



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

- I. **Call to Order at 7:13 pm.**

Regular meeting with Vice President Safet Beriša presiding, Secretary Erin Eighan recording.
- II. **Recognition of Senators**
- III. **Special Guest: Scott Kennedy from the University Libraries**
 - a. A number of things that the Libraries do now came from interactions with GSS and other graduate students
 - i. Scanning on-demand Service
 - ii. Stacks book retrieval service
 - iii. Increased hours on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays
 - iv. Adding additional power outlets
 - v. Borrowing privileges for graduate student spouses
 - vi. Extended borrowing privileges for ILL and BLC
 - vii. Purchase requests
 - viii. Apportioning more lockable research carrels for graduate students
 - b. This summer the Homer Babbidge Library is replacing flooring on a number of different levels based on priority. Lobbies and restrooms are targeted.
 - c. They are opening up the Scholars Collaborative in the space that is currently the map library since many maps have been digitized. This will be a place for people working in the digital humanities or digital scholarship in general to collaborate.
 - d. They are also searching for a new library director.
 - e. What is the best way for the libraries to communicate with graduate students?
 - i. By email directly to students
 - f. Every year the Libraries conduct workshops on research methods. What other programs like this would be helpful?
 - i. A work shop in ARE, a universal stats software
 - ii. Pivot workshops for grant funding
 - iii. Zotero and Refworks
 - iv. LaTeX, a type-setting program
 - v. Co-sponsoring ARE workshops with graduate organizations
 - g. How do grad students hear about these programs now?
 - i. Mostly department faculty and other grad students
 - ii. No Q Center services for grad students
 - h. Senator Mollmann: I think the purchase request feature and stacks book retrieval service is amazing. It sometimes unclear when you don't get a purchase request approved what makes it unsustainable.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

- i. Generally the profile that's set up is if 2 other consortium members have that book already, we typically won't purchase it because it is easily accessible through them.
- i. Secretary Eighan: Would it be possible to have drive-up drop-off services to return our books?
- j. Senator Alzayani: It would be nice to have one social, common area in the library and one quiet study area dedicated to graduate students.
- k. Senator Rutovytskyy: Is there any conversation about replacing the hand dryers outside the grad commons? Those are so frustrating.
- l. Senator Shabtay: I think this is maybe part of a larger conversation about how the library could do a better job of creating a quiet environment in the library and separating that quiet environment from social spaces like Bookworms. Secondly, a lot of undergrads tend to use the small group meeting rooms and think that they're soundproof.
- m. Senator Kilroy: Is there still going to be a physical map center that's smaller?
 - i. The map library will still be there, but a lot of those maps in the large cases will be relocated so that the space can be used for other things. But they'll still be in the building and accessible.
- n. Senator Rutovytskyy: Could you tell us what the situation with the lockers is?
 - i. It became a difficult process to manage. So they're going to rethink it over the summer.
- o. Senator Charrette: Would it be possible for whoever is at the iDesk to use their discretion when determining when the 3-hour loan limit for books on reserve? Could you loosen that policy a little bit
- p. Senator Mollmann: Would it be possible to look into checking out periodicals? If I were to check it out, I'd like it for at least a few weeks. A few days would be a little restrictive. One of my constituents consistently requests a face-up scanner.

IV. Approval of Minutes: 10 April 2013

V. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Executive Committee
 - ii. Meeting with Jason Charrette, Kent Holsinger, and Sandra Chafouleas
 - 1. Discussed plans for a graduate student orientation
 - 2. Professional development efforts and their value
 - 3. Changes to the graduate catalogue



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

4. Faculty member brown bags to educate faculty about the changes to the graduate catalogue
 5. Federal work study issue
- iii. Recreation Facility
1. There was a Board of Trustees meeting today with a public comment period to discuss the new rec center proposal. A number of GSS reps and graduate students spoke at the public comment period.
 2. As soon as GSS found out about this proposal, we conducted a survey of the graduate student population. We received survey answers from about 10% of the population, a representative sample. 75% were not in favor. GSS Exec felt our mandate was fairly clear.
 3. Our first goal was to inform graduate students, to make sure that they were as aware of the details of the project as possible and how they could make their comments heard.
 4. To give an overview of the major arguments that have come up through emails to the Board and during the public comment period:
 - a. Most of us disagree with the way the rec center is being fund.
 - b. The University has rejected more or less out of hand any other funding model besides student fees. Rejecting those alternative financing plans is just not an option.
 - c. Current financial burden of graduate students
 - d. Raise in fees would be 15-20% increase
 - e. Graduate student value in the mission of the research University
 5. There were a number of undergraduates. We were all struck by the grand majority of the undergraduates who spoke were either members of club sports or employees of the rec center. We didn't hear from any "average" undergraduate who isn't involved in one of these groups.
 6. Over 280 graduate students have copied GSS on emails to the Board of Trustees. Only 2 of them were in support of the rec center. Many were full essay-length arguments.
 7. On Facebook we've had graduate students from other graduate programs as far away from Germany show investment in this issue.
 8. Calling on you to alert your constituents to this fact. It's important that all the graduate students who will be here over the summer be aware of this because the vote should take place over the summer.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

9. You can continue to contact the Board of Trustees through Susan Locke (susan.locke@uconn.edu).
 10. Please see addendum for all the comments sent to the Board of Trustees that were CC'd to GSS Secretary, Erin Eighan.
- iv. Farewell Address
 - b. Vice President – Safet Beriša
 - i. Student Life Committee
 1. Bing Xu is working on the survey data
 - ii. Farewell Address
 - c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 1. The Finance Committee recommended a budget to GSS and will be presented later in the meeting.
 - ii. Farewell Address
 - d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 1. University Fee Survey Analysis
 - a. Please see full report in the addendum.
 2. University Fee Resolution
 - ii. Blog, *The Commons*: gssuconn.wordpress.com
 - iii. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
 - iv. Attendance
 - v. Farewell Address
 - e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 1. If you're interested in joining the Activities Committee, please contact Activities Director Kurian.
 - ii. Recap of Ted's Night
 - iii. Nathan Hale Social Night: Friday, May 3 @ 5-7 pm (tentative)
 - iv. Summer Events
 1. If you have an idea for a summer social event, please let Activities Director Kurian know. Please include details in the email to help facilitate planning of the event.
 - v. Farewell Address
 - f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

- i. Procedures Committee
- ii. Officer Pay
 1. As it is the last meeting of the semester, the Senate has the chance to award the Executive Committee a stipend. The amounts listed below are the maximum caps and the customary amounts
- iii. Presidential Pay
 1. If you want to modify or remove it, you will need to vote on it. If not, then it will go through as scheduled.
- iv. Farewell Address

VI. External Committee Reports

- a. Graduate Faculty Council – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- b. University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- c. VP for University Libraries Search Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- d. Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- e. University Budget Committee – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- f. Student Welfare Committee – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.
- g. IT Governance: Teaching and Learning Committee – Ryan Tomchek
 - i. Please see full report in the addendum.

VII. Issues Forum

- a. Senator Washart: The communications GSS has sent out regarding the rec center have been very one-sided. I think we should present the information in a more balanced way. It's important that we remain impartial in all these things. We shouldn't be pushing our agenda on students.
 - i. Senator Charrette: How would you accurately represent a population that was 75% against and 25% for an issue?
 - ii. Senator Washart: By presenting all the information, the pros and cons.
 - iii. Secretary Eighan: I'd just like to note that all the information sent to graduate students by GSS was factual.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

- iv. Senator Charrette: It isn't for the Graduate Student Senate to be concerned about feelings being hurt. We need to represent our constituents concerns, not the Administrators.
- v. Parliamentarian Aldridge: When you are a public figure, everything you say is in your capacity as a public figure. So everything we say in public forums should be considered as such. The purpose of this body is not merely to be an informational conduit, we also advocate for the interests of graduate students. Our communications outwards in terms of the rec center have become more and more partisan as we have discovered feelings of the graduate students. The initial communications with the fee survey were neutral. We asked students to send comments to the Board and CC them to us. An almost unbelievable majority of those comments were in opposition to the proposal. We have taken our cues from that. But I want to say that I take your point about personal communications that when serving as officers that that's going to be attached to us, even in our personal capacities.
- vi. Senator Washart: My main issue was with personal communications that people were directed to by GSS. I find it disheartening about things that people were saying about undergrads, specifically on Twitter and that's my concern.
- vii. Senator Wong: It's interesting to me too because the amount of nasty things I've heard from undergrads talking about the grads. I understand as leaders we need to be impartial, but it's also not fair to voice an opinion based on what we think. A lot of people in the comments sent to the Board were voicing their concerns. I think that GSS's role is advocacy in this measure. The communications were factual.
- viii. Senator Gutierrez: The only thing I want to add to this conversation is that I think it's really important that moving into the future graduate students work with undergraduate students. So that's something to consider in shaping our advocacy work. In general I think we can advocate aggressively for graduate student interests while being professional and cordial both to the administration and the undergraduates.
- b. Senator Charrette: Incoming Exec met today and a lot of the issues that the University Fee Survey Report are on our agenda for next year. Communication with USG is also something on our agenda. We're all students and we do have common interests. Today I met with the incoming Ombudsman and his job is going to be as a problem-fixer, in a sense. It's going to be all confidential. We're going to have him come and speak next year. GSS has been enormously successful in putting graduate students on the map and this is something we need to build on.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

- c. Senator Kilroy: I wanted to clarify a few things about the work study changes that are going to take place. This summer, nothing will change. The change will happen in the fall. For the 2013-2014 academic year, as Ian said, the Provost office will reimburse 20% of the cost of work study, however it will happen at the end of the fiscal year of 2014. In regards to Shawn's questions about whether this affects academic departments or not, it's a little unclear. They do specify "units," which sounds much broader than academic departments. Further, it might hurt non-academic department further in the next year. We have to keep on top of this. What I like about this change is that it will give us time to assess how it will affect graduate students and programs.
- d. Senator Ross: I've been receiving emails from the new procurement and I shouldn't be, but I can't remove myself from their mailing list.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- a. GSS 12/13-24: That the Graduate Student Senate approve amendments to the Graduate Student Senate Constitution and Graduate Student Senate Bylaws proposed by the Graduate Student Senate Special Committee on Professional Development, effective upon approval of the Board of Trustees of the amendments to the constitutional amendments or the first day of the Fall 2013 semester, whichever is later.
 - i. Motioned by Senator Njuki. Seconded.
 - ii. Senator Mollmann: I have concerns about the proposal presented because I don't think it should be a service offered by the Graduate Student Senate. I'm also concerned that this would add to the "top-heaviness" of the Executive Committee if another member is added.
 - iii. Senator Njuki: We were in agreement that there was a need that was not being met for graduate students. So hopefully whoever takes this position will harness resources on campus and bring them together. We're not trying to duplicate what has already been done but complement what has already been done. Professional development has not been given the serious considerations it deserves.
 - iv. Activities Director Kurian: If no one is interested in this position right now it may not make sense to talk about it right now.
 - v. Senator Gutierrez: In principle it doesn't matter whether someone is interested in the position now or not because we wouldn't be electing this position until the Board of Trustees approves the constitution. I'm wondering if creating a centralized position in GSS is really the best way to meet the professional development needs of graduate students on an individual level, and the PR



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance 24 April 2013

Committee's report suggests that's what's driving them right now. The faculty should be shouldering the burden of professional development for graduate students, not shouldering this burden by graduate students themselves. We should have a say in how that development takes place, but that shouldn't be our primary responsibility.

- vi. Senator Kilroy: I share some of Senator Gutierrez's concerns. I'm not sure that the role of a GSS Executive officer should take on the responsibilities of individual professional development opportunities like funding travel grants. We don't really have a clear trajectory for what needs to be done for professional development, and if we don't know what needs to be done, then how do we really know that this position is the appropriate means of doing it.
- vii. President Messier: We do in fact have a clear plan for what needs to be done in Professional Development. One part of this plan consists of finding out what careers are available outside academia. So we're looking to support graduate students who are trying to be innovative in matching their skills to something else other than academia. Kent Holsinger and Sandra Chafouleas are supportive of our efforts and in partially funding them. It takes someone who can be full-time committed to it. In addition, part of the description of the coordinator position it to be a liaison and advocate for graduate students on this issue.
- viii. Senator Shabtay: In response to Ian's concern that if we create this position, it's putting the responsibility on the graduate students, I'm wondering if we could make this position more a point of contact so that there can be a central point of contact between units of the University about professional development opportunities. It wouldn't be so much taking the responsibility on us to run these events or put these events on ourselves, but rather let other bodies of the university know what we need on this issue. GSS is an advocacy organization. If no one knows what we want we won't be able to advocate.
- ix. Senator Charrette: Can we facilitate or achieve this goal through means that is not necessarily adding to the Executive Committee. It's going to demand a budget and it's going to grow bigger over time. Eventually it's going to come down to how much you want to give up of your Tier-II organization budgets to GSS executive committee stipends. Do we want to spend a significant amount of our budget on this thing? Can we achieve this goal in different ways? We could create a subcommittee, but the question is how are we going to fill it.
- x. Senator Gutierrez: It's also worth noting that we're amending the constitution which is the principle organizing document of GSS. That suggests we're planning on keeping this position in perpetuity. It's not clear that this is the



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

necessary avenue for doing this or that this is the best way for doing it. We need more debate. The Senate can authorize a special committee next year to work on this.

- xi. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The special committee has discharged its duties for the year. You would need to form it again next year if you want to.
- xii. Activities Director Kurian: Next year's Executive Committee suggested that I foster some of these activities as activities director. I would take some of that on, but I couldn't take on the roll that President Messier did. I don't mind trying to communicate with the graduate school and trying to figure out where those gaps are and get a better idea of how we can help.
- xiii. Senator Kilroy: I really liked Ian's suggestion. We don't need a special committee to repeat what this committee already did. But we can create a committee to act as a one-year trial.
- xiv. Parliamentarian Aldridge: Because there is a constitutional amendment, there will be a significant time lag because the Board has to approve it.
- xv. Motion to postpone this motion indefinitely by Senator Gutierrez.
 1. **VOTE:** Motion fails.
- xvi. Senator Wong: I think that waiting until next year will be beneficial because we will have a lot more new senators and they should be able to weigh in on this since it will affect them.
- xvii. Senator Wong motions postpones until the next meeting.
 1. **VOTE:** Motion passes.
- xviii. Senator Charrette: This will be the first thing we talk about next year.
- b. GSS 12/13-25: That the Graduate Student Senate approve the 2013-2014 budget as proposed by the Finance Committee.
 - i. **VOTE:** Passes by unanimous consent.
- c. GSS 12/13-26: That the Graduate Student Senate award \$500 to the Vice President, Safet Berisa; \$500 to the Secretary, Erin Eighan, \$1000 to the Treasurer, Ian Yue; \$800 to the Activities Director, Anish Kurian; and \$500 to the Parliamentarian, Leland Aldridge, according to the Senate Bylaws.
 - i. Motioned by Senator Mollmann.
 - ii. **VOTE:** Passes by unanimous consent.
- d. GSS 12/13-27: That the Graduate Student Senate motion to resolve the following:

Whereas, The University of Connecticut, as an institution that receives Title IV federal financial aid, must adhere to the U. S. Department of Education's recent expansion of the definition and reach of prohibited "misrepresentations" by an institution to



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

students, prospective students, and their families to include “any statement that has the likelihood or tendency to confuse” regarding the nature of financial charges; and

Whereas, Acceptance materials and offer letters for graduate students admitted to the University of Connecticut provide incomplete and misleading information regarding the nature of financial charges: specifically, that while they do provide information about the financial charges associated with tuition fees, tuition waivers, assistantships, and/or fellowships, they do not contain information pertaining to the nature of student fees; and

Whereas, The full details of financial offers, including the ratio of stipends to fees and cost of living, are determining factors in prospective graduate students’ decision to matriculate at an institution; and

Whereas, Mandatory graduate student fees at the University of Connecticut are a significant portion of graduate assistant stipends as evidenced, for example, in the Storrs-based graduate student fee schedule for 2013-2014 which will total \$2206, ranging from 10% to 22% of 2013-2014 graduate assistant stipends (depending on degree-status and level of assistantship offered); and

Whereas, Descriptions of mandatory fees on the University of Connecticut Office of the Bursar’s website are vague, incomplete, or misleading with regard to the services rendered or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of the fee—noting in particular that the Bursar’s fee description of the General University Fee (GUF) does not list all of the units supports by GUF, the Bursar’s fee description does not indicate what percentage of the total GUF allocation assessed is provided to each GUF unit, the Bursar’s fee description of the Graduate Matriculation Fee does not provide details regarding the specific services rendered, and the Bursar’s fee description of the Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (IMF) specifies only the debt service provided for an undergraduate residence hall; and

Whereas, The National Association of College and University Attorneys has recommended that institutions review all written materials for accuracy of information, including catalogs, marketing materials, websites and correspondence; and

Whereas, In a survey conducted by the Public Relations Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, 97% of graduate students are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance 24 April 2013

General University Fee, 87% are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the Infrastructure and Maintenance Fee, and 70% are dissatisfied (or very) with all graduate student fees; and

Whereas, The University administration is proposing to build a new \$100 million recreation facility financed by a 30-year bond to be paid off beginning Fall 2016 by student fees that would amount to approximately \$300-400 per graduate student per year, a significant increase to the already heavy financial burden of graduate student fees; and

Whereas, In a survey conducted by the Public Relations Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, 74% of graduate students would not be willing to pay the proposed fee for a new recreation facility due in large part to the strained financial situation of graduate students and the already substantial fee schedule; and

Whereas, The proposed fee to finance the new recreation facility will bypass the standard University channels in place for regulation and oversight of student fees, namely the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the University of Connecticut Graduate School provide information regarding graduate student fees to accepted graduate students in offer letters or offer packets that, at minimum, includes a list of mandatory graduate student fees, descriptions of these fees, approximate values of each fee, and a link to the Office of the Bursar's website.

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee require groups funded by graduate student fees to provide an accurate and detailed description of the specific services rendered and/or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of the fee, including a specific breakdown of the individual units encompassed by the General University Fee, and that the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee, at minimum, forward this information to the Office of the Bursar for publication on its website.

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the University of Connecticut Office of the Bursar provide detailed descriptions of the specific services rendered and/or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of each graduate student fee, including a specific breakdown of the individual units encompassed by the



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance 24 April 2013

General University Fee, and that this information be publically accessible on the Office of the Bursar's website.

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that any fees which affect graduate students seek graduate student support and input through the regulatory and oversight bodies of the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee, the Graduate School, and the Graduate Student Senate and its representatives, and that the fee proposal be put to a referendum vote, as is the standard for other organizations that seek funding from student fees.

- i. Motioned by Senator Tomchek. Seconded.
- ii. Senator Kilroy: I am really happy with it and think it's important and necessary.
- iii. **VOTE:** Passes by unanimous consent.

X. Adjournment at 10:03 pm.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 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
Ryan Tomchek	ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu	Math	Senator
Steve Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Hayley Kilroy Mollmann	hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Micah Bruce-Davis	micah.bruce-davis@uconn.edu	Education	Senator
Shawn Washart	shawn.washart@uconn.edu	Education	Senator
Beata Moskal	beata.moskal@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Peter Smith	peter.w.smith@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
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Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Senator
Salman Alzayani	salman.alzayani@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Rivkah Rosen	rivkah.rosen@gmail.com	School Psychology	Representative
Troy Messick	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Senator
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Matthew Ross	matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu	Economics	Senator
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GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Attendance

24 April 2013

Indu Upadhyaya	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Senator
Ajith Pattammattel	ajith.pattammattel@uconn.edu	TARANG	Representative
Kwabena Amponsah	kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu	N/A	Visitor
Mary Goodrich	mary.goodrich@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Michelle SanPedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Senator
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Senator
Yevhen Rutovytsky	rutovytsky@yahoo.com	At-Large	Senator



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

Arguments for the Board of Trustees Meeting Wednesday, April 24, 2013

The following is a collection of arguments against the Administration's proposal to build a \$100 million new recreation facility to be financed by a 30-year bond and paid off through student fees. These arguments will be presented by representatives of the Graduate Student Senate and the graduate student population at the Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, April 24, 2013 during the public comment period. Each item below should represent 2-3 minutes of speaking time and be organized by a topic heading (in bold), followed by the representative who will present the argument and the details of the argument. The representatives who volunteered to coordinate with GSS will be assigned to arguments based on communicated interest and will be notified sometime on Tuesday with the details. That will give us enough time to receive RSVPs and organize arguments before the meeting on Wednesday morning.

