E

ORIGINAL: "If circumstances preclude a meeting, the President may solicit an electronic vote from the members on issues that call for immediate action. At least five-sixths of the Executive Committee must participate in the vote, and its results shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Executive Committee meeting."

AMENDED: "If circumstances preclude a meeting, the President may solicit an electronic vote from the members on issues that call for immediate action. At least six-sevenths of the voting members of the Executive Committee must participate in the vote, and its results shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Executive Committee meeting."

Bylaw II, Section 5.D

ORIGINAL: "The President and Treasurer shall not be an officer of any other graduate student organization. The Vice President, Secretary, Activities Director, and Parliamentarian may serve as officers on graduate organizations, but must abstain from any votes relating to the funding of those organizations."

AMENDED: "The President and Treasurer shall not be an officer of any other graduate student organization. The Vice President, Secretary, Activities Director, Professional Development Coordinator, and Parliamentarian may serve as officers on graduate organizations, but must abstain from any votes relating to the funding of those organizations."

Bylaw VI, Section 2.G

ORIGINAL: [NONE]

AMENDED: "Professional Development Coordinator



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- i) up to \$800 awarded at the last Senate meeting of the Fall Semester.
- ii) up to \$800 awarded at the last Senate meeting of the Spring Semester.”

Bylaw VI, Section 5.A

ORIGINAL: “The President, the Activities Director, and the Treasurer shall play an active role over the summer, coordinating summer events, overseeing GSS finances, and preparing for the coming year, including but not limited to the pre-planning of Fall activities.”

AMENDED: “The President, the Activities Director, Professional Development Coordinator, and the Treasurer shall play an active role over the summer, coordinating summer events, overseeing GSS finances, and preparing for the coming year, including but not limited to the pre-planning of Fall activities.”

Bylaw XI (and renumbering of subsequent bylaws)

ORIGINAL: [NONE]

AMENDED: “Bylaw XI. Professional Development Committee

Section 1. The Professional Development Committee shall be responsible for scheduling and carrying out events applicable to graduate student professional development, subject to approval by the Senate.

Section 2. The Professional Development Committee shall be responsible for the planning, scheduling, organizing, and advertising of GSS-sponsored events under the fiscal constraints imposed by the Senate.

Section 3. The Professional Development Committee shall be responsible for addressing any major graduate student professional development issue which is brought to the attention of the Senate and is delegated to the Professional Development Committee by the Executive Committee.”

Action Items for the Senate

- Motion that the Graduate Student Senate accept the proposed amendments to the Graduate Student Senate constitution and bylaws.