1 **GSS PR Committee Survey Results**

a Representative: Erin Eighan

My name is Erin Eighan and, as secretary for the Graduate Student Senate and chair of the Public Relations Committee, I'd like to speak on behalf of graduate students. The administration claims that the proposed rec center is student-driven and student-supported. The question remains, which students support this? Which students have asked for this? The administration has not provided any data that would answer these questions.

In a survey conducted by the Public Relations Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, an overwhelming 74% of graduate students stated they would not be willing to pay the proposed fee for a new recreation facility, despite the services that have been advertised. 74% say NO. What's more, nearly 84% of current gym users don't want to pay the proposed fee.

This shouldn't come as a surprise – you've heard through public comment and through email the significant financial burdens of graduate students at UConn, especially when it comes to cost of living and student fees. My colleague, Leland Aldridge, will speak to the issue of our stipends in greater detail. As it is now, only about 12% of graduate students pay for gym memberships at the rate of the proposed fee. That's 5,819 students that would have to take money from their savings, from added loans, from monthly grocery allowances to finance a rock climbing wall and a smoothie bar.

As President Herbst lamented in her recent State of the University address, "We at research institutions have consistently done a poor job of explaining what it is we do exactly, and what distinguishes us."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

Here's my question: Will a rec center distinguish us? Are we in the business of recreation? No, President Herbst rightly declares: "Most important: We educate, advise, mentor, guide and graduate our students." Our mission first and foremost is in research and teaching—not recruitment, not entertainment, and certainly not in building climbing walls. What would it mean for a research University to privilege those things at an immediate cost to teaching and research? By incurring costs that certainly won't make our graduate program competitive, but certainly will make the cost of living for graduate students unsustainable? Well, we'd be falling in line with President Herbst's lament: "consistently doing a poor job of explaining what it is we do exactly. We educate, advise, mentor, guide and graduate our students. From bachelors degrees to PhDs."

I urge the Board to consider seriously our concerns. We face bravely and with purpose the realities of economic hardship *now* because we believe and fully participate in the mission of the University, in its teaching and in its research. Thank you.

2 Burden of Fees

- a Representative: Leland Aldridge
- b Ladies and gentlemen of the board, thank you for your time. I would like to speak to you about graduate student's fees and stipend amounts. First off, I need to emphasize that tuition waivers and stipends for graduate assistantships are not gifts, they are payment for services rendered. Services without which, the University could not function in either its instructional mission or its research mission. The GA stipend is also the sole income for many graduate students, and in some cases the only legally-allowable form of income in this country. What we take home after taxes and University fees is what we have to feed, shelter, and clothe ourselves and any dependants we may have.

Let us now look at the trends over the past ten years in stipends and fees.

FIGURE ONE



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees
24 April 2013

Percentage Increases By Year

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Inflation	2.69%	3.39%	3.23%	2.85%	3.84%
Fees	13.64%	5.86%	4.98%	6.06%	4.60%
Stipend	4.00%	3.00%	3.00%	3.00%	1.50%

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Inflation	-0.35%	1.64%	3.16%	2.07%	1.69%
Fees	5.46%	4.50%	2.69%	9.34%	5.85%
Stipend	0.00%	1.50%	0.00%	0.00%	4.00%

In nine of the past ten years, the growth rate of graduate fees has outpaced inflation. In contrast, the stipend growth rate has only outpaced inflation in four of the past ten years, with one of those being compensation for a two-year period of stagnation and another being 0% compared against a small deflation.

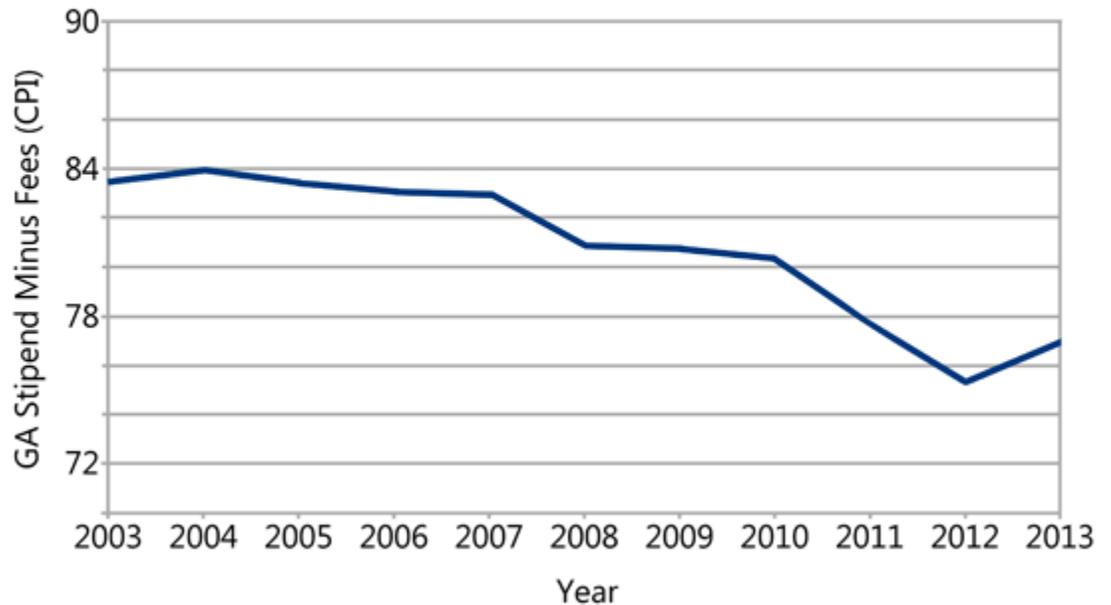
FIGURE TWO



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE *University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees
24 April 2013

GA Income Per Year-Avg. CPI



If you look at the actual amount of money paid to incoming graduate assistants, stipends minus fees, in terms of the CPI, you can see that it was stable from 2003 to 2007, dropped in 2008 and remained stable at that reduced level until 2010, and has been dropping from there to the present. The upcoming year sees an uptick, but this does not even bring the amount back to 2008-2010 levels.

If what the administration tells us about graduate students, that they are a valued and vital part of the functioning of this University, is more than just pretty words, this situation needs to be corrected. The real income of graduate assistants needs to be restored at least to here (indicate 2008-2010 line), if not to here (indicate 2003-2007 line). It is unconscionable that it be allowed to drop further, with intermittent, incomplete patches. A \$300 to \$400 increase in graduate fees, if not packaged with compensatory stipend increases, is unacceptable. *There must be no new fees for capital projects of any kind until the stipend situation is addressed.*

Thank you. (Total time: about two and a half minutes)



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

3. Student Debt Burden

a. Representative: Chantelle Messier

b. Members of the Board, as the President of the Graduate Student Senate I'm here to represent graduate students. But I would like to put the Recreation Facility proposal in the context of something that affects all students, past and present. The national student debt crisis is something that as students and educators we're constantly aware of. As a result, today's smart student--whether graduate or undergraduate--looks at tuition, fees, and cost of living when choosing a university.

Right now, a graduate student considering UConn already sees higher fees than many competing universities. A 15-20% fee increase makes the cost of living suddenly and dramatically higher. For prospective grad students at least, a non-optional gym membership that is prohibitively far from where they intend to live does not make up for that additional burden. The Graduate Student Senate already sees our own short-term emergency loan fund strained to its limit every summer by grad students who routinely have to borrow in order to live.

At a time when the President of the United States feels student debt is one of the major domestic issues worthy of being addressed, all universities need to closely scrutinize the debt burden they place on their students. I realize that in the current financial climate, UConn has limited choices, and shortfalls in our state funding are burdens that we as students sometimes need to shoulder. But this time, UConn has a clear choice, and it's a choice that will say something about our priorities and commitments. If that choice is to build a state-of-the-art recreation facility with \$100 million dollars of student money, at a time when students are carrying more financial burdens than ever before, I have to question what that says about our priorities.

With this recreation proposal, the University is trying to sell students on an impressive-looking facility in the short term that will cost them in the long term. The fitness of our students is certainly important. But the financial future of our graduate and undergraduate students should be a more urgent concern.

Thank you.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

4. Alternative Financing Plans

a. Representative: Ian Yue

b. Ladies and gentlemen of the Board, thank you for allowing me to speak to you today. My name is Ian Yue, and I am the Treasurer of the Graduate Student Senate. You have heard from my fellow graduate students how a \$300-400 student fee would be a great burden, and I would like to touch on this issue more fundamentally.

Talking with a number of undergraduate and graduate students, I have come across two arguments regarding the rec facility. The first argument supports the rec facility proposal, given that there is a need for one. The second argument opposes the rec facility proposal simply given how much it would cost to students in fees.

Comparing these two arguments side-by-side, there is a disconnect. Proponents are arguing that there is a "need" for a rec facility, but this argument does NOT address why the large majority of the cost to meet this "need" must fall on students. In fact, for graduate students, it is the MAGNITUDE of the fee that is far more concerning than the merit of the facility itself.

In other words, the major issue is the burden of the student fee. The University has used the "need" argument to propose a new fee, but the same argument has not been used to exhaustively consider all funding options.

When asked about the possibility of privatization or philanthropy as funding sources, University administrators have argued that it is "too late" to turn to philanthropy. As a result, no proposals have been put forward to pursue this approach.

When asked why we should build a new rec facility now, University administrators have told us this project is 10 years overdue and that there's no better time than now. But if we've known for 10 years that we would need a new rec center, why haven't we made a collective effort to seek alternative funding in that time? Instead, the University has put forward a proposal that makes student fees the first option instead of the last resort.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

There are other options for funding a rec facility. The administration pointed towards the University of Massachusetts' rec center as a good example of a rec facility. Yet, UMass built their recreation facility solely on fundraising, not by raising student fees. What is absolutely disconcerting is the fact that the University of Connecticut administration has admitted to not looking into how UMass secured the promise of funds.

The decision to finance a new facility in our current financial climate, needs to be carefully considered, given rising tuition and fee rates for everyone and steady stipend amounts for graduate students. We owe it to UConn students to look for better funding options before we place the burden on them. If we cannot raise funds through alumni, sponsorships, or private collaborations, perhaps it is an indicator that despite a new rec facility being a good idea, it is not the time to move forward with the proposal you have before you.

For instance, some universities offer recreation facilities to off-campus graduate students on an opt-out basis. At Texas Tech, graduate students can choose to pay for semester- or year-long use of the gym. Students who waive the fee don't have access to the rec center. This system takes into account the unique situation graduate students face. At UConn, only about 5% of graduate students live on campus. The majority of the population is divided between Mansfield, Vernon, Willimantic, Manchester, and other off-campus locations. Most graduate students who pay for a gym membership pay less per month than the new recreation facility would cost them in fees. For graduate and undergraduate students who live off campus, purchasing a gym membership or using the gym included in many apartment complexes makes sound financial sense. Not enough consideration has been given to the possibility of an opt-out system that would allow off-campus students to make the decision that's financially right for them.

Thank you.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

5. Lives of Grad Students

- a. Representative: Hayley Kilroy M.
- b. Members of the board,

Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Hayley Kilroy, and I am a PhD student in the Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology. The graduate student community was recently informed of the proposal to build a new student recreational facility, and as part of that plan, graduate students would pay anywhere from \$300-450 per year in increased fees in order to pay for the building.

Graduate students absolutely can *not* afford a fee increase of this amount. My husband and I are very lucky—we are both in departments that are able to offer us employment through full teaching, research, or administrative assistantships. That means that during the school year, we make around \$40,000, combined. Over \$4,000 of that—about 10% of our income—goes back to UConn in student fees.

But like I said, we are lucky. I have heard from graduate students in several departments that, due to budget cuts, their departments can only offer employment through 75% assistantships. These students cannot afford this fee increase, then most of my colleagues can't, either. And, however much we may desire a state-of-the-art recreational facility, requiring graduate students to pay so much for it forces us into a financially irresponsible position. When my husband and I make large purchases, for example, if we need to buy a car, we make sure we have a financially responsible plan to pay within our means. We can't buy the newest, fanciest car just because we want to have it. Similarly, the two of us can't afford to pay \$600-900 per year for a top-of-the-line rec center just because it's something the university community wants. I am concerned that in this case, the administration has not considered what is financially feasible for its students.

The University of Connecticut currently charges graduate students over \$1,000 in fees per semester, which is more than double the average fees charged by other public research universities in New England. I urge you to consider a more responsible means of paying for a recreational facility, without placing undue burden on UConn Graduate Students.

Thank you.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

(Timing: just under 3 minutes)

6. Recruitment

a. Representative: Justin Mahalak

b. One of the major arguments put forth in support of the recreation facility has been recruitment. As I'm sure you already know, recreation centers can be big draws--great marketing tools--for attracting undergraduate students to the University. However, the same can not be said for graduate students. With the recreation center proposal added to our existing fee burden, prospective graduate students will find that UConn's supposedly competitive stipend is almost 20% less than the stated value after fees. The prospect of a \$2,000 fee bill every year is already daunting to grad students who are considering UConn. Higher fees will dissuade high-achieving potential students from attending UConn in favor of universities that have more competitive fee rates.

At present, graduate students struggle with how to present the fee issue to prospective students, many of whom are considering offers from other institutions where fees are included in graduate stipends. A fee increase will make UConn an even harder sell to these students. If talented grad students choose to attend an institution with lower (or entirely waived) fees, UConn's pool of graduate applicants will decrease in strength. Academic departments may struggle for TA coverage, thus adversely affecting the undergraduate population. Faculty may have more trouble finding good graduate assistants to work in their labs and support their research projects.

With the NextGenCT proposal, UConn is announcing its commitment to build the economy and be at the forefront of research. Strong graduate programs are a vital part of that mission. Graduate students are a load-bearing population at UConn. Our quality research supports our academic departments as they strive for national recognition. We teach essential gen-ed classes that all undergraduates need, and that workload will dramatically increase if NextGenCT passes and UConn increases its undergraduate enrollment. And we carry this workload for increasingly diminishing pay, due to rising fees which outpace the growth of income consistently each year.

Many grad students expressed their strong desire to be at this meeting today, but had to put their classrooms and labs first. The stipends and tuition waivers that we receive from the University aren't



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

charity. They help support the cost of living so we can teach, learn, and research as a crucial part of the UConn mission. We've committed our lives to the service of higher education, and we accept that graduate school is often going to be a financial hardship. We're asking the Board to reject this fee proposal in order to avoid making graduate school a financial crisis. If we are to be competitive in research and education, we need to make it possible for talented graduate students to choose UConn.

Thank you.

7. Cost of Living

a. Representative: Miller Oberman

b. Student Financial Aid Services estimates that the "indirect costs" of being a graduate student for the 2013-2014 academic year will be about \$19,322. This is an estimate coming from within the University, and it includes housing, food, transportation and supplies related to schoolwork. In short, this is a cost of living estimate for UConn grads specifically.

Let me repeat that number: \$19,322.

An incoming graduate student, with a full graduate assistantship, will be earning \$17,953.30 after fees are deducted. By its own metrics, UConn is not paying its graduate students enough to cover the base necessities of life. How can we attract promising graduate students, to further our research and instructional mission, under these conditions?

The AAUP, in its Statement on Graduate Students, says in part "In order to assist graduate students in making steady progress toward their degrees, the time they spend in teaching or research assistantships or other graduate employment at the institution should afford sufficient compensation so as not to compel the student to obtain substantial additional employment elsewhere." We are not currently meeting this standard. We will be further still from meeting this standard if graduate students continue to be seen as an easy target for raising funds.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

Even more pressingly, UConn's status as a worldwide institution is put at risk by this situation. Students coming from abroad must demonstrate that they have sufficient income to support themselves as students. If this comes under question, which our current trajectory is headed towards, UConn will lose its ability to host the most promising teachers and researchers from across the globe. We have already had one scare on this in the recent past, when the Graduate School announced that in the upcoming year, international students would be unable to meet the paperwork requirements to prove that their income at UConn could cover the cost of living. The cost of living estimate was adjusted to keep UConn just within the limits. But the situation brought home the tenuous financial position graduate students are constantly in.

It is completely irresponsible to even consider adding new fees to the graduate student bill in such an environment. The first priority for the prestige and viability of UConn as an R1 institution should be stabilizing graduate assistant stipends and reducing the fee burden, not increasing it.

Thank you.

E-mailed Comments

(The following comments were emailed to the Board of Trustees by graduate students. They are listed below in case GSS has more representatives/time to present further arguments.)

1 Strained Financial Situation of Graduate Students

- a From: Roman Goz
- b I'm an international student and my annual [graduate assistant] stipend is about 16-17 thousand dollars per year (after taxes). Right now I'm paying about \$2000 in University fees. and I'm renting an apartment which is currently about \$700 per month... in the range of the lower limit rental prices. [Annually, rent totals \$8400.] Electricity costs about \$50-90 per month... [or] \$840 per year.... I do my grocery shopping in walmart and make my own food... [at] about \$5 per day, plus some supplies for home. So groceries is about \$300-350 per month... [or] \$3600 per year. I don't have a car, because it's too expensive for me, I don't go out too often, because it is also too expensive to go out and also I don't have a time for that. So from time to time I do need to buy some clothes, shoes, make some trips and I do use the health services in UCONN which is also cost money. So let's add to the overall sum another \$1000 annual expenditure. So my [annual] income is about \$16000-17000. My expenditures to the minimal amount is \$13840 per year plus UCONN fees, \$2000 per year = \$15840 per year. So increasing fees to raise money for the new



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

Rec. facility by \$400-500 per year is going to cause a very serious [economic] problems to me and to overall grad students, considering that international students does not have other options for income compared to the american students (this is for the international students). Taking into account the 4% increase in stipend and also the inflation, which brings the rental prices increase every year by 15% this practically means, that I'll need to cut where I can't. And this is the calculation for the single person not for the family, as part of the grad students do have families. So, please consider this in your decision making about raising fees for the purpose of building new Recreation facility in the UCONN.

2 Living Off-Campus

- a From: Tosca Braun
- b I would like to submit, as a UConn graduate student, that I'm 100% opposed to the new rec center and the student fees it would entail.... I maintain we pay plenty of student fees as is, and there are ample sites for student recreation on campus, for undergraduates. As a graduate student living off campus the prospect of paying such high fees for an on-campus rec center when my off-site gym is *much* cheaper and more convenient to my living situation is really upsetting. Why should grad students be subsidizing the cost of this center for the university, when we already pay such high fees, have low stipends, and most of us live off site and use inexpensive off-site gyms because we prefer not to do so on campus? I cannot claim to speak for everyone, only myself, although I know fellow graduate students in my dept. have expressed feeling similarly. Thank you kindly for your consideration.

3 Purpose of Graduate Education and University Mission

- a From: Dobri Dotov
- b I would like to express my concern regarding the upcoming increase in graduate student fees resulting from the plans to build a new "Rec Center".... I came to UConn for the purpose of knowledge (gaining, developing, disseminating), not for recreation. So did most other graduate students, I believe. On the other hand, sometimes it feels like the undergraduate students came here to recreate themselves. For this and other reasons that I would like not to discuss here the undergraduate students population heavily outweighs the graduate in its taking advantage of all facilities and services - sports, dining, etc.. I think it would be unfair to the graduate students to make them pay for something they do not want and will not take advantage of. Generally, I'm amazed how UConn tends to be governed so as to please the undergraduate students and their parents while the graduate students are treated as temporary hired workers. Please observe that without us neither teaching nor research would be possible. With respect to investing in infrastructure, the university is just as much in need of more reading space in the library as more "Rec" space.

4 Disproportionate Fee-to-Stipend Increase

- a From: Jessica Strom
- b I would like to formally assert that I DO NOT support the proposed fee increase to fund the new rec center and think that other sources to fund such a project must be considered. As a graduate student on a .75 TAsip, it is incredibly difficult for me to come up with the more than \$2000 in fees that I already pay. \$2000 is roughly 13% of my income, and an extra \$300-400 is not



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

something that I, or any other graduate student, can realistically afford without serious financial burden. Even if TA salaries are increased by 4%, this is not really sufficient to meet the 14% increase in fees. In addition to the financial burdens a fee increase will have on current students, I think that it will also be detrimental to the recruitment of future students. If UConn wants to provide competitive graduate programs, increasing the fees will not help. At present, graduate students struggle with how to present the fee issue to prospective students, many of whom are considering offers from other institutions where fees are included in graduate stipends. A fee increase will make UConn an even harder sell to these students. If these students choose to attend an institution with lower (or fully funded fees), that means the teaching pool is small, and departments may struggle for TA coverage, thus adversely affecting the undergraduate population as well. I urge you to consider the impact that a fee increase will have on an already financially burdened graduate student community and REJECT the proposed fee increase to fund the rec center. Thank you.

5 Cuts to Departments

- a From: Gabriella Marino
- b I am a graduate student from the Department of Literature, Cultures, and Languages, and I am writing to oppose the construction of the new recreation facility. Graduate students are already required to pay \$2000 in student fees every year, and this comes out of our already small stipend. Additionally, the French Department has been facing budget cuts, so all Teaching Assistants will be losing \$3000 of funding, in addition to the \$2000 in UConn student fees. Please consider your graduate students when making the decision to construct a new recreation facility. I honestly can no longer afford to live here, and adding more student fees is only affecting my ability to pay rent every month. Graduate students are just as important as undergraduates. Please consider us in your decision!

6 Role of Graduate Students in University and Fees

- a From: Maria Seger
- b I write to urge the Board of Trustees to reconsider the proposed financing plan for the new recreation center, which unnecessarily burdens graduate students, most of whom are already living paycheck-to-paycheck without the benefit of parental, state, or federal financial support. Though support for the recreation center is strong among undergraduate students, as you have already heard from Graduate Student Senate representatives, and as I wish to reinforce here, the graduate student body is stridently opposed to the building of the recreation center, and most importantly, the financing plan. The majority of graduate students live off-campus and have already joined far less expensive gyms and health clubs privately. The prospect of exercising alongside our undergraduate students--among whom we strive to cultivate a relationship of respect in the classroom--is not one that excites us. Exclude us from membership if you like, but please do not make us pay for another service that we do not and will not use. As with most other university services the graduate students contribute to funding (shuttles that we don't use, parking that is extremely scarce, and various other opaque fees), the graduate students stand to reap little to nothing from their investment in this facility. As I'm sure you already know, recreation centers can be big draws--great marketing tools--for attracting undergraduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

students to the university; however, the same can not be said for graduate students. In fact, the university's competitive stipend will have to be revealed for what it truly is--almost 20% less than the stated value after fees--which will dissuade high-achieving potential students from attending UCONN in favor of universities that don't gauge them. The ramifications of this fee and the precedent that it sets are far-reaching. Graduate students already save the university an enormous sum of money by teaching the least-desirable classes for increasingly diminishing pay (due to rising fees, which outpace the growth of income consistently each year). I would love to be at the meeting on Wednesday, but unfortunately, I have to work at my university job, at which I spend at least 20 hours a week. Please consider that most of us are teachers before we are students--as such, we should not be held to the same financing standards as undergraduate students. We have already committed our lives to the service of the university and academia more generally. Graduate school should not be a financial burden--and though it already is, you have the opportunity to stop it from becoming worse. Thank you for your consideration.

7 In Favor of the Rec Center

- a From: Adam Hill
- b I am writing to you directly because of issues with the electronic submission form on the Board of Trustees website. I would like to express my support for the proposed new recreation facility at the Storrs campus. As a current doctoral student at Storrs, I am concerned by the apparent opposition to this project on the part of my fellow graduate students. From what I can tell, the opposing argument seems to be that graduate students will not use the facility to the same extent that undergraduates will. This is probably true--I personally can't remember the last time I used any kind of recreation facility. But this argument against the project is terribly myopic and reflects a parochialism inconsistent with UConn's aspirations to be a great university. The entire university community, graduates as well as undergraduates, stands to benefit from the presence of first-rate facilities designed to attract first-rate students at all levels. Without ongoing investment in such facilities--and without a stronger sense of community--I believe that the whole university will struggle to attract and retain such students. We will all suffer from that. And who knows? I may actually use this facility myself, particularly if it includes childcare facilities or other programming useful to graduate students who, like me, struggle to integrate their family life with the life of the university. So long as the new recreation facility is designed to meet the needs of as many students, faculty, and staff as possible, and so long as it supports rather than detracts from the core academic mission of the university, I wholeheartedly support it.

8 Financial Strain

- a From: Steven Kozlowski
- b I am writing in response to the e-mail I received outlining the proposed financing of the new rec center. Personally, I think it's completely unfair to expect graduate students to incur such a large cost for something that I doubt many of us will use. I live off-campus, like many graduate students do, so it's not as convenient for me to use the rec facility as it would be for undergrads who live on-campus. Furthermore, as a ph.d. student, I am extremely busy with my work, and don't have time to use the gym during most weeks. As a ph.d. student, I am compensated by our



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

university; however, it's less than \$20,000 per year. As I am in my mid-twenties now, this is all I have to live off of. Sure, I could take out more student loans, but I already have some from undergraduate studies so borrowing more is a last resort. Of this \$20,000, over \$2,000 (10% before tax) is already being taken out annually to pay for student fees. This is much higher than a lot of institutions. Proposing to increase this by \$300-\$400 is just going to make managing a budget for someone like me, that much more difficult. If it were something that I could use regularly, although I may not prefer it, it might not seem as bad; however, given that I'd be paying a good chunk of my income for something that I'll basically never use is completely unfair. I can't make the meeting this week as it conflicts with my class schedule, but I wanted to share my two cents.

9 Opt-in and Financial Strain

- a From: Lauren Rommal
- b My name is Lauren Rommal and I am a graduate student from the department of Literatures, Cultures and Languages. It has been brought to my attention that you would like to increase the student fees in order to pay for a new REC center. My department is only able to fund me at 75% due to the university cutting funding for the department. After the \$2000 in graduate student fees are taken out of my salary, I only receive \$12,000 and am expected to live off of this for an entire year. We both know how expensive Connecticut is and that this is already impossible. By increasing the student fees, you will be making it even harder for me to accomplish my studies, as I will be forced to get a part-time job in order to make up the extra money I am paying for this REC Center that I did NOT vote for and do NOT want. Perhaps you could recoup the money by charging a fee for students who CHOOSE to use the REC Center, and not instituting a flat fee for all students.

10 Graduate Students Won't Use the Rec Center

- a From: Margaret J. M. Helming
- b I am sending this to express my deep concern with the rec center proposal. While such a center might be a boon for on campus undergraduates, it would find little use among graduate students. Most of us do not live on campus and many of us, such as myself, do not even live near Storrs--I am over an hour away, have never used the current facilities, and would not use any that might be built. While building a rec center would be fine were it to be paid for exclusively through undergraduate fees, to increase fees among a population who already pays more than our fair share for resources we often do not use in order to build a new facility that we also will not use seems to be placing an undue burden upon us. To build this center on the backs of a graduate populace who don't want it and won't use it is, simply put, an unfair hardship. In light of the views of the graduate student population on this issue, I sincerely hope that you will do the right thing and vote down any proposal that includes an increase in our fees. Thank you for your time and consideration.

11 Professional Distance between Grads and Undergrads

- a From: Kaylee Burnham
- b This is regarding the proposed fee increase that would impact graduate students for the new UConn rec center. I am a graduate student who does not live on campus. I do not use the current



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

rec center. I come to Storrs solely to do my research work, take my classes, and do my teaching... Which supports the university. I would like to think I support a university that supports me, and understands that a graduate student stipend (while much appreciated) is difficult to live off of. I certainly don't want my money I earn that I need to put towards my rent and my food to go toward a facility that I do not use. Frankly that feels like I am being taken advantage of. I have been to the current rec center. I certainly noticed that it is used predominantly by undergraduate students. I made the conscious decision to not use the rec center to avoid running into my students and clients during a time when I a focusing on my own self-care. At my undergraduate institution I did pay fees for the new rec center I used. In a sense I believe I've paid my dues. I believe the same should be expected from UConn undergraduates who would derive the direct benefits of this new rec center.... Not the graduate students.

12 Living Expenses and Commuting

- a From: Joshua Fishlock
- b As a commuting graduate student (I travel to and from central Rhode Island everyday) my finances are extremely thin and budgeted. I have no need to use a new Rec Center, I do not want to use it, nor do I have the financial ability to help pay for it. The proposed increase in fees is outrageous as I am already paying well over \$1000 a semester in fees. The stipend I receive to teach here barely covers my living expenses and student fees. I will be unable to afford the proposed increase without putting my finances in the red. Please think of the financial well being of the graduate student population as most of us have given up our financial security to go back to school. Thank you for your time.

13 Financial Burden (WITH EXHIBITS)

- a From: Ross Vandegrift
- b The proposed increase in costs would unfairly place additional financial burden onto graduate students, who are already struggling. Unless the plan is to be offset by a stipend increase sufficient to cover the new fees plus taxes, the plan is unduly burdensome to graduate students. A UConn GA pays between 19,383.78 and 22,676.36 [1]. The university estimates \$2000 in fees [2], and in 2012, I paid about \$2000 in taxes on my stipend. Thus, net take-home pay for a graduate assistant ranges from 15383.78 to 18676.36. UConn estimates a graduate student's cost of living to be \$19,322 [2]. This number already excludes UConn tuition and fees. Even the highest paid GAs, those who already hold a PhD, do not make enough to cover the cost of living. As a result, we usually must look for additional employment over the summer. This is a shame - the summer would otherwise be an excellent opportunity for focused dissertation or publication work. Taking additional work distracts from that, and thus negatively impacts the education and research experience that UConn offers. Unfortunately, the cost of living prohibits avoiding this. A new rec center may be attractive to undergraduates, and this may be profitable for the University. Unfortunately, the graduate students simply cannot afford it.

14 International Student Concerns

- a From: Alena Arranz Alonso
- b Concerning the construction of new facilities and the increase in student fees, I would like to express my concerns as an international graduate student and teaching assistant. My



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

department has been reducing the amount given in Teaching Assistantships. From having a 100% TAship, most of them have been lowered to a 75%. This fact affects graduate students, but especially international graduate students that have very limited options when looking for a job. An increase in the graduate fees would lower our earnings even more, potentially causing some international students to rethink their possibilities to afford studying at the University of Connecticut. Most of us come from countries that are financially struggling. For this reason we do not count with parental support. Furthermore, our financial options are very limited due to our visa status. While I understand that new facilities might be needed for the ever-growing number of undergraduate students living in Storrs, the truth is that most graduate students do not spend too much time on campus outside their academic hours. Most of us live in different towns, where we participate in different social or athletic activities. The new facilities would not be used by us. I would like to ask the Board of Trustees to please take into account the difficulties that an increase in the student fees could cause to graduate students in terms of affordability of living and studies, as well as the impact in our future decisions concerning finishing our studies at the University of Connecticut. Thank you for your time.

15 Mission of the University

- a From: Shannon Soucy
- b This is concerning the fee increase to support the building of a new rec center. I strongly oppose the building of a new rec center here at UConn. I feel that the university is losing sight of what the role of a college education should have in a person's life. We are facing a crisis where students graduate with a four-year degree which does not prepare them to join a professional workplace. These students are a function of the culture here at UConn and other colleges, which is being directed toward extraneous resources like the new rec center rather than things that might enrich their potential as future professionals (collaborations with other universities, outreach programs, internships, etc.). If you raise the fees here most students won't notice (their parents pay for most of it anyway) and I personally barely make enough money to afford to drive the junky car that I and every other graduate student here drives around, but I will be out of here in a few years so it's a few thousand more for me and my destitute friends that make it through this program; but what will it do for the university as a whole to build a new Rec center? Will our students be more fit? Probably not as no one new is going to be enticed to exercise because of a new rec center, and those that exercise there already probably won't go more. Will it sharpen minds and build more responsible future citizens? Definitely not, and that is what we are really here to do, I hope the students have fun here, there are many lessons to be learned here outside of the classroom, but as far as raising fees to build a new rec center, that seems on par to buying a new car when the old one breaks and taking out a loan because you don't have the money to pay for it. I am just a lowly grad student but in my opinion there is a lesson in purchasing this Rec center or not I hope a choice is made in a way that I can be proud to be a part of this university.

16 Questions to the Board of Trustees

- a From: Caner Hazar
- b About the graduate fee increase I would like to ask the Board of Trustees: why the board of trustees do not extract the money they need from earners of more than 150 thousand dollars a



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

year rather than graduate students who try to make a living with around 19 thousand dollars a year? Why the board of trustees is so eager about investing in a recreation facility rather than academic research facilities? Why we think we do not need a second library, rather than a recreation facility?

17 Student health and well-being (from a current gym user)

- a From: Timothy Moore
- b My name is Timothy Moore, I am currently a second year PhD student, on a Graduate Assistantship, in the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Department at UConn. I regularly use the current gym and recreational facility on the Storrs campus. I am opposed to the proposed increase of student fees by up to \$400 over what we are currently paying in fees (not covered by our tuition waiver). Especially, as it is unclear what the over \$1,000 we are currently paying is used for, or why it is not covered by our GA/TA tuition waiver. It is important for the University to encourage a physically healthy and strong student body, but I feel this fee increase will be detrimental to student well-being.

18 Graduate Students with Families, Valuing Grads vs. Undergrads

- a From: Dawne Goodwin
- b I wanted to share my concerns regarding placing the burden of cost for the recreation center by substantially raising the graduate fees. In order to pursue an advanced degree, I left teaching full-time to accommodate the class schedule required for my program. My husband is supportive of my aspirations, but the reality is that we are supporting a family that includes two teenagers who are involved in every available activity on one salary and six hours of teaching a week. Adding the additional burden of exorbitant fees would stretch our budget even further. The recreation center would be primarily used for undergraduate students and the cost should be placed on those who would reap the greatest benefit. I say this with the acknowledgement that in two years, my own son will hopefully be attending UCONN as an undergraduate and I would expect to pay the fees associated with services utilized by his age group. It is a concern that you are considering burdening older graduate students with additional fees for services that may not be accessed as we don't live on campus and are usually only there for classes. This will send the message to potential graduate students that we are not as valued as the undergraduate students, something that I have not perceived and the reason that I chose to attend UCONN. Thank you for your time.

19 Mandatory Fees

- a From: Paul Silva
- b I do not think graduate student fees, which are mandatory, should be increased to accommodate the building of the new recreation center. Too few grad students actually use it; and those who do are already laboring for the university for a pittance. Please be sensitive to our financial struggles.

20 Rec Center and Pres. Herbst's Rebranding Strategy

- a From: Todd Cooper
- b We recently completed a survey sent by the Graduate Student Senate asking whether we supported the increase in graduate student fees necessary to help build a new recreation center.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

The scheduled increase would raise fees by approximately 14%. While I can and do support the University in its attempts to re-brand and align the vision of President Herbst to bring about change that reflects a stronger and more viable university - in this particular instance - the planned building project doesn't fully align with that vision, especially if it will cause undue hardship on those who can least afford its cost. Further, as a graduate student who like many of my colleagues - don't have time, nor do personal circumstances allow for participation in these activities (and most likely never have) - if given the choice, I choose to opt out of any raises or increases in graduate student fees. In the current economy, increases in fees without subsequent increases in personal income (which I haven't had in 4 years) becomes a burden that overwhelmingly causes other issues to arise - none of which help with the rigorous academic requirements the university imposes on students in order to help them compete in today's markets. Simply put, if I and those like me could afford an increase - it would be no issue. At this time however, I have to voice serious concerns about raising any fees on those who can least afford it. Thank you for your time.

21 Privileging Undergraduates

- a From: Melanie Meinzer
- b I am writing to express my concern about the fee increase affecting graduate students for building a new recreation facility. First, as the Graduate Student Senate has said, only 34% of graduate students live in the Storrs area, and 74% are unwilling to pay increased fees for the new facility. Most of the currently enrolled graduate students will be finished with their degrees by the time this new facility is operational, so it is unfair to make us finance a facility many of us will never use. Also, since UConn's primary focus is undergraduates, it makes even less sense to increase graduate fees to pay for a facility that is not very welcoming or comfortable for those members of the UConn community who are 22 or older. I already pay extra for a gym membership, and am not interested in going further into debt to finance an undergraduate facility I'll likely not get the chance to use.

22 Stipend as Before-tax Income

- a From: Kyle Brady
- b This comment is in regards to the proposed new athletic facility. As a current graduate student, I strongly oppose this project. From a graduate student perspective, our usage of the athletic facilities tends to be low, as we most often do not live on, or sometimes even near campus. Moreover, the current facilities serve our needs well, so it is unclear what benefit graduate students would derive from this project. Finally, the proposal to increase student fees by \$300-400 is outrageous. Even if a student is fortunate enough to receive a full stipend, a full 7% of their before-tax income is currently going to student fees, with after-tax dollars. In comparison, my experience at another university was of total student fees in \$300-400 range. The increase would mean that a minimum of ~10% of full-stipend income (~20% for half-stipend) would go to fees. All of us need to pay for our basic necessities, and the more student fees increase, the more difficult this becomes, forcing more of us further into debt. All this for a facility we neither need nor want. I urge you to reconsider this project in light of the above.

23 Fee-for-membership Model



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a From: Corinne Tagliarina
- b I'm writing to offer a comment on the proposed student fee increase for the new rec center. I've been a graduate student for 5 years and I have never actually used the rec center facilities. I used to live in Manchester, now in Vernon, and I have a 2 year old, which means that an on campus rec center isn't really compatible with my lifestyle. From recent research done by the GSS, it seems that many graduate students have similar concerns. I understand that student fees are meant to cover things that benefit all students, but perhaps graduate students could be moved to a fee-for-membership model like the faculty and staff, as a new rec center will be almost entirely for the benefit of undergraduate students. Although I will likely graduate before this fee takes effect, this is a concern not just for me, but for all graduate students. To propose another fee increase, on top of the other fee increases, when our stipends have been flat since 2010-2011, seems a lot like trying to fund the university on the backs of the graduate students - especially for a luxury like new rec center.

24 Financial Plight of Graduate Students and Fees

- a From: Rebecca Jacobs
- b I write to express my serious objections to the proposed Rec Center. I'm so angry about this that I may not be able to express myself coherently, but I'll attempt to be civil. This proposal will not directly affect me, because I'm planning to defend my Ph.D. dissertation by August 2014 at the latest. I write to you out of pure anger and concern for future generations of graduate students. Let me break it down for you: Many graduate students do not get full assistantships. My department usually gives out 3/4 graduate assistantships. With the 4% raise next year, and at the Ph.D. level, that will be \$17,687.48 a year before taxes. We receive a tuition waiver but we are responsible for paying for our fees out of pocket. According to my own experience and what I have heard from friends, the majority of departments do not mention fees in their offer letters to students. I accepted UConn's offer assuming that the fees per semester would be around \$200 like they were at my undergrad institution and was shocked to be charged \$880 per semester. Fee bills have gone up since then: my fee bill for this semester was \$1,042. That's approximately 12% of my income. Adding \$400 to that fee bill would make it more like 16% of my income (and that's including the 4% increase in graduate stipends). When your existence is as marginal as ours is as graduate students, the fee bill represents a very significant hardship. The idea that the UConn administration could casually suggest tacking \$300-400 on to graduate students' fee bills should be surprising to me, but ultimately it is not. I'm angered and saddened that the university cares so little about whether graduate students can afford to pay rent, buy food, or fill up their cars, but I'm not surprised. We teach UConn' classes. We enhance UConn's reputation. We make it possible for UConn to do what it is nominally supposed to do: educate young people and prepare them for their future careers. But the administration does not seem to feel that we deserve UConn's respect. Listen to graduate students when they say that this fee increase will make it impossible for them to survive.

25 Financial Burden vs. Rebranding Initiative

- a From: Jared Demick



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

- b I protest the hike in graduate student fees that will occur in order to finance the proposed \$100 million recreation facility. As a graduate student here for the past six years, I have received a great education. I also have contributed to the University in turn by teaching 12 courses. More than \$2,000 dollars of my stipend already goes back to the University in the form of graduate fees. That's almost three months' rent! Due to these steep fees, I've long felt that the stipend amount I'm supposedly awarded each year is a bit of a lie. Now, I hear the Board of Trustees wishes to increase the fees yet again in order to finance a facility I will never use. This is ludicrous, not only from a graduate student perspective, but also from an undergraduate perspective. UConn undergraduates already pay a huge amount to go to a state institution. Yet rather than trying to alleviate financial burden, the school is seeking to increase it as if we're geese that shit out gold coins. Why do students have to pay for the university seeking a sleek rebranding that make for a glossy cover on US News and World Report?

26 Fees Generally and Won't Use Gym

- a From: Therese Tripler
- b I am a graduate student here at Uconn. I strongly disagree with your proposal to increase Graduate fees to help pay for a new recreation center. I pay for a gym membership outside of school. I do not live on campus and do not want to attend the gym on campus even if it were improved. Graduate student fees are already a burden and include other fees that I do not agree with for example, transportation. I commute here as do a large part of graduate students. I pay for my car and a parking pass. I am not sure why I am paying a transportation fee? My graduate experience has left me with the disappointing feeling of being part of an institution that cares more about "nickel and diming" their student body and less about the education and welfare of the current students.

27 Fees, Statistics, and Proportionate Usage

- a From: Stephen Slota
- b I'm writing to voice my concern over the proposed recreation facility graduate student fee increases. After looking into the issue over the last several days, I've been unable to find any statistical information noting the relative usage of recreation facilities by university graduate and undergraduate student populations. Given the unique financial, familial, time, and personal obligations/burdens of graduate students, I suspect that proportion is much lower for graduate students than undergraduates. Without accurate data to support such a large fee increase, it seems graduate students are at risk of being forced to pay higher fees that fail to correlate with their real-world usage behaviors. It would be unreasonable and irresponsible to accept such a change unless graduate and undergraduate student populations were slated for fee increases weighed against verifiable relative percent usage (i.e., graduate vs. undergraduate student gym attendance as percent of total respective population). As both a student and faculty member, I strongly urge the Board of Trustees to deny the proposed graduate fee increase until there is further evidence to support such a change. I appreciate your consideration.

28 Financial Burden of Grads

- a From: Christianne Barone



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- b As a graduate assistant I am very fortunate to be here at UCONN and am very grateful for the opportunity. However, I make an \$18,000 stipend a year and put in a significant amount of hours to my clinical placement each week. As part of my graduate assistantship I work as the athletic trainer at a local high school that requires me to be at all practices and all home games. Due to this commitment and my course load I have only been able to pick up a part time job (which I work every Sunday) to supplement my stipend. Currently I pay over \$1000 each semester in student fees, that I pay out of my stipend. This is a huge chunk of my income (more than 11%). Undergrad students may not have an issue as many have their parents or loans to pay off these fees. I however pay for my own housing and bills and really rely on my stipend. Any more taken it out of it is really going to hurt. I appreciate your consideration of this matter. Thanks for your time.

29 Fee-for-membership Model

- a From: Laila Khan
- b The proposed increase to student fees is a huge burden to place on graduate students, especially considering that few, if any, of us would use this facility. Like many graduate students, I commute to campus and barely make use of any university resources other than the library and my classroom. We already pay the university for resources we never use, costing a significant portion of our stipends. Instead of penalizing us across the board, why not make the facility accessible by swipe-card only, and charge membership fees to cover those costs? I did not ask for, nor do I want this facility, and I do not have the disposable funds to cover someone else's recreational activities

30 14% Increase Exorbitant and Unfair

- a From: Asia Rowe
- b I am writing to protest the proposition to build a new \$100 million recreation facility that will be financed by a 30-year bond and paid for by mandatory student fees. As an ABD graduate student who had to move out of state for my partner's job, I find the 14% fee increase exorbitant and unfair. I will likely never use the facility and find it extremely unjust that I would be asked to pay for it. There are many graduate students in my position who live too far from campus to make use of the facility. Even many of students living on campus oppose the fee increase (according to a recent GSS survey, approximately 75% of graduate students oppose the proposition). There has to be a different, fairer way of financing a facility that, in reality, will only benefit a small fraction of those being asked to subsidize it.

31 Off-Campus Expenses

- a From: Jessica LaCroix
- b As a graduate student, I already have more expenses than undergraduates. I also live off campus in Manchester and pay \$300 per year for my current gym membership. I do not wish to have my student fees increase in order to pay for an on-campus recreation center that is largely for undergraduate use. This is an unnecessary increase in fees for graduate students.

32 Grad Students with Families, Rec Center not a Necessity

- a From: Joanna MacGugan



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- b I wish to make my displeasure about the proposed 14% student fee hike known to the Board. I am currently a fourth-year Ph.D. student in Medieval Studies at UConn. I feel strongly that the fee increase, if it is allowed to pass, will present a significant financial hardship to hard working UConn graduate students. Our assistantship stipend in the English Department is all we have to pay our bills, rent, buy books, travel to conferences etc. We have no other income. We are not exempt from paying student fees, so as has already been pointed out by one of my fellow graduate students, we already give roughly \$2,000 of our stipend back to the school each year. In my view, the proposed rec center is not a necessity. There are numerous gyms in the area that offer affordable membership to students. Few graduate students that I know even have the time to utilize a fancy rec center; we are already juggling courses, teaching commitments, research and dissertation-writing, exam preparation and family life. I, for one, commute from Massachusetts and I have a family at home, so I don't have the luxury of spending large amounts of my time on campus, utilizing campus resources. In short, I would be paying a significant chunk of my stipend for a rec center that I will never set foot in, and this seems grossly unfair. I imagine there are many, many undergraduates as well who are stretched for time, some already juggling five courses and part-time jobs, that will also see this as an unfair financial imposition, not to mention their families who are already struggling to pay for exorbitant tuition. Please consider, very carefully, exactly what you are asking of us. There seems to be little apparent logic behind this proposed million dollar rec center, other than superficially polishing UConn's public image - but this will occur at the expense of your own students. The American economy is still struggling; UConn students and their families are part of this economy, and our finances are already stretched very thin. Your fancy rec center is not important enough to the majority of us to warrant this financial imposition. Now is definitely not the time for this thoughtless proposal. Thank you for taking the time to hear our arguments; I look forward to your response.

33 No Use for Rec Center

- a From: Indu Upadhyaya
- b I am strongly against the 14% fee increase to build a recreation center. At least not from graduates. Let undergraduates pay for the center and have their fees increased. As a graduate student, I do not use the gym and I do not want to pay for the recreation center.

34 Grad Students Don't Want a Rec Center

- a From: Molly Nowels
- b Regarding an increase in student fees for the proposed new rec center, I am very opposed to it. I am a graduate student and I make very little money. Our student fees are already incredibly high (and we have to pay them 2x a year!) and adding a few hundred dollars to them sounds outrageous. I am definitely NOT willing to pay more money for a new rec facility, especially when there is already a decent one on campus. What's more, I don't use the rec facility very frequently, as I am busy and prefer other means of exercise. I don't live in the Storrs/Mansfield area, and I wouldn't use a new facility any more than I use the current facility. I already have a membership at a yoga studio, and I don't want to pay more money for a facility I will not be using. It seems to me that the large majority of graduate students do not want to pay for a new recreation facility. If it is something that undergrads are pushing for, then they can foot the bill and grad students



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

can find other facilities or opt-in for this one. Please do not raise the student fees of grad students for this facility.

35 Graduate Student Financial Burden, Undergraduate Demand

a From: Ziyang Zhou

b Regarding the proposal for the new recreation center, I don't think graduate students like me can afford the annual fee associated with it, which is around 300\$. For example, I currently make 19383\$ a year as a graduate assistant, among which 2084\$ (that's 10.8% out of my annual spendable income) is spent as University fee and 1120\$ is federal and state tax. I would not be willing to pay for the new gym (300\$ annually, 14% increase on my current university fee) when there is a functional gym available now. If the Board of Trustees do approve this proposal, it will add more burden onto my financial status, and my monthly spendable income will come to 1323\$. With the house renting fee rocketing near Storrs due to the new Storrs Center on Route 195, most places rent apartments starting from 600\$+ a month. That'll leave me with less than 750\$ a month to pay my car bills, phone bills, grocery bills and health insurance. Apparently, a brand new gym out of students' pocket adds great fame to UConn, however it is going to make lives harder for graduate students like me. On the other hand, most undergraduate students have their fee bills taken care of either by their parents or student loans, so they are less worried about monthly expenditure on daily necessities like food and clothes. If they are the people who strongly vote for a new gym and they would use it on a daily basis, while most graduate students, on the contrary, don't even use the gym currently available at all, maybe the undergraduate students should pay for the new recreation center. I strongly vote against the proposal of a new recreation center to replace the current one. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

36 No Need for a Rec Center, this is a Research University

a From: Carsten Witt

b I would like to voice my strong opposition against the construction of a new gym facility. I am an international graduate student and the raise in fees that are attached to that construction would put severe stress on my financial standing at the University of Connecticut. I feel there is no need to construct such a facility when there already are multiple gyms on campus and in the area. The only reason I can see why such a construction is considered, is to attract more undergraduate students. I hope you are clear of the fact that there are also graduate students taking and teaching classes at this institution. Many of those graduate students are international students and contribute to the international atmosphere in teaching and learning at UConn. Finally, please consider that this is a research university and not a liberal arts college. The presence of graduate students is important for this University and consequently, our voices should be heard and respected. Constructing a new gym is not "for us." It is against the will of the greater graduate student body and thus morally reprehensible. It will pose a severe financial burden to someone who makes as little money as we do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

37 Financial Burden

a From: Alicia Wu



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- b A 14% increase in student fees for a rec center that I never plan on using is ridiculous. I already pay about 10% of my stipend back to the university in student fees every year. This is absurd. I strongly think that grad students should not have to pay for a new rec center. The majority of us will never use it.

38 Find Funding from Other Sources

- a From: Chris Clemens
- b As a graduate student, I am highly against raising the cost of graduate student fees for a recreational center for four reasons: 1) Graduate students are already strapped for money, and some cannot live off of the stipend our departments offer in assistantships without also taking out loans. 2) Many graduate students have families that need to be financially supported, and these fees would be taking food out of their mouths. 3) There are many graduate students, like myself, who do not have time to participate in activities on campus. We are busy conducting research, teaching classes, doing coursework, and balancing a work/life relationship. 4) These funds can be found from other sources such as sponsorships from team athletics, and the Kinesiology department, who could use the facility for research. Please do not put this burden on graduate students' backs. Our lives are difficult enough without supporting a facility many of us will not have time to utilize.

39 Obama Administration "College Scorecard"

- a From: Sarah Berry
- b I am writing to register my protest of the proposed 14% increase (at least) in fees for graduate students. I could certainly devote a great deal of time to enumerating my personal grievances. For one thing, as someone who lives 80 miles away, I will never use this gym, and I know that the majority of graduates are in a similar, although not as extreme, position. Even those graduate students who do live in the area and can afford this gym (which is more expensive than the gym I am a member of in Boston) do not exactly relish the idea of working out with, showering with, changing in front of, etc. their students. For graduate students, this new fee amounts to a 14% pay cut. We will be doing the same amount of teaching and service to the university, but won't be making as much money, with no discernible benefit to the majority of us. This is to put it briefly. But given that this decision does not seem to be motivated by what students (especially graduate students) actually want, I'd instead like to point out that this decision opens up UConn to wider and greater public criticism. Public opinion is becoming increasingly skeptical of these underhanded attempts to extract payments from students without raising tuition. In fact, the Obama administration's recently unveiled College Scorecard is intended to reward schools that make high education more affordable and penalize schools for underhanded attempts to extract payment from their students. As a graduate student, I have several friends in many other graduate programs in public and private universities across the country; UConn's fees are shockingly high--higher than the fees at any of these other schools. This is already a burden on both undergraduate and graduate students, and it strikes me as a duplicitous way to hide the actual price of education at a school that purports to be an affordable option for undergraduate students. The proposed fee increase only adds to this problem. I'd like to think that UConn is not the kind of place that would ask its teachers to take a 14% pay cut to fund something beneficial



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

but unnecessary like a gym. I urge the Board of Trustees and administration, as you try to make decisions to improve our university and its reputation, to consider all of the ramifications of such a decision, both within and outside the university itself.

40 Proximity to Campus

- a From: Kathleen M. Williamson
- b I sincerely hope that the Board of Trustees will consider the dissenting opinions regarding the proposed fee increase to contribute to the building of a new recreation facility. While we are one university, the undergraduate and graduate populations are separate entities with unique concerns and resources. The results of the graduate student survey related to the fee increase should suggest that this population is not supportive of a 14% increase in fees. Perhaps there is some way to minimize the increase in fees for graduate students and focus on the undergraduates who are apparently supportive of this proposal and willing to contribute hundreds of dollars more each year. Personally, I would be extremely disappointed if the Board approves this proposed fee increase, as I do not live in Storrs/Mansfield and I do not use the recreation facilities on campus. I belong to a fitness center closer to my home and I would never purchase an annual gym membership worth \$300+, which is what you are asking me to pay for the new recreation facility. Furthermore, I won't even be a student at UConn by the time this project is complete and I think many graduate students are in a position similar to mine. Thank you for your time.

41 Undergraduate Facility Financed by Undergraduates

- a From: Ivan Ferrero Ruiz
- b As a graduate student and teaching assistant, I think it is unfair and anti-democratic to force master and PhD students to pay for facilities we have not asked for and that most of us will not make use of. I understand that Uconn is getting bigger and undergraduate students are demanding better and more modern sport facilities, but then these facilities should be exclusively for them and they should be the only ones paying for it. Grad students already pay \$1100 per semester, which means approximately a \$150 dollar deduction in our bi-weekly payments (in the case of TAs), a salary which is already very low for Northeast standards. Additionally, many graduate students come from outside CT and even outside the US. Perhaps most undergrads get their expenses partly or entirely covered by their parents, but that is not the case for graduate students. Last but not least, how can the University of Connecticut justify the amount of money that students are supposed to pay for facilities that not even top-notch Manhattan gymnasiums charge? Uconn has a reputation for being one the most expensive state universities. This would not do any good for their image as an institution. Thank you for your time and for this chance to spread the word.

42 Unique Position of Graduate Students

- a From: Jamie Huff
- b I am writing to you concerning the proposed fee increase for graduate students, which will be used to pay for a new recreation facility on campus. I am opposed to the fee increase and want to make my concerns known. I have been a graduate student at UConn for five years, and over this time I have seen the graduate student fees increase yearly, in addition to increasing costs for



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

on campus parking and other essentials for graduate students. At most, graduate students here at UConn earn roughly \$23,000 per year on a 9 month contract, and many graduate students are employed under 1/2 or 3/4 TA/GAships, meaning that they earn far less than the upper most limit. Currently, nearly \$1,900 per year of my stipend is paid back to the university via fees (about 8% of my pay). This the single largest subtraction from my paycheck, followed by taxes and health insurance. As it stands, the graduate student fees at UConn are absurdly high, and graduate students have no means by which to opt-out of this system. While I understand that student fees are a necessity to pay for the common goods on the UConn campus, graduate students are in a unique position in that we are being required to pay fees in order to maintain our employment, and we often do not use the same services as undergraduates do. It is my understanding that most graduate students, when surveyed, indicate that they are not in favor of building a new recreational facility. This is not surprising to me. Most graduate students at UConn live off campus and are less likely to use on-campus facilities of this nature. As a graduate student, I believe that the primary mission of the university should be educational instruction. I am happy to support the university's increases in hiring and building of educational facilities, but I would like to see UConn make smarter choices about the true necessity of facilities that are tangential to our mission. Graduate students are being asked by their departments to do more with less, and we are already paid very little for what is often a challenging teaching load. I ask the board to reconsider the proposed raise in graduate student fees unless it is accompanied by an equivalent raise in graduate student stipends.

43 Graduate Student Financial Burden

a From: Alefiyah Pishori

b I am writing to voice my concern regarding the proposed increase in graduate student fees to fund the new rec center. I, and all of the graduate students I know, do not live on nor near campus, and never use the student recreational facility. During my 4 years at UConn, I have seen tuition and student fees go up consistently, while stipends have remained nearly the same. I have also seen UConn try to take away parking options from graduate students (specifically the option to buy garage parking permits) and then increase the cost of these permits when students objected, although it didn't seem that faculty/staff were asked to pay more for garage permits. Fees for graduate students are already very high and difficult to pay each semester on the stipends we receive. It seems completely unfair that UConn wants to put the additional burden of paying for this facility on graduate students, despite the fact the overwhelming majority of graduate students do not use the current facility and are not asking for a new one. It also seems that UConn does not value the contributions of graduate students as the university continues to try to get more money out of us through various fee increases, without increasing our stipends. I believe UConn will lose graduate students if they continue to demand students pay more without asking if students want the facilities that the fees are supposed to fund. I sincerely hope the Board will reconsider this proposal given the excessive burden this fee imposes on graduate students despite the limited means of most graduate students and their limited use of these facilities. Thank you for your time.

44 Priority for UConn Should be Affordability



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

- a From: Rob Szarka
- b As a UConn grad student (and CT taxpayer!), I do not support the proposed \$100 million recreation facility to be paid for by increases in student fees. Not only are the current facilities at UConn adequate, the proposed increase in fees is more than twice what I currently pay for a membership at a gym closer to my apartment. UConn's goal should be to keep education affordable for CT residents; the proposed project will make it more difficult to afford UConn without providing substantial benefits to the majority of students.

45 Undergraduate Facility for Undergraduates

- a From: Susan Zhu
- b First, I want to say that UConn does a wonderful job in including graduate students as part of the UConn community. However, the numbers suggest that overwhelmingly, graduate students do not live on campus and do not partake in the same daily campus activities that our undergraduates do. As graduate students, our goal is to help educate and mentor the undergraduate students, as well as engage in innovative and exciting research that bolsters UConn as a top-tier research institution. Most graduate students already had an undergraduate experience and are more focused on our classes and research and teaching assistant duties. It is just not realistic to think that we would be using the recreational center alongside the undergraduate students. While I believe that the undergraduates need a place to meet and play between classes and on the weekends, the money should be funded through means other than the graduate student fee. It would be acceptable that should any graduate students would want to use the rec center because they live either on or close to campus, they can buy a membership to use their keycards to get in. Most graduate students live paycheck to paycheck, but we are willing to live on modest means because we want to further our knowledge with higher education and find answers to questions that serve our fields. Drastic increases in student fees that is not coupled with increase in graduate assistantships would cripple a lot of graduate student's lifestyle, especially those with families. I hope the Board of Trustees would cautiously weigh the decisions and understand that the UConn community is composed of many different groups and consideration for each group's welfare should be fared equal.

46 Financial Burden, Undergrad Facility Financed by Undergrads

- a From: Kevin Finefrock
- b I write regarding the upcoming decision on a new recreation facility on campus. As a fourth-year history graduate student, I will likely not be paying for this new facility through increased fees, but I want to express my concerns regarding the impact that the new fees will likely have on the history department's graduate program. History graduate students currently make \$15,000 a year for a teaching assistant position - \$2,000 of which goes back to the university in fees that we do not have waived. The addition of the fees for this new facility is actually a large percentage of our remaining take-home pay. We already have difficulty recruiting against other institutions with which we are aiming to compete. These fees would likely make that process even more difficult, if not impossible. The promised 4% increase in stipend pay would barely make a dent in raising our chances. Since the increase would be only \$600 for the history graduate students, at least half of it would go toward a facility that graduate students in our department hardly use.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

Most of us never use it. We will essentially receive a 2% stipend increase, with the university using the additional funds to pay for a new facility while classifying that money as graduate "income." If undergraduate students want this facility and graduate students hardly use it, graduate students should be charged memberships like staff and faculty members with undergraduate fees covering the cost of the bond. It seems that the current proposal is yet another example of the University of Connecticut using (underpaid) graduate students to support the needs of other constituencies on campus. Thank you for your time.

47 Student Debt Crisis

- a From: Michelle SanPedro
- b I am a first year graduate student in the Anthropology department. I wanted to voice opposition against the proposed recreation center. Graduate students have special needs compared to undergraduates. Graduate anthropology students, for example, are students of the university for six to eight years, easily double the length of time for undergraduates. This potential fee increase affects us significantly. For some students, our current stipend is too meager to support a family or international fieldwork (despite internal grants or attempts to secure external funding). This situation is complicated due to contractual obligations; some graduate students in specific departments cannot take seek outside employment while financially supported by their stipend. At that point, some students turn to federal loans. Since July 2012, graduate students were no longer eligible to take subsidized Stafford loans. Educational loan debt continues to accumulate interest *while* we are students. Help us avoid further debt. The building of a new recreation center, and more importantly, the increase in graduate student fees, is a disincentive for people to pursue graduate study at University of Connecticut. I rather that this money be invested in improved career services or professional development programs for undergraduate and graduate students alike. If you continue to consider the recreation center, my constituents strongly advocate for an opt-in policy. Then interested students can willingly pay the required fee. Graduate anthropology students use recreation facilities closer to their apartments in Vernon and Manchester.

48 Comprehensive List Against Rec Center

- a From: Derek Doran
- b I would like to comment against the proposed mandatory fee increase for graduate students to support the student recreation center by making the following points: **(1)** Statistics collected by the graduate student senate speak for themselves: despite the numerous additions to the new student recreation center, 3 out of every 4 graduate students would be unwilling to pay for the proposed fee increase despite the numerous, all encompassing services that it would offer. From the perspective of a graduate student this is not too surprising: few are interested (or able) to carve time out of our day to take a Zumba class with undergrads, to pay for a smoothie at a recreation bar, to scale a rock climbing wall, to register at a wellness center, or to take advantage of the numerous other facilities that a new gym would offer. **(2)** Many positives of a new rec center - to make UConn more attractive to the public and prospective undergraduates, to improve the quality of life of people living on campus, to alleviate gym overcrowding (which, in my experience as a regular user of the current gym, is vastly overstated -- while the facility does



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

fill up between 4-6pm, there is no need to get there at 5am just to use a machine! I regularly go between 11am-12:30pm and experience a brief wait for free weights, machines, or cardio) -- are not factors that graduate students care deeply about: (i) No graduate student will choose UConn for a new rec center; (ii) No graduate students live on campus because of the over priced and uncomfortable accommodations; (iii) graduate students already use off-campus gyms and pay considerably less than the proposed yearly fee. **(3)** The differential price difference between undergraduate and graduate student fees are unreasonable. I recognize the need that the burden should be shared, and that this has been done in the past, e.g. Student Union building fee. However, comparing the degree of benefit between undergrads (all undergrads may use this new facility) to grads (few grads will ever step inside) a yearly \$100 difference is not extreme enough. What may make more sense is a compromise: graduate students pay a small mandatory while undergraduates are given an even heavier burden. For graduate students who do use the facility, they can then pay an additional graduate student monthly or semester-long fee. **(4)** An increase of \$300-\$400 annually not be seen as significant to undergraduates who already have fees paid via scholarships, or who are taking out loans in the thousands of dollars to attend. I disagree with comments made during town hall meetings that this is not a significant amount of money when you compare how generous UConn stipend levels are compared to peer institutions. While relatively high they are still practically very small :) and connecticut has a high cost of living. **(5)** A significant minority of graduate students do not live near Storrs, so they will not be able to use this gym. Most graduate students already pay for a gym that is convenient and much cheaper than this fee increase. **(6)** Graduate students who are families or have other personal responsibilities will never take advantage of this recreation facility. This group of graduate students is significant. I personally have not heard from a single graduate student that stands behind this proposed fee increase. I sincerely hope, like many other graduate students, that this proposed fee increase is not approved by the Board of Trustees.

49 UConn Fees to Create "Home" Environment for Undergrads, Grads don't consider it Home

- a From: Christina Wilson
- b I wish to register my objection to the proposed increase in student fees to pay for a \$100 million recreational facility. As a TA, I have worked and studied at UConn for the past six years. Overall, I feel I have been well treated and well educated by my department; thus, I am generally satisfied with UConn. However, I have seen the student fees I pay each and every semester increase steadily each and every year. At over \$1000 a semester, UConn's student fees now take more than 10% of my wage—a wage which, as a single 29 year old adult, pays for pretty much everything in my life. This \$2000 student fee equates to three months rent. It is this sort of fee—combined with the relatively small paycheck that characterizes the TA stipend—that requires me to take second and third jobs each and every summer. Moreover, UConn's student fees are the highest of any peer institution I am aware of. (I know for a fact that other state universities do not charge their graduate students student fees—they are enfolded in the stipend.) As the cost of higher education grows ever higher, is a 15% increase in student fees really something the University wants to embrace (and eventually advertise?—or will we just not advertise it? Has that number made the local news?)? At another, more personal, level I object to the mandatory



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

increase because I know I will never (even if I am still here when the building opens) use this fancy new gym. I have a cheap gym membership in the town I live in and it works for me. I do not live in Storrs. Let me say that again: I do not live in Storrs. I come to Storrs to work: I arrive in nice clothes, ready to instruct more than 50 undergrads three days a week. I go home (to another town) to do my grocery shopping, my errand running, and yes, my exercising. I have no desire to merge my work life with my personal life (nor do I have any desire to see any of those said-50 undergrads in their sweaty exercise gear or have them see me in mine). UConn's student fees are structured as though each and every student considers UConn "home." That is flat out untrue for the majority of graduate students. Why commuters cannot pay a different fee from students who live on campus is beyond my comprehension (other than that it would be mildly more difficult for you—but being more difficult for people who make actual living wages doesn't really fust me much). And that brings me to my final point. Why is the University not seeking other means of financing this (overly expensive, in my mind) project? Why is the first and apparently only solution to pay for it on the backs of those who can least afford it? Graduate and undergraduates alike struggle to pay for the ever-increasing costs of the university and, at this time when federal and state funding are dwindling, you ask those of us without actual jobs to take on more debt. How dare you? What are you being paid for if not to responsibly manage the university? To protect and promote your students' futures? Is drastically increasing a student fee really the only way to pay for this mammoth project or is it just the easiest? (And, of course, I mean easiest for you.) With or without this new gym, I expect that my student fees will increase yet again next year. I am unconvinced that those responsible for setting these fees every year have my or my fellow graduate students' interests in mind.

50 Alternative Financing Options

- a From: Kim Armstrong
- b The proposed fee structure for financing the new Recreation Center is misguided. While a new Rec Center has the potential to benefit the students who live on campus greatly, forcing students to pay an exorbitant fee to finance a building that they will not even use is illogical. As I live in Willimantic, the rec center would benefit me--and most other graduate students who live off campus--very little. Due to the way parking works on this campus, if I wanted to go to the rec center in the morning, I would drive twenty minutes and walk fifteen-twenty minutes across campus before I could even begin my workout. This is a total of 70 minutes of travel time to use the gym--an amount of time that is extremely difficult to fit into my schedule, especially when several gyms (that charge \$10 a month) are within 10 minutes of my apartment. Other schools offer Rec Centers to off-campus graduate students on an opt-out basis. At my previous university, graduate students could choose to pay for semester or year long use of the gym, a system that is far more equitable than the proposed fee increase (see: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/recsports/membership/>). Students who waive the fee simply can't use the rec center. The decision to finance this new (and needed) building with such a huge and long-term loan seems highly risky in our current financial climate. In the last several years, undergraduate tuition rates have been raised numerous times and graduate student fees have steadily risen while there has been no increase in salary (until, I hear, next year). If the university



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

cannot raise funds through alumni, sponsorships, or private company collaborations, perhaps that is an indicator that despite a new rec center being a good idea, now is not the time for it.

51 Grad Students Won't Use

a From: Michael Limberg

b I wished to express my opinion about the proposed construction of a new rec center and associated increase in student fees. Like the GSS representatives, I oppose the proposed plan. As a graduate student, I find the proposed \$300-\$400 increase in fees to pay for a new rec center extremely troubling. The current level of student fees for graduate students is already quite onerous, particularly for those (like me) who need our stipends to support a family. While the rec center FAQs may wave off the increased burden by mentioning a planned stipend increase for graduate students, that still does not mask the fact that graduate stipends have grown surprisingly little over the past several decades while student fees and cost of living have increased dramatically. The GSS survey revealed that graduate students overwhelmingly oppose a new rec center, and I feel that the cost of the proposed facility will be unfairly passed on to a portion of the student population which is much less likely to fully utilize it. I wished to express my support for the GSS representatives and make my voice heard for the trustees before this Wednesday's meeting. Thank you.

52 Email from Talia Shabtay

a See full email on separate page below.

53 Alternative Financing

a From: Laura Wright

b I write to express my displeasure at the proposed fee increase for graduate students in order to build a new recreation center. A unilateral fee across a largely non-residential population that will not access these facilities is, frankly, an unethical addition to our existing bills. At this point, we pay fees for other services we may not use; however, this latest expense marks a massive increase in the money we return to UConn. I understand that people pay taxes for services they do not immediately benefit from. For instance, citizens may never have children but pay to support local school districts. In these cases, however, taxes benefit an improved quality of life. A new rec center only helps UConn's image of a particular "college experience" that ignores academics. However, paying graduate students well (or at least not cutting their pay) in order to recruit the best and brightest improves the quality of undergraduate education. This in turn supports UConn's image, recruiting, and the mission of this institution. 100 Million could be spent much better to achieve the goals of UConn's Academic Plan by improving "teaching, research, and service." If the rec center must be built, I do not believe we have exhausted other financial options for this building (which may include fees for users or perhaps even privatization) and I would like to see the bulk of the building's cost distributed to its direct beneficiaries. This is a facility that graduate students do not want or need and I hope you will consider our views in making this decision. Thank you for your time.

54 Proximity, Professional Distance, Financial Concerns

a From: Aimee Loiselle



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

- b I am writing to express my opposition to funding the new recreation facility through mandatory fees applied to graduate students. Due to both time and geographic constraints, most graduate students do not use the recreation facilities at the UConn campus. The recreation facilities (as well as other resources like the Student Union) serve predominantly undergraduate students who have the available time and social interests. In addition, even if I did have the time, I would not use the recreation facilities at the UConn campus because I am a Teaching Assistant. I do not feel it is appropriate or comfortable to use such facilities with students I will be teaching and evaluating in a classroom setting. Most importantly, graduate students have more serious financial concerns than most undergraduate students. Grad students have previous loans, more living expenses, and often families of their own. We do not have the financial resources to fund a recreation center to serve the undergraduate students. It is not fair to place the burden on graduate students when the facility will be used to recruit and provide services for undergrads. Please do not impose the fees as a mandatory obligation to graduate students. Please find alternative funding through more creative and more fair means. Thank you for considering my opposition to the mandatory fees for a new recreation facility.

55 UConn should not marginalize a population that supports it

- a From: Abbey Willis
- b My fee bill for this semester was a bit over \$1,000. I make just \$19,000/yr before taxes, so this is a significant cost for me. I can't imagine having to pay a higher amount. Student fees per year amount to 10% of my income and I can barely make my rent payment each month. Further, I have never paid for a gym membership and don't appreciate the bill being forced on me. I will never use this facility, as I don't live near campus. It makes no sense to charge mandatory fees to some of the lowest-paid employees on campus, especially if they will never even use the new facility. When your existence is as marginal as ours is as graduate students, the fee bill represents a very significant hardship. The idea that the UConn administration could casually suggest tacking \$300-400 onto graduate students' fee bills should be surprising to me, but ultimately it is not. I'm angered and saddened that the university cares so little about whether graduate students can afford to pay rent, buy food, or fill up their cars, but I'm not surprised. We teach UConn' classes. We enhance UConn's reputation. We make it possible for UConn to do what it is nominally supposed to do: educate young people and prepare them for their future careers. But the administration does not seem to feel that we deserve UConn's respect. Listen to graduate students when they say that this fee increase will make it impossible for them to survive.

56 Financial Hardships

- a Dawn Lee
- b I am a graduate student and am VERY MUCH AGAINST the proposal to increase the student fees for the new rec facility. It is a cost that will place a definite hardship on us students, it would not be used by the majority of us, and it is not needed. I ask that this proposal be rejected in consideration of the students.

57 Supporting Research not Extracurriculars

- a From: Katrina Burch



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- b I am absolutely opposed, as a graduate student, to have my fees raised to support a new recreation facility. I did not come to UCONN for its shiny facilities and extracurricular activities. I chose to attend UCONN for to further my research and academic career and to work with my advisor. I do not have the time to enjoy such facilities as I support a husband and child on my graduate student income and work so that I don't have to take out extra student loans to pay my fees. The raise in my fees, which are already high compared to other state colleges, would be devastating to my bank account and my family. I thank you for your time in reading this email and urge you to consider my plea prior to voting.

58 Financial Burden

- a From: Joy Heafner
- b I am writing about the proposed increase in graduate student fees to pay for the new recreational facility. I want you to know how distressing it is for me to hear that my fees might increase, because I already find it very difficult to pay the current fee rate. I receive a stipend of \$20,000/year, and a disproportionate amount of this goes to my fee bill. Please reconsider asking graduate students, who receive so little financial support compared to other groups on campus (specifically athletic teams), to fund this project. A few hundred dollars per year may not seem like much to many of the privileged people on this campus, but it an astronomical amount to me. If you would like to speak with me further about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

59 Paying for UConn's Budgetary Issues

- a From: Kathryn Pietrosimone
- b I understand the need for a new recreation facility, in fact, I find the recreation facility so inadequate that since I have been a student at UConn, I have paid a monthly fee to be a member of another gym. Although I see the need, I do not believe graduate students need to pay anymore for the budgetary issues at UConn. Since I have been here (Fall 2008), there have been many changes to finances that have negatively impacted graduate students. First, I believe in 2009 or 2010, it was required that P.I.'s would have to pay graduate student tuition if the student is to get a research assistantship. This makes it difficult for P.I.'s to cover the cost of students, making it less likely for Graduate Students to get an RA, increasing the time spent (and fees paid) in graduate school due to teaching obligations. Secondly, its being discussed that departments would have to cover the cost (25% that the university pays) of federal financial aid for students. This will decrease the number of students that get financial aid, which is necessary for myself, and many of my fellow students in order to pay for the student fees. I friends, and a fiancé, in other molecular and cell biology Ph.D programs, and they have absolutely no student fees. Had I known about the fees before I accepted a spot in the UConn program, I would have had to seriously reconsider my choice. I unfortunately was never told of this fee. It actually would not make sense for the best students to come to UConn when they could go to another program for free. These fees directly impact the quality of research done on this campus. In addition, most graduate students live off campus, and do not use this gym (as I do not). The cost for this building should be deferred to housing costs, since you are more likely to use the gym if you live



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

on campus. Or, you can take the 1.4% of our fees that go to "fraternity and sorority life" and put it into the recreation facility.

60 Just for Undergrads

- a From: Kavitha Kannan
- b I am a graduate student at UCONN pursuing my PhD and it is going to take a couple of years to finish. I want to voice out my concern against the increase in fees for grad students as a result of the new student recreational facility. I would not use the facility as I don't even use the existing one. And with my already meager stipend, I cannot afford this increase. So I vote NO to the recreation center. I do not mind if you just make it a recreational center for just Undergrads.

61 Vote NO

- a From: Bo Zhao

62 Vote NO

- a From: Laura Lillie

63 Voice from a Grad Student UConn Gym User

- a From: Neil Spinner
- b I would like to bolster the efforts of graduate student Andrea Bizarro and mimic her sentiments in this issue about the unnecessary new recreational center. Early in my graduate student career I used the gym 2 or 3 times per week, and I can say that the facilities, while certainly not perfect, are more than adequate and do not warrant a completely new renovation. Lately in my career here as a UConn graduate student I have had virtually no time to use the gym anymore. I am similar to most graduate students in this respect, and I find it abhorrent and almost cruelly comical that most of the financial burden for this new facility would be saddled on the group that uses it the least. Please consider how unfair, inconsiderate and inane this proposal is to much of the graduate student body who, as Andrea mentioned, struggle to make it through 4-6 years on a meager stipend working ridiculous hours. Thank you very much.

64 Vote NO

- a From: Logan Thomas

65 Vote NO

- a From: Mariam Mahmoud

66 Vote NO

- a From: Kamyar Momeni

67 Alternative Financing

- a From: Jeremy Jelliffe
- b It is my opinion that the university should reconsider the recreation center proposal as it stands. Indeed UCONN is in need of better some additional and improved recreational facilities, however this should not come at the magnitude of fee increase and additional expenses for graduate students. It could be included elsewhere in the fee structure such as tuition such that the graduate student tuition waivers will cover the increases and the primary beneficiaries of the new facilities will bear the financial burden. Furthermore it is surprising that the university has not been able to solicit funds for such a project from wealthy donors, as is the case for the many of the athletic facilities on and around campus. It is my impression that this avenue has not been



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

fully pursued and must be considered for the sake of due diligence. I have attended the Storrs campus for the last 9 years and have heard complaints from day one regarding the gym, at the same time it has served the student body adequately and I believe it will continue to do so until a more suitable plan is presented to the UCONN community. For the reasons provided above as well as others raised by concerned UCONN community members, **I vote NO on the recreation center**, and urge the board of trustees to table the decision up until additional or modified proposals have been reviewed.

68 Vote NO

- a From: Erik Carboni

69 Fee Increase Not Justified

- a From: Kaitlin Flannery
- b I am a first year graduate student in the Department of Psychology, and I am writing to voice my concern about the recreational facility that is being proposed. As I am sure you are aware, most graduate students report that they do not use the recreational facility, as most of us live off campus and spend most of our time on campus doing research and teaching courses. Although I live in West Hartford, I do try to use the recreational facility here at UConn in order to offset the costs of joining an outside gym, and I have found it to be a pleasant experience. There are certainly enough machines to use at most times during the day, and the swimming pool is a great resource with very convenient hours. I honestly see no point in building a brand new facility when the one we have is so functional and effective. An increase to the already high student fees would be a huge financial burden on us graduate students, and something that gives me anxiety to even think about. For an increase of such a large amount (\$400-\$600 is an estimate I have heard), I could join an outside gym for the rest of my time here at UConn, at a much more convenient place near my apartment, which is something I was trying to avoid. As a first year student, I am sure I will see the student fees increased over my next four years here at UConn, and some of them will be justified, but this one is definitely not necessary. I was a tour guide/undergraduate admissions officer at my undergraduate university, and I understand wanting to appeal to incoming students with a brand new gym, but in all honesty, we do not want to be an institution that attracts students just because of a gym, and instead should focus on the academic opportunities here. From my experience, the higher tuition costs will be a deterrent for potential undergraduates that outweighs the attraction of a new recreation facility. I strongly urge you to vote "NO" on the recreation center, and respect the financial considerations of the graduate students who are a big part of this academic community.

70 Vote NO

- a From: Huseini Patanwala

-----[NOTE: Because of the recent flood of emails incited by Andrea Bizarro's post to the Graduate Student Listserv, I will only be posting names and comments so I can keep up with everything. My apologies.]-----



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

71 Timothy Garceau

- a While I consider myself blessed to have an assistantship that funds my graduate education at UConn and also provides a stipend, there are also sacrifices that go along with pursuit of a graduate degree. The stipend is barely adequate to cover life expenses, let alone the \$2,084 of annual fees that go with being a student here. To increase this fee is to either cut into the ability to cover other living expenses which, in my specific circumstances include a child, or force us to pay the fees via loans that we would then be paying even more on after interest has accrued. While I know some people go directly from undergrad to graduate studies, there are a very large number who attend graduate school at different life stages and don't get to experience the benefits of the resort-type amenities offered by campuses. This is not a problem per se but when we are paying out of our own pocket for what are truly amenities rather than necessities, it raises an issue of equity. I wrote in opposition to increasing the grad activity fee for similar reasons because I feel that most of the things funded with that money are more for "enhancing people's experience" rather than providing any valuable benefit to professional development. As I mentioned, I do not use the gym and will not in the future whether it is old or new. When I am on campus I am here to take care of my responsibilities as a student, researcher and teacher. If I were to go to a gym, it would be a lot cheaper for me to purchase my own gym membership than to pay the proposed fee increases. For perspective, I was assigned increased fees to fund a new recreation facility at my alma mater. I am still paying for the building through my student loans but have not ever had the opportunity to even step foot in the building as it was completed several years after my graduation and moving away from the area for job-related reasons. Please do not repeat this scenario for me.

72 Vianna Turcios-Cotto

- a Such a new facility is unnecessary and superfluous given the several facilities already on or near campus. Furthermore, graduate students are not the majority users of these facilities as we mostly commute to campus and quite honestly many of us hardly have time to exercise regularly, given our rigorous academic studies and numerous commitments. To require graduate students who will hardly use such a facility to undertake such a large financial burden each year is reprehensible and insensitive to the student body. We graduate students work very hard to earn our stipends that mostly pay rent and bills as we are independent adults who are often in full-time academic programs. Such expensive student fees would cause potential graduate students to think twice about applying to or attending UConn. The first-rate education and its affordability are two major draws for people applying to graduate programs here at UConn. However, with skyrocketing fees, attending UConn may no longer seem affordable given all of the other expenses and financial sacrifices one makes to attend graduate school. Therefore, I vote NO on the recreation center, as it will not bring an enriching experience to the students at UConn, but instead will bring greater financial hardship. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

73 Saumya Banerjee



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I sincerely hope you can use this email as an actual vote against this ridiculous price hike for graduate students. I cannot reiterate how important this is, and Andrea Bizarro captured my sentiments quite accurately. Financially this adds a significant burden to me, since I do not live on campus, my average travel to class three times a week from new haven (this takes up 3 hours of my time, not to mention fuel expenses, time lost). Apart from that, I have to shoulder school fees and tuition without assistance from my parents, or from government loans that I am not eligible for. I do not use the union, do not use the gym, cannot attend extracurriculars on campus, not because I dont want to, I just dont have the time or the money to do so. I am already shelling out ~\$1200/ year on facilities that I have never seen or used at UConn and I cannot justify paying \$400-600 more for something I will never see or use again. Of course the board can just go ahead and implement these fees anyway without listening to the majority of graduate students, but they will lose my support in terms of recommending friends and future family members to attend uconn, and lose my support for alumni donations.
- 74 Mohammed Abdolvahab
 - a Vote No
- 75 Chih Lee
 - a Vote No
- 76 Maria Eugenia B. Frediani
 - a I don't agree with graduate students paying for a new gym. Fees are already too high for the assistantship we earn. Many graduate students are internationals and do not have any other source of money to cover their expenses. I'm one of these students and I cannot afford such raise in my fees.
- 77 Aleksandra Ras
 - a Vote No
- 78 Kimberly Lunde
 - a I was very shocked when I heard about the proposal for a new recreation center on campus. Granted the current recreation center is not a beautiful building, but the equipment seems to be new. Why spend so much of student's money for something that is unnecessary? It is especially irrational to charge graduate students for the cost of a new recreation center because I do not know a single graduate student who has the time to work out because we are too busy with coursework, research, and personal lives. Maybe an alternative would be to not automatically charge students for the recreation facility but instead make it an option and allow students to purchase a recreation center membership if they wish to use the facilities. Our fees are already high and we are already currently being charged for things that we do not utilize (for example, I have never once used the transportation system in the two years that I have been here, yet I am charged for it). I would greatly appreciate you reconsidering to increase these fees even further for something that most graduate students will never even use.
- 79 Amber West
 - a I am a UConn PhD candidate and I vote NO on the recreation center. Graduate student fees are already disproportionately high compared to other universities in the area, and compared to how much we who have GA/TA stipends are paid. I'm outraged that UCONN would ask graduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

students to be further burdened with additional fees to pay for a \$300 million bond over the next 30 years. I ask that you please not forget how vital graduate students are to this campus and don't offend and further burden us by increasing our fees for something the vast majority of us will not use. I also ask that you please not dissuade competitive graduate students from applying to or attending UCONN due to the overwhelming burden of fees compared to similar universities in the area. Finally, I ask that you re-think this burden you are planning to put on students (both graduate and undergraduate) that will need to be paid over 30 years. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I hope that there is still time to stop this outrageous proposal and regret that I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow due to research obligations and being an out-of-state student. I only wish that I had more time in my schedule to stop the research I do for this University and actually take the time to look into the financial decisions being made on this campus. I hope that I can trust UCONN decision makers and trustees to make responsible decisions that don't require the impoverished masses to subsidize the vanities and desires of an affluent minority.

80 Karen D'Angelo

- a I am writing to express my disapproval for the purposed increases to the graduate student fees. As a social work doctoral student on the Greater Hartford campus, I am already paying very high fees and I cannot easily access the Storrs facilities. Please consider the voice of other social work graduate students in making this decision. Thank you.

81 Brett Comstock

- a Simply put, the increase in student fees is unacceptable. They are already too high. Expecting students to pay for this by "taking out more student loans" is an irresponsible position for anybody whose job description boils down to "student stewardship".

82 Robert W. Howe

- a I am writing to express my outrage that increasing grad student fees, reportedly by \$300-450 per year, in order to pay for a new recreation center, is even being considered. As a long-distance commuter, I don't even have time or energy to use most of the things at UConn for which I pay fees out of my small stipend for teaching 40-80 students per semester. Please don't do this to us!

83 Michelle Lyons

- a Please take this letter as my strenuous objection to the proposed massive hike in fees for graduate students to finance the new recreation facility. As I hope you are hearing from many other graduate students, I am astonished that the Board of Trustees would consider placing such a tremendous financial burden on the already-overextended graduate students that form the core of your teaching of lower-level courses. As it stands, I already pay almost 10% of my annual stipend in various University fees. Hiking that by another \$400-\$600 is positively outrageous, and would be a severe financial burden to those of us who are already struggling to live. I understand that the support from the undergraduate community has been significant. To this I would say: fine, let the undergraduate students pay for the rec center. Don't allow grad students in. Let it be called the Undergraduate Recreational Facility. Require an undergraduate student ID for admission. I don't know any graduate students who use the current recreational facilities anyway. Personally, the idea of my students seeing me struggle through a workout strikes me as



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

unprofessional in the extreme, and so I pay for a private gym membership (which costs significantly less annually than your proposed fees). Most of the graduate students I know do the same. By forcing already-struggling graduate students to shoulder such a significant financial burden for a service the vast majority will never use, and never wanted, you demonstrate yet again that your focus is on profit, rather than quality of education. Graduate TAs who resent the University and its policies hardly make for good ambassadors. Please reconsider this fee.

84 Katie Cloutier

- a I do not think that graduate students should pay for building a new recreation center on campus. I do not / have never used the center and will not during my time as a part-time graduate student. Solution: Graduate students who want access pay for access by accruing the increase in fees. Just add a selection for graduate registration (Gym access yes or no) If they say yes, charge them.

85 Casey Green

- a I am writing in regards to the proposed increase in fees associated with the building of a new recreation center at UCONN. I am part of the 83.5% of graduate students who currently use the UCONN gym but do not support the construction of a new facility. I use the recreation center it, because I am pay for it through my fees. Currently, by my calculations I pay roughly \$400 to the Department of Athletics through my fees (30.3% of my \$1,368.00 general university fee). This is cheaper than any membership to a private gym with a pool (I swim). There are things that I do not like about using the gym, and none of them have to do with the current state of the facilities. In my busy life balancing research and teaching, I have made time to care for myself and my health. I have decided to make it a priority in my life, because I want to live an active and healthy lifestyle. Still, the time that I reserve for my exercise is part of my closely-guarded me time. It is a period when I can focus on myself and my physical and mental health without work-related distractions. I do not have that work-free environment at the UCONN gym. Every time I enter the gym I see a student of mine, and it pulls me back into thinking about my work responsibilities. I want my workout to be a stress-reliving activity, but it rarely is when I work out at UCONN. Further, to get to the gym I have to either take a bus or walk up to 15 minutes from my parking lot where I am permitted to park (I have cerebral palsy. While swimming is way to exercise pain-free, walking is not. I already struggle with the painful walk I have to take 5 days a week to do my job.) The recreation center does not offer a competition-free masters level swim team, which I would like to join. I live off-campus. Driving to the UCONN gym or a private gym is roughly equal in distance. When I travel for research, the UCONN gym membership is not transferable to my research city like many private gym memberships are. Because of these inconveniences, I have already considered joining a private gym. I know that many of my friends who are graduate students do not use the gym for the reasons I have listed above. The financial element keeps me from investing in a private gym membership. With the proposed new fees for the recreation center I could no longer argue that point. Under the current fee structure I pay 30.3% of my general university fee (\$1,368.00) to the Division of Athletics, which means I pay \$410.10 to them a year. By raising my fees \$300 a year for the recreation center would make my total cost for the UCONN facility \$710.10 a year. The YMCA closer to my home would cost my



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

\$756.00 a year. Indeed, it is still \$46.00 more a year. But, I would pay \$46.00 to have convenient parking, to have a masters-level swim team I could join, to have my exercise time be student-free, and to give me access to other YMCAs on my research trips. I cannot come to the meeting tomorrow, because I have multiple teaching-related responsibilities.

86 Timothy Bussey

- a As a graduate student at the University of Connecticut, I would like to express my disapproval of the idea of increasing graduate student fees for a new recreation facility.

87 Janet Zimmerman

- a I am a doctoral student at UConn and I would like to express my concern about the rise in student fees to pay for a new recreational center. I believe that our student fees are already too high and to impose a mandatory fee on graduate students who do not even use UConn's recreational facility due to location, schedule, etc. would be unjust. Therefore, I would like to vote NO on the recreation center. Thank you for your time.

88 Edward Guimont

- a I am a third-year PhD student and want to voice my strong, strong opposition to the new rec center and its method of funding. I have not seen a single graduate student in favor of this, and basing the plan entirely on the feedback of undergraduates, none of whom will still be here to be affected by it, is hugely disingenuous. My sole source of income is my graduate assistantship, 13% of which already goes toward fees. Adding onto that burden - for a facility I would never even use and which isn't even aimed towards my group - feels like a literal slap in the face, and I know it would have an impact on getting future talented graduate students into UConn. I think you need to consider this long and hard before alienating the entire graduate student body. If a new rec center is so vital, maybe it would be best if only the undergrads had to pay for it.

89 Sean Nicholl,

- a As a 2nd Year Grad student I find the idea of paying more money in fees, for a Rec Facility, outrageous. As we find ourselves limited in time for everything as we complete our work and studies during the semester the idea of being strapped for money even more now would really be really stretching in an already tight economy. More to the audacity, though, is that I know nearly all the graduate design students in the dramatic arts including myself never use the recreation facility. Our schedules become so busy that we hardly even are aware of what's happening around campus, let alone take advantage of the things we're paying fees for. There's absolutely no reason I see that we should be paying more money for things that we never use; if anything we should be paying LESS, or NOTHING for a facility we couldn't even tell a visitor how to get to, cause we ourselves never have time to go. Please look to alternative sources for funding this facility. The graduate students who don't have the time to utilize it are not willing to foot the bill.

90 Lauren Herlihy

- a As a current graduate student already overburdened by University fees for facilities and services that I never have occasion to use, I urge you to please vote down the proposed UConn Rec Center.

91 Venkatesh Botu



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a Being a graduate student, we barely use any of the campus facilities given that we live off campus, and increase in fees is unjustifiable. As it is we have to take care of ourselves with no support from family and further support our own family. Hence I Vote **NO** on Graduate Fee Increase.

92 Cameron Kiely Froude

- a I want to express my concern about the potential increase in student fee. As a single person I am barely able to live off the graduate student stipend as it stands today. Because we are only paid for 9 months of work saving any money is impossible because we must account for the summer months of having no income. We also must pay the absurdly high (as compared to other schools) student fee bills. Please do not force graduate students into an even more dire financial situation than we are currently. It is not fair to us.

93 Yaowen Yu

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. The current graduate student fee, \$2,084 per academic year, is already very high, not to mention my limited time to use recreation facilities. It will be very difficult for me to afford an increase between \$400-\$600 per year. If undergraduate students want a new facility, it should be them to pay for it, not us. Thank you.

94 Chad Pope

- a Our fees are already too high and I don't believe I should have to support building something I don't ever intend on using.

95 Jin Lee

- a I am Jin Lee, a graduate student from psychology department. An e-mail from GSS regarding the plan of new recreation center construction and potential increase in student fee due to this plan. The estimated increase of student fee, which is around \$200~300 for every semester, is a significant amount of money for many non-affluent grad students like me. I can buy groceries for more than 1 month of use with that amount of money. Unless my stipend will not be increased, which is my only source of living, \$200~300 of increase in student fee every semester will force me to live with less than 5 months of groceries for 6 months, because vast majority of my income has been spent for a living and there is no room for saving some budget for buying grocery. This is very demotivating.

96 Glenn Milton

- a I am a graduate student in the Molecular and Cell Biology Department. I would like to cite my opinions about the possible tuition increase. I am very opposed to this increase for financial reasons. Being a graduate student, I am required to go to class, be in lab, and TA for much over 40 hours in a normal week. Our stipend pays \$19,383 from the months of September until May. This in itself leaves several months of unpaid time to be managed by each graduate student. Not to mention that the ~\$2,000 in fees a year already takes more than 10% from our living costs. We are also required to conduct research during the summer months, cause it difficult to have an outside job, and with only a fraction of students being awarded work study to help offset costs it is very difficult to keep afloat. The proposed hike in student fees would push the percentage to over 15% of our stipend being taken in a year. It is hard enough to scrape by without help on the stipend even before student fees for the entire year. Being a graduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

student, I am conducting research, which in turn is garnishing the University with grants, and accolades throughout the department. And yet, all graduate students receive a very similar stipend regardless of amount of what funding the departments are actually able to receive. The MCB department is one of the few departments that is actually growing as a field and creating more positions and increasing each year. Yet we are still paid the same year in and year out with no guarantee of financial security now over the school year, and most certainly over the summer. This is a very difficult possibility to come to terms with as graduate students pouring ourselves into our work in labs.

97 Erik Nykwest

- a I respectfully ask that you pass my opinion on to the board of Trustees and ask them to vote NO on the new recreational facility. As a graduate student I never expected to be rich, but after paying for graduate housing at Northwood, and budgeting my TA salary to last the year. I have a budget of around \$440 per month, and that is before the cost of groceries. The proposed increase in Graduate fees of \$400-\$600 is more than a entire month of my personal budget. Imagine if you had to lose an entire months income to pay for a facility you would never use. Please don't put this burden on an already struggling graduate community. Vote NO on the recreational facility. If the board still wants to go through with the building of the recreation facility I suggest that you remove the obligatory graduate level fee and replace it with a voluntary gym membership fee. That way you don't have to worry about graduate students "reaping the benefits" of a facility they didn't pay for.

98 Diana DiMarco

- a I don't typically speak up about this kind of thing, but this time I will because I'm outraged about the proposed graduate fee increase in order to build a new rec center. I've been to the UConn rec center once in the eight months I've lived here. Once. Because as a graduate student, I don't have the time to go to the gym. I have to attend classes and TA and research, and those things all take priority over going to the gym. I believe that I am not alone in this either; all of the graduate students I know are at least as busy as I am, if not more so. We are also all on a limited stipend, and finances are very tight. Aside from rent, food, and gas, I don't really have the money for anything else. And I certainly don't have \$600 just lying around to help build a rec center that I'll never use. If it was a \$10 increase, then fine. I wouldn't complain about that. But \$600? That's outrageous. And it's completely unreasonable to expect the average graduate student to just have that amount of extra money lying around. The main reason I came to UConn was because I was offered funding. In fact, I received a better offer from UConn than any other school to which I applied. I did not, however, sign up to pay an extra \$600 next year to help UConn build a new gym, especially when there is already a perfectly functional facility. I don't have an extra \$600. The only way I could manage that is by taking out a loan...but the reason I came to UConn is so I wouldn't have to do that. I will be very disappointed if I am forced to do so simply because the school is asking graduate students to help pay for the new rec center. I thank you for taking the time to read this email and I do hope that you consider the tough financial situations of UConn graduate students when reaching a decision on this proposal.

99 Hongbing Jin



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a This fee increase is ridiculous and should not be tolerated. Graduate student fees have increased from \$ 700/semester in 2007 to \$1042/semester now. And we are expecting a huge increase in parking fees already. Even with the full assistantship, graduate student only makes around \$20,000/year. Why wouldn't you try to collect the money by reducing the salary of faculties or staff? How about starting with the president and Geno ? Why would you pay Geno tons of dollars but not even increase graduate students' stipend a cent in last few years? **Stop bullying graduate students.** You should collect the money from whoever support building recreation center. **Focus on recruiting talented faculty and graduate students to increase our ranking in academia.**

100 Brian Fox

- a I will not be on campus tomorrow as I commute from Boston to come to classes. However, I would like to note that, if put to a vote, I would vote no on the recreation center.

101 Brendan Pratt

- a I would like to exercise my opinion against the increase of graduate student fees. Raising an already inflated fee will not benefit the graduate student body and as I understand, there is a consensus that the majority of grad students would not use the new facility. I thank you for your time and consideration.

102 Chetan Hire

- a I vote NO for recreation center.

103 Ujjwal Guin

- a "I vote NO on the recreation center"

104 Nadia D'Lima

- a I picked UConn for graduate school because of the state of the art research facilities and caliber of scientific research conducted here. As a graduate student, i do not have the time to use UConn's current recreational facilities. I do not intend on using the new recreation center and do not think it is fair to burden graduate students with additional fees. The University fees that we currently pay are already a burden. I do not mind if graduate students were exempted from paying for the new recreation center and consequently not allowed to use these new facilities. I vote NO on the recreation center.

105 Caitlin McGinnis

- a I vote no for the new facility.

106 Yumin Zhu

- a I vote NO on the recreation center!!! Please don't increase the burden for graduate students. It's soo expensive fee that we couldn't afford. I hope the current high graduate fee could be lowered!!

107 Maria Rosa

- a I am a graduate student at the Avery Point campus and wholeheartedly object to an increase in student fees to pay for a new, and apparently unnecessary, recreation center. You have probably received plenty of feedback from grad students objecting to this fee increase, and I want to add my voice to that. This issue boils down to a simple statement of fairness. Namely, is it really fair to ask us to pay more out of pocket money for a structure that we can not use, do not have the time to use even if it was more conveniently located, and simply do not need or want? I urge you



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

to reconsider placing this burden on a group of students that already have sacrificed so much to further our education.

108 Toni Fellela

- a I wish I had more time to be more articulate but I am overwhelmed and exhausted from working the part time job. I must work to supplement my GA stipend. I understand that, relative to other GAships, UConn's is "generous." But that does not mean that I do not scramble to make ends meet. If there is increase in fees, I am not certain where that money will come from in my budget. Gas? The electric bill? I vote NO on the recreation center.

109 Christine Schwall

- a I just wanted to voice that I oppose the building of the new recreation center on the UConn Storrs campus as a graduate student who has been at UConn for four years and not utilized those facilities at all. I would like to support the email that was sent by Andrea Bizarro as all of her concerns echo my own. Thank you for taking the time to consider our stance.

110 Azer Faraclas

- a The planned recreation center is an unnecessary addition to our university which comes at a great cost. The current recreation center is the proper size to meet the needs of the UConn student body, and the minority who want this new rec center have no business forcing everyone to pay ridiculously high fees for their own convenience. If this new rec center is approved I will see it as a blatant disregard for the opinion and needs of the graduate student body. I vote NO on the new recreation center.

111 Ellen Wright

- a I was very concerned last week when I read the emails from GSS regarding the building of the new recreation center on campus. I cannot understand why the Board of Trustees thinks it's responsible to take out a \$300 million bond that will be repaid through a dramatic increase in student fees. Furthermore, I cannot understand why, when 74% of graduate students who responded to the poll said they would NOT use the facility, they would still be burdened with an increase in fees to subsidize use of the gym for undergraduates. As a current graduate student I am also employed, and have a family. I am taking loans to further my education while financially assisting my children with their college education. I do not have any further money available; I would be taking more loans to pay for something I do not use. I attend classes at the Hartford campus and would not have any time or energy to attend a gym that would likely be located in Storrs. I ask that you reconsider this proposal. With the current increase in the cost of education, I would like to think that someone would consider cutting back to make the cost of a college education in Connecticut accessible to more individuals. Especially when what is being considered will not be utilized by all students, particularly graduate students. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, I regret I will not be able to attend the meeting. I will be working and then concentrating on finishing an assignment. Please consider ALL the students who will be impacted by the choice you are making. Ask yourself if this is the best choice for ALL UCONN students.

112 Pragati Shrestha

- a "I vote NO on the recreation center"



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

113 Emily Carrigan

- a I am writing to voice my disapproval of the proposed recreation facility to be built, particularly in light of the impact it will have on graduate student fees. This increase in fees in something graduate students cannot support given our meager incomes, and it does not seem appropriate that graduate students should bear a large part of the burden for a facility that we are less likely to use than undergraduates. I urge you not to approve the current funding plan for financing the building of the new recreation facility--instead, I ask that you endeavor to find a funding solution which does not unjustly impact graduate students. I would very much like to attend the Trustee's meeting tomorrow to share these concerns in person, but my course schedule prevents me from doing so. I ask that the Board be made aware of my email (and the others you have received on the topic) prior to voting on this agenda item. The graduate students here at UConn are an integral part of the University's success--please give our concerns over this matter due consideration.

114 Sylvia Pu

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

115 Caryl M. Nunez

- a I am writing to express my disappointment at the consideration of increasing Graduate Student Fees in order to accommodate the creation and maintenance of a new recreation center on Storrs campus. I believe that I am not alone in this sentiment and would urge those making this decision to pay close attention to the response of graduate students who participated in a survey on this matter, which the Graduate Student Senate has compiled results. Additionally, when comparing the student fees we pay here to graduate fees at other universities, even those at a higher tier, it is shocking, indeed disturbing to even imagine paying so much in fees. As a graduate student, I already have a hard time making ends meet (not live frugally, simply making ends meet) with standard of living and my own student loans that cannot be put off. I have my own creative and cheap way to stay active and healthy without it affecting my livelihood. I already pay for fees that contribute to events and buildings at this university which i do not take part in, but i acknowledge that we are a community. However, I feel that the expectation to pay so much more for a facility I will NOT use- primarily because this is the campus that provides me stress, my exercise demands being off campus to release stress- is unrealistic and unnecessary. Please reconsider the extent to which any fee increase- let alone this one- would affect graduate students who are struggling because they are prioritizing their education. As a research institution, I would hope that this university is able to hold the well-being of its graduate students at least in consciousness, when making financial demands on us for fees.

116 Fanny Shum

- a I pay enough graduate fees to begin with, for a variety of services that i've never used. For example, I live off-campus and i never used any of the campus buses, yet i still pay for it. I've been inside UConn's gym maybe three times for the past two years. So I don't need to pay more money for a new facility which I will never ever use.

117 Chelsea Willet



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I am a current graduate student and will not personally be affected by the outcome of this vote as I will have graduated by the time the fee is in action, but on behalf of future grad students, I vote NO on the recreation facility. While it does sound like a beautiful facility with many improvements over our current gym, an annual increase of \$400 to \$600 for grads is outrageous. I already feel burdened by the excessive fees I am asked to pay as a graduate student, especially since I personally do not utilize many of the services I am funding. So to add on such a high additional fee for a recreation facility I would not even use as a grad student would be out of the question. I know that many of my peers are of the same mindset, although they may not voice their opinions. I usually do not speak up either, but I wanted to speak out on this issue and be one more voice that his heard.

118 Zheng Shen

- a People who use the center should pay for it when they use it. People who use it should not. Getting money from people for things they didn't do is called robbery.

119 Rachel Sloan

- a As a grad student who already pays a lot in fees, I vote no on the new recreation center.

120 Cary Lynch

- a I am a graduate student at UCONN, and I vote NO on the recreation center. Thank you for your time.

121 Stephen Wulff

- a I vote NO to the recreation center!

122 Lauren Van Derzee

- a I vote no for the recreation center!!!

123 Kyle Hull

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. I echo the claims of Andrea Bizarro and ask that you please consider the financial well-being of all graduate students. We are very poor and cannot survive more of our limited stipends being taken back by the university in the form of fees. I work very hard for very little. Also, it is likely that I may never visit the recreation center for the remainder of my 2-years left at UConn. Please consider the lives of graduate students.

124 Sandra Roosa

- a I am a Graduate student and I am not in favor of the Recreation Center

125 Steven Woltornist

- a I vote no on the increase for the new recreation center. It is absolutely ABSURD. ALL graduate students I know are against it and you should see the gathering that has formed because of this. Please do not do this.

126 Megha Sah

- a I am a graduate student in Physiology and Neurobiology and I vote **NO** on the recreation center!!!!

127 Fuyi Chen

- a I vote NO to the recreation center

128 Rish Kanth



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

- a **NO.** I would not squander away millions of dollars for some fancy stadium and shiny wood platform. Help students educate.

129 Arnab Roy

- a My name is Arnab Roy and I am a first year PhD student at UConn. This email is to voice my protest against the possible increase of the student fee. As it is the stipend that we get makes us barely able to meet our basic living costs. The student fee is already very high, and I feel that if the fee increases it will become very difficult for graduate students (especially international students) to manage financial living and tuition needs.

130 Marcello Graziano

- a I am leaving UConn this coming August, having completed my PhD. In the last few months, working with researchers from Yale University, UC Berkeley and University of Wisconsin, I have been asked many times what I think of UConn. After much thinking, I believe I now know how to respond, thanks to this shameful project. I think highly of most of the academic personnel I met in my four years at UConn. Several professors and researchers are world class professionals and bring light and fame to this institution. However, UConn has a poor management structure, and has yet to decide what to be when (if) it will grow-up. I explain: the focus of a university is to educate and to produce research and knowledge. This alone should make us all think twice before spending resources on a recreational facility (and please, do not argue about 'private-public' partnerships: I know economics and business, and UConn is simply bringing the cost of this 'thing' on its student population. There is nothing private except servicing the debt...at most). If we had a rich endowment and limitless resources, I would support this project. However, we would need to tax researchers and instructors (this is what GAs are) to do that. We are not, however, in that situation. Professors across UConn have a hard life in hiring GAs to do research thanks to the tuition waiver, at least 2 departments have started hiring undergrads to teach lab sections, CLAS standard procedure is to keep GAs at 75%...and I stop here with my examples. In this view, imposing a tax for a useless facility, useless in light of the role of a university, is not more than strategically wrong. Is a moral offense. UConn has to decide what to be: a tier-B university or a university capable to compete with the best public universities in the world? I am talking about the top-5, not the top-20 or 25. The moment UConn will decide to invest to achieve that, then being a Husky will mean more than shouting and jumping for some sport event. Will mean to be part of the intelligenzia of the world. Will mean to shape the world. Will mean to be a University, not a playground.

131 George Moore

I am writing to voice my concerns, as a graduate student, regarding the Recreational Center proposal. In my view, an increase to graduate student fees of \$300 to \$400 per year for a single building project is excessive and places an undue financial strain on graduate students. First off, I point out that graduate students are UConn employees who play a vital role in the university's educational mission. Placing a hefty new financial burden upon us makes little sense if the university is interested in maintaining the well-being, energy, and morale of this crucial labor force. While I wholeheartedly agree gym facilities should be upgraded, it should not be done through such an exorbitant mandatory fee. The cost of the project looks especially high if we consider the financing of private gym facilities that have been appearing throughout the region. The private sector has been establishing high-quality



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

fitness centers financed by membership fees of about \$10-\$15 per month. It is striking that the current proposal more than doubles those figures, even after passing the cost onto the entire student population through a mandatory fee. If the private sector can serve the public under such a reasonable rate structure, there is no reason why UConn could not do the same.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

132 Andrea Bizarro

- a I was shocked last week when I read the emails from GSS regarding the building of the new recreation center on campus. Specifically, I cannot understand why the Board of Trustees thinks it's responsible to take out a \$300 million bond that will be repaid through a dramatic increase in student fees. Furthermore, I cannot understand why, when 74% of graduate students who responded to the poll said they would NOT use the facility, they would still be burdened with an increase in fees to subsidize use of the gym for undergraduates. I do not work in finance, but the basic financial skill I have learned so far is predicated on the notion that I should not buy things that I cannot afford. I will admit that this is a lesson I learned late in my undergraduate career and certainly understood quickly upon graduation. I think it is irresponsible for the decision makers on campus to heed cries of undergraduate desires rather than consider the financial consequences of this decision (as I'm sure most undergrads are not). It may be possible that UCONN is finally overextending itself with the vanity of needing a 'state of the art' recreation facility at the expense of its students. Students do not need a fancy facility to stay healthy. Athletes on campus have private facilities for their personal use and as many of us know, individuals who are dedicated to their health and fitness will find ways to work with what they have. It's not that the undergraduate community 'needs' a new gym; the undergraduate community *wants* a fancy new gym and I'm sure school recruiters *want* a fancy new gym as well. I understand the necessity of fees and agree that some things should be subsidized by students. However, \$2,084 per academic year seems outrageously high for graduate student fees. Now that an increase of up to \$600 (in some estimates) for graduate student fees is being proposed, I took the liberty of researching other top public universities and universities nearby to compare graduate student fees. For your convenience, I have attached an [Excel spreadsheet](#) that hopefully puts our fees into perspective. The numbers reported include activities fees, registration fees, technology and transportation fees at various institutions, along with the internet link if you would like to see for yourself. Monetary value aside, I would also like to address the issue of graduate student life on campus and how divorced it is from the undergraduate style of living. A majority of graduate students do not live on campus and most of us are supporting ourselves and a family on the graduate stipend we receive without help of parents who can still call us dependents (as many undergraduates do). We do not use the union as we cannot afford to buy our lunch, we do not use the gym because we do not have time, we do not attend extracurriculars on campus because our research, teaching, and education are our extracurriculars. Furthermore, many of us attempt to do all this without taking out loans in ADDITION to loans we already had to take out for our undergraduate education. Finally, and most importantly, I am willing to bet that a vast majority of graduate students did not come to UCONN for the amenities. We did not come here to go to the gym, participate in spring weekend, or participate in college sports. While some of these things may serve as convenient distractions at times, we came here for our research. We came here to work with our advisors, further our educations, publish research, and contribute to scientific knowledge in 100s of different domains. When you are recruiting undergraduate students and talking about the ACADEMIC opportunities available to them, you are most likely talking about centers, labs and other various



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

programs that would not be feasible without support from graduate students. The support we give our advisors allows them to dedicate their time to teaching and grant writing that are so necessary for the academic integrity of this institution. I ask that you please not forget how vital graduate students are to this campus and don't offend us by increasing our fees for something we will not use. I also ask that you please not dissuade competitive graduate students from applying to or attending UCONN due to the overwhelming burden of fees compared to similar universities in the area. Finally, I ask that you re-think this burden you are planning to put on students (both graduate and undergraduate) that will need to be paid over 30 years. I don't believe that this will be the only increase to student fees during that time, but I do believe that our fees reflect the vanity of UCONN decision makers that we need to have nice shiny new things that we cannot afford, rather than spending a fraction of that money to renovate and improve what we already have. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I hope that there is still time to stop this outrageous proposal and regret that I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow (which I heard about a week ago) due to research obligations. I only wish that I had more time in my schedule to stop the research I do for this University and actually take the time to look into the financial decisions being made on this campus. I hope that I can trust UCONN decision makers and trustees to make responsible decisions that don't require the masses to subsidize the vanities and desires of the minority.

133 Charles Feigin

- a My name is Charles Feigin. I'm a PhD student in the MCB program. I would just like it to be known (for whatever its worth) that the graduate student fee situation at UConn is miserable already. We pay far more than other comparable universities and have lower stipends than many. I oppose any fee increase for graduate students without a corresponding pay rise to make up the difference.

134 Robert W. Wishart

- a I am contacting you directly as the electronic submission form on the Board of Trustees' website appears to not be functioning properly. This e-mail is in regards to the proposed increase in Graduate Student Fees meant to finance a new recreation facility at UConn. I strongly oppose any rate increase and I urge the Board of Trustees to reconsider. It is financially irresponsible for the Board to move ahead until other methods for financing this project are considered. The proposed increase in student fees will adversely impact the lives of graduate students at the university. The bottom line is this, graduate students are not adequately compensated for the work we provide the university. Many of us are forced to seek additional employment just to make ends meet. An extra \$300/year in fees is less money for textbooks, conferences, professional development, and other expenses necessary to our education. A student recreation center is not a luxury we need nor have time for. The modern university should not be viewed as a resort. The Board is well advised seek alternative sources of funding for this project such as in eliminating administrative positions for noble sounding goals but questionable tangible benefits. Attempting to recruit students by offering wiz bang recreation facilities while simultaneously sacrificing their education by continuing to overburden faculty and graduate students is a short-



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

sighted strategy destined to fail. Asking graduates student to shoulder a further financial burden in order to fund indulgencies such as this is irresponsible. The Board of Trustees must reconsider.

135 Nasser Khakpash

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. It is not fair to pay for something you are not gonna use.

136 Anurag Rimzhim

- a I am writing this email to you to express that I would NOT like to pay extra money as my fee to help build the recreational center. I am a grad student, live off campus, have not visited the present gym for even once during the last three year and do not want to visit the new proposed recreational center. The stipend I get is already quite low and I have to give up almost all recreation to help me survive in that money. This additional increase in the list would be just too much burden on us. I already have not come to terms with why we have to pay such high semester fee and then this increase would be just too much! Please be not that unkind to us. We are financially on our own and many a times find it hard to make both ends meet. Why should I pay when I will not use those facilities?

137 Ilicia Balaban

- a I fully agree with and support Andrea Bizarro's testimony regarding protestation of an increase in student fees for the sake of building what I believe to be a wholly unnecessary facility and financial burden. I am a first (of 3) year student, and work full time in addition to my academic endeavors for the sake of affording my tuition. UCONN GH is a commuter campus! There is no reason to build a rec facility at this cite as very few of us have the capacity to do more than school, work, and maintain our family/social responsibilities. Please feel free to contact me with any questions of concern. Thank you for your time and consideration.

138 Gabriela Tafoya

- a As a graduate student that finances my current student fees by charging half to a credit card and the other half divided up so that I can use my stipend to pay for it, I do not support any increase to fees and specially not any substantial increase. Being a graduate student means living on a tight budget, and in fact, those of us who are lucky enough to receive funding and a stipend from our departments are NOT PERMITTED to hold outside employment. So, any increase to student fees will be directly taken out of my current resources or be translated into more personal debt. Finally, if this increase was being proposed to an end that would ultimately benefit my future employment prospects, giving me additional academic resources, I might consider loss of income due to increased fees as an investment in my future, but the construction of the recreational center is not such as investment even if I may receive other benefits from it, such as health and entertainment. Thank you for this opportunity to voice our opinions.

139 Laura Brennan

- a As a graduate student who is married to another graduate student and who is about to start a family, I have had to carefully plan my finances in order to ensure we can afford the additional costs of having a child. The increase of \$300 for the graduate student fees to support a building that will primarily benefit undergraduate students is something I do not support. I am happy to contribute to the community with the fees I already pay, which while I believe are high, I understand the value of them. Please consider the unique challenges posed to graduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

students, who are often adults who have chosen to continue to their education after pursuing other careers and who are much older than undergraduates, who frequently reside on or near campus and will benefit daily from the infrastructure developed on campus.

140 Carlos Gardezabal Bravo

- a As Andrea said, "our fees are already disproportionately high compared to other universities in the area. Click on the link to view a spreadsheet I compiled comparing graduate fees from several comparable universities:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AtcHensTAf4qdDZFSVNZcENhVDIyREM2c0o2MDJPX2c&usp=sharing>. This investigation shocked me and I'm outraged that UCONN would ask graduate students to be further burdened with additional fees to pay for a \$300 million bond over the next 30 years." If the undergrads want to pay for their recreation center I see no problem, but do not count with us in that project.

141 Breanne Clifton

- a Graduate fees at the university of Connecticut are already more than most students can manage. We pay more than \$1,000 a semester for facilities and services most of us do not use. For those of us who cannot afford the amount up front and must have it taken from our pay checks, we make so little that we struggle to pay rent and buy groceries. Graduate students live below the poverty line here, and now a fee raise of \$400-600 is proposed for yet more facilities graduate students do not need or want. Also, with the Sequester, other extra income opportunities such as work study are no longer available. For many grad students these extra fees may prove to be prohibitively expensive and require them to abandon their graduate careers, at least at UConn. Additionally, there are very nice gym facilities in the area where one can have a membership for as little as \$10 a month. For graduate students, most of whom do not live on campus, this is a far better option. This entire proposal proves how little value UConn places on graduate education. The university places a financial burden upon graduate students that inhibits completion of research and dissertations as well as distracting from teaching duties. We are NOT undergraduates and should not be treated as such. We are NOT an extra revenue source for the university to milk whenever they find it convenient. The University of Connecticut is a public institution of higher learning and should focus on quality of education, not on attracting students who choose schools based upon gym facilities. If UConn insists upon moving forward with this folly then please leave graduate students out of it. We are not interested and would like to be able live without taking out loans (most of us are already in substantial debt). My words may seem hyperbolic but they fit the ridiculousness of this proposal.

142 Amanda Kanehl

- a I vote NO on the recreation center

143 James Veronick

- a We (graduate students) cannot afford a \$400-600 increase in fees. The fees are already ridiculous at \$1000 per semester. Graduates typically live off campus and utilize absolutely NOTHING that is provided in their \$1000 per semester that they pay, which come out of their limited \$28,000/yr or less stipend that they must STRETCH to live on and survive (basically poverty level). Undergrads use much more of the resources i.e. Student Union, gym (as they



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

don't have to pay to use it like graduates do), buses, recreational sports, etc., so perhaps they should be targeted for a greater increase than graduates. Additionally, EVERYONE paying for this building will never even get to use it; the facility won't be finished for years. Lastly, who did the contractors have to bribe to win a \$300 MILLION bid for a recreational facility?? Are the walls and courts going to be made out of gold? \$300 Million is \$0.3 Billion. With that kind of money, one would think we are rebuilding the entire campus. A decently sized building with OPEN SPACE, with a few courts and workout equipment is going to run about a third of a billion dollars. Hmm. No one can put up a recreation facility for \$30 million? \$500,000 can buy a 3,000 sq. ft. house in Storrs/Mansfield. I guess \$300 Million can't get us much more. Find someone else to do the job and don't put the burden on the students, particularly the graduate students who pull all the research money into the university and don't even live on campus. If students stop coming to UConn and can find a better education WITHOUT the outrageous fees, UConn will go 'out of business'

144 Rich Colon

- a Unfortunately I have to teach tomorrow and will not be able to make it to the public comment section of the board meeting tomorrow. I would like to voice a few comments and I hope that this can be shared with the board if possible. My comments focus on the building of a new recreational facility on the Storrs campus. I would like to start by stating that I am not opposed to the project but I believe that not enough information has been gathered at this point in time to make a decision. I know that the GSS has worked with the Grad student population and have even polled them and found that the students are not in favor of the project. I also know that the GSS has asked the administration for information about the project and about the current use of the field house. The GSS has been told that the data is too difficult to get. I find this an unacceptable answer if the university is going to make a decision this large, I believe that we need to ensure that we have all of the information. Another concern I have is that this project has not been examined by an outside committee. From my time on the board I learned that most of the conversations about subjects such as this are talked about in a committee meeting. There is no committee that has looked at this yet. While I understand that the project does not need to go through Student Fee Advisory Committee, a fee increase this large should be examined by this committee. This committee exists to vet proposals such as this and speak up for the students. At this time the students need an unbiased committee to examine this project and determine if this is a worthwhile investment. My final concern is how the university is considering placing a burden this large on the students and the parents who have to pay for this project. When I was on the board I fought for an increase in tuition. I fought for and voted in this way to support the academic mission of this university. I am concerned and confused about this vote on the recreational facility. The increase that I supported was less than \$100 a semester. The board voted to not approve an increase this high because it would be unfair to place this financial burden on the students and their parents. This recreational facility will cost more than double the tuition increase I supported and this does not relate to our academic mission. I ask the board to please consider this point again and the fiscal responsibility that we have to our students. Again, I am not opposed to the project. But I believe that the vote should be pushed back until



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

the administration can gather more information and a neutral committee can examine the project and report its findings to the board.

145 Erin Bartram

- a I, for one, do not use the UConn gym, but I understand that we all must chip in for things we don't necessarily use, because that is how a community functions. I'm nearing the end of my Ph.D., and it's quite possible that I will never have to pay this fee increase myself. But it's important to me that I speak up to prevent my fellow grad students from being further crushed under the weight of fees. I invite you to look at this website, the project of a graduate student at the University of Michigan: <http://gradpay.herokuapp.com/> It should be quickly clear to you that UConn's stipends for graduate students trend low, especially when combined with the fact that for most of us in the arts and sciences, they are 100% dependent on teaching. We all knew that when we came, and we accepted it as one of the sacrifices of getting graduate degrees. What was not clear when we came - in fact, what was very much obscured at the time - was that those stipend figures were not honest, as they did not take into account the fees that graduate students have to pay back to the university. You will hear many tales of graduate students who had to take out loans or shame-facedly borrow money from their parents because they weren't expecting this additional financial burden, one that has been rising since I began at UConn. The fees are burdensome, and there's no way around that. As an ABD grad student in the history department, I teach three 40-person classes a year, which is considered a 3/4 TAship, and I get the highest stipend possible in our department (excepting the rare chance at a W course): \$17,007. [For reference: http://payroll.uconn.edu/resources/dept_admin/ga_stipend_listing_2012_2013.html] Subtracting the fees we currently pay, I actually get to take home \$14,923. If you'll notice, that's significantly less than the stipend I was supposedly getting as a PhD student with an MA when I began. After fees are taken out, a beginner Ph.D. student in my department, who is most likely teaching 3 28-person discussion sections each semester, is getting a smidge over \$12,000 a year. We have to pay for our research travel, without which we cannot complete our degrees, out of that money as well. You can do the calculations to see how those numbers would change with the addition of fees to pay for the new rec center, if you have not already. I suppose one reaction to this could be, "Well, you chose to do it. If you don't like it, go somewhere else." You could say that, but I don't think you want to, not in the long run. I have actually stopped going to my department's prospective weekends because I cannot, in good conscience, tell prospective students that it makes financial sense for them to come here when they have a competing offer from any other school promising more money, no matter how strong our faculty is. If UConn wants to be a top-notch research university, it must acknowledge the costs of that. Burdensome fees mean that the university cannot compete for graduate students. It's not just that it can't get the *best* graduate students. At a certain point, graduate students will simply stop coming, and the ones who do will be more miserable, more indebted, and will take even longer to complete their degrees. That will have an impact on the quality of undergraduate education, which is still the primary goal of this university, and which is increasingly performed by graduate students. World-class facilities are important, and they help attract students, that cannot be denied. But



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

the fee structure proposed to pay for this new facility would further burden the graduate students, and it's a burden that I do not think we can bear without detrimental effects to the university. Unlike the undergraduates, we don't have parents to speak out on our behalf, and unlike the faculty and staff, we can't depend on a union to advocate for us. We have our own individual voices, and the voices of those who represent us in the Graduate Student Senate, and I would ask that you listen to us as you consider your decision.

146 Ahmed Abdelaziz

- a I vote NO on the recreation center!!!!

147 Julie Willing

- a I vote NO to the recreation center and NO to the proposed increase in student fees.

148 David Sax

- a I've received all sorts of information regarding the potential increase in graduate student fees to help pay for a new recreation center. I've seen different figures but the most recent email stated that fees could increase by as much as \$600/year. I do not know if this figure is true, but if it is, I would have to express disapproval. I do not know any graduate students who use the gym facilities. While I understand the University needs a new gym to meet the needs of undergrads and to entice potential students, there has to be another way than to add such fees to cash and time-strapped graduate students.

149 Rachel Leventhal-Weiner

- a I have received several messages about the potential increase in graduate student fees and must express my displeasure for the matter. As a student with the university for the past 7 years, I have not been able to partake of many university amenities because I live a distance from campus. I do understand that many other commuting students share in the cost of services from which they do not directly benefit, however graduate students have a minimal role at the university. We are paid to instruct courses and must also pay the university. An increase in what we pay without attention to what we are paid is unconscionable.

150 Vishal Dhagat

- a "I vote NO on the recreation center"

151 Hualu Zheng

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. Our fees are already disproportionately high compared to other universities in the area, and an increase in graduate student fees between \$400-\$600 per year will make it even harder to burden. I am graduating this winter or next May, and I don't think I will benefit from the new recreational center. As a result, I vote NO for it.

152 Jason Charrette

- a I urge the Board of Trustees to vote no on the proposition before them. To be frank, choosing to build the Rec Center solely through student fees while leaving other options largely unexplored shows both a disturbing lack of discernment. In a time when student debt burdens are growing much faster than commensurate incomes, cavalierly adding to them appears tone-deaf to a growing national consensus that university attendance should be more, rather than less, affordable. Moreover, it defies logic that in a time of ongoing budgetary crisis -- for everyone -- the university would knowingly choose to raise their student fees when they are not compelled



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

to do so. Students should not be treated as if they were nothing more than walking blank checks or a resource to be exploited. Perhaps the goal with this new facility is to attract students who fit this description. But in the meantime, the rest of us will bear a rather onerous financial cost. Graduate stipends -- which are awarded not as a gift but on the condition of services rendered -- are barely sufficient to maintain a minimal standard of living in this area. Undergraduate incomes -- and those of their parents -- are likely equally strained. I urge the Board to make a financially responsible decision and vote NO on the rec center proposition. Thank you for your time.

153 Brett Goshe

- a I vote NO on the new recreation center proposal. While I can agree that a new or updated rec center is warranted, I don't think this is the most responsible way to do it. Please consider current graduate students' opinion.

154 Rob Mahoney

- a I am strongly opposed to building a new recreation facility founded on even higher mandatory student fees. Please represent my interests in this matter.

155 Brittany Grasser

- a I just wanted to voice my opinion as well. As a graduate assistant, I know for a fact that I will not be able to use the new facility. I may be a German Master's student, but I am also a degreed financial economist. I have a bachelors in the area, and I received today an email concerning the fee increase and I have to say, it is a hefty increase to our already high tuition. Graduate students are an important asset to the UCONN academic community and I feel that many decisions made on behalf of the students reflect the interest of Undergraduates alone. Graduate students are consistently being pushed away from the campus community -- Connecticut Commons. (ie the Grad Dorms) -- which is now a housing community for undergraduates. Any graduate living there is subject to a meal plan (which is highly inconvenient and outrageously expensive) and in effect forced to find off campus housing or live in UConn apartments without consistent transportation service. Yet we seem to only count when it comes to financial matters. Graduates do so much more for academia! We contribute to innovations in the fine arts, sciences and medicines and get the opportunity to pass on our expertise to future generations. As a graduate student I know I will not be able to use this new facility and therefor I join many other graduates in voting NO for the fee increase.

156 Matteo Brambilla

- a vote NO on the new recreation facility. It is not needed and students already pay high bills as it is. It's outrageous that such thing hasn't been stopped already. We already have a recreation facility which works pretty well and athletes already have private facilities in which to train. I hope you'll reconsider.

157 Saad Quadar

- a I don't want to pay more for a "state-of-the-art" recreation center. I go there everyday and it is fine. Please don't burden us grad students. Please please don't do it. I stopped buying coffee and pizza in order to be able to have meals for me and my wife at home. Please don't increase my fees.

158 Thomas Brooks



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a Please do not go forward with the financing of this bond. I use the existing rec center about twice per week and find it more than adequate. I have visited at all hours of its operation and, while it is busy sometimes, I am always able to use the facilities that I want with minimal waiting. To build a new one is unnecessary. To have it paid for by people who will not even have a chance to use it (since they will graduate before it is completed) makes no sense. Thank you for reconsidering this decision.

159 Baishali Kanjilal

- a I vote NO to increase in fees. With the work load and duty hours, most graduate students will end up never ever using the proposed recreational centre. Connecticut is a rather expensive place for students to live in. Given the expenses of on campus living , most students are forced to live in apartments which are quite far from the campus. Had the initiative been about doing something to make the university campus accessible to those, without cars, living far off, till late hours by improving the abysmal transport infrastructure it might have made sense, especially to those that need to stay on campus till late to do research. I think this very proposal sends wrong signals to not just who are here already but also to those who plan to apply. Whereas, as an academic institution we should rather strive to parallel "centres of research excellence", instead the university occupies itself with the building of a "centre for recreation" and expects the graduate student researchers to pay for it. It's sad!

160 Andy Forceno

- a I am sending this brief e-mail to voice my opinion about the proposed fee increase for graduate students in order to pay for a new recreation center. I would attend the board meeting tomorrow, but I have a class at that time. I am very much against the proposed fee increase for graduate students. As you may know, in a recent poll conducted among graduate students, 74% of respondents said that they will not use the new recreational facilities. If that is the case, it baffles me that graduate students are being asked to foot the bill. We already pay an exorbitant amount of fees for extracurricular activities and amenities that we do not use. Graduate students are incredibly busy teaching, conducting research, taking classes, and working on dissertations. We do not have time for many of the amenities the university offers. So, it seems unfair that we are being asked to pay for things we don't have time to use. As a graduate student, I work almost 90 hours a week and yet I am paid the equivalent of a part-time employee. As a result, I struggle every month to pay rent and save up enough money for food. If this proposed fee increase of 400-600 dollars a year is approved, it would mean that I lose half a month's rent or several weeks worth of food money per year. Given how much I struggle to pay rent now, I don't know how I would cope with this. Unlike many undergraduates who are still considered dependents and receive finances from their parents, graduate students like myself must finance themselves, not to mention their families. It seems only fair to me that if the undergraduates want a new recreation facility, the onus should be on them to pay for it. If this board or if the university's administration is so eager to build a new recreation center, maybe they should take a pay cut to help pay for it, as I am pretty sure high-level university officials make substantially more than the meager income of me and my fellow graduate students. Surely there are others among the university's population that can afford to pay for a new recreation center instead of overworked



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

and underpaid graduate students. I did not come to UConn for the amenities and extracurricular activities, I came here for the research opportunities and the opportunity to learn from brilliant minds in my chosen field. While the amount of student fees graduate students are required to pay did not detract me from attending a Ph.D. program here, future applicants might not feel the same way. Overburdening graduate students with fees for things they don't have time for will, in the end, decrease the competitiveness of our graduate programs and decrease the quality of graduate research and teaching. I hope this e-mail is not too late, but I felt I compelled to at least voice my opinion somehow. I vote NO on the new recreation center and the proposed fee increase for graduate students to help pay for it.

161 Anthony Antonucci

- a I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed increase in student fees attached to the construction of a new recreational facility for the UConn Storrs campus. I am particularly disturbed by the prospects of the additional fees that will be billed to University of Connecticut graduate students. The graduate students of the University of Connecticut already carry a heavy financial burden in the form of student fees for services that are primarily used by the undergraduate population. As it stands, the proposal currently facing the Board of Trustees is in need of revision. For that reason I urge the Board to vote NO on the recreation center.

162 Chris Karch

- a I am unfortunately unable to attend the Board of Trustees Meeting tomorrow, because I teach during that time slot. As a graduate student I have many concerns about this new Recreation facility. I understand that it benefits the University by attracting new undergrad students, but the cost burden on graduate students as proposed is too much. The fees at UConn for graduate students are already exorbitant. I live off campus and am an older student. I will never use the campus bus, or student activities. Despite paying basically double of what students or other comparable universities pay I see no benefit from these fees. As undergrads are the ones that have the greatest benefit from the new recreation facility they should pay a majority of the cost for the new facility. I think most graduate students would be OK with a small increase in student fees, but what is proposed is ridiculous. The costs need to be redistributed with most of the burden borne by the undergrads. UConn's primary mission is education and academics. By increasing the graduate student fees the University is going to deter the best graduate students from attending. This will decrease publications and scholarship, which is what the University needs to move forward in rankings. Fancy gyms are nice, but once people graduate they do not remember that stuff. What they remember is if they are academically prepared for the career. Does their Alma Mater open a door to a good job and career, or did it worry about inconsequential things. I have been following recent developments about the proposal of constructing a new recreational center. I would like to share some of my opinions about the topic. I will not be able to attend the board of trustees meeting due to my research duties, hence I am hoping to express my thoughts through this email. Although I am happy to hear about developments for student facilities, I would like to express my absolute **disagreement** with the idea that funding for such projects are to affect student fees. UCONN's student fees are already among the highest in New England (according to a spreadsheet that has been distributed



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

through the Graduate announcements email-list) and I find a further hike in these fees completely **unacceptable**. I know that I am one of many that share this opinion and I hope that our voices will not go unheard.

163 Justin Mahalak

- a I am writing to express my disapproval of the new recreation center, and the increase in fees to graduate students that would come with it. I'd normally bother researching the facility itself, but honestly, I can't imagine a campus facility of any kind that would be worth \$400-600 a year to me, let alone a recreational one. My fellow graduate students and I are already living in a perpetually cash-strapped state, and it's frankly predatory to take food out of our mouths and the mouths of our children for the purpose of funding an extravagance that will almost exclusively be used by undergraduates. I urge the Board to work toward a solution that treats all members of the UCONN community with the respect they deserve.

164 Phillip Moore

- a I am writing because I am deeply concerned over the proposed fee increase to pay for the recreational facility. These fees, if implemented, would have a profoundly negative effect on graduate students. As others have noted, our income is severely limited as is, and because of our research as graduate students and our duties as teaching assistants, most of us do not have the time to utilize existing diversions on campus. We are, frankly, too busy doing the work that enables large courses to function properly to enjoy any of the non-academic features of the University of Connecticut. Graduate student fees are, quite honestly, far too high to begin with. I am fortunate that my spouse has a good job, which makes it possible for me to survive on my stipend without resorting to student loans. Many graduate students are not so fortunate, however, and essentially live below the poverty line. Increasing our fees to pay for a facility that does not serve the academic interests of the student body is an insult to the entire community of graduate students at the University of Connecticut. The consequences of such a move, I fear, would be a school that attracts fewer students to its graduate programs, while also forcing those currently enrolled to look elsewhere.

165 Russell Richie

- a Please don't raise graduate student fees to pay for a service that we simply won't use. If you do this, there will only be more rumblings for a union, which will ultimately only be bad for the administration.

166 Allison Kerwin

- a I strenuously object to the new recreation center and the accompanying increased fees. Most graduate students subsist on low pay and are overstretched financially as it is. Increasing our fees to pay for a new recreation facility that most people will not use (especially those of us who do not live in the vicinity of the campus) equates to a substantial decrease in our net pay. I see no reason that graduate students should be subjected to this unwanted increase in fees.

167 Brandon Russell

- a As a UCONN graduate student, I am strongly against an increase in fees to pay for an unnecessary and financially irresponsible recreation center. Personally, the proposed increase in fees would represent a significant hardship for myself and other graduate students who attempt to live



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

within our means instead of taking ridiculous loans, as is apparently university policy. I am a member of the Department of Marine Sciences, and as such am based at Avery Point. I will not pay for facilities that I cannot utilize, even if I so desired. Were non-Storrs graduate students to be exempted from these fee increases, my position would remain unchanged.

168 Joseph Darda

- a I would like to add to what I'm sure is already an inbox full of emails regarding the proposal to increase graduate student fees. I'm a third-year PhD student in UConn's English Department. I make approximately \$19,000 (minus \$2,000 for fees) per year to two sections of English 1010/1011, one of the most labor intensive courses an instructor can teach on the Storrs campus (I grade, at a minimum, 1100 pages of student writing for each class). I make barely enough money to pay my rent, electricity, phone, and internet bills at present. Many TAs make less than I do—I can't begin to imagine how they manage to scrape by. Like most graduate students, I don't live in Storrs and would not benefit from the gym itself. I pay \$10.99 per month for a membership at Cardio Express in Mansfield Center, a far cheaper and, for me, convenient option than paying the university \$500 per year to build a rec facility that is unlikely to be finished before I graduate. I attended the University of Washington in Seattle as an undergraduate. While there, I paid \$41 per quarter (\$123 per year) for their brand-new rec facility, a fee that *did not exist until the facility was actually built and useable*. I realize a new rec facility will help UConn attract new undergraduate students in the future, but it is not my responsibility, as an instructor, to help finance a rebranding of the university. I already give the University of Connecticut my skilled labor and \$2,000 of my hard-earned money each and every year. I implore you to rethink your strategy of building this facility on the backs of your poorest and most underrepresented workforce: graduate students.

169 James Wells

- a My name is James Wells and I am a doctoral candidate in the Physics Department. I would like to ask that you reject the proposed fee increases for a new recreation center. Unless significant new funding is made available for fellowships and salary increases, the cost to attend the University will be a deterrent to new graduate students. This would be an unfortunate, because graduate students will be vital to meet the University's goal to become a top 20 research university and to the future success of the recently announced STEM initiative the state is undertaking with UConn. According to the University's numbers, the cost to a new graduate student living on campus for 12 months, with the required meal plan, fees, and health insurance will be about 86% of their salary. This is not counting taxes, books, a car, a cell phone, or any of the other myriad necessities of being a graduate student. You may say that the \$300 fee increase is only \$25 a month, but that will be almost 10% of this student's monthly take home pay. That is too much.

170 Austin Johnson

- a As a graduate student, I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the approval of a new recreation center under its current fee structure. Having reviewed the Graduate Student Senate's motion (GSS 12/13-27) regarding the new facility, I fully support their arguments and requests. Annual fees in excess of \$2000 are simply unsustainable for most graduate students, and a 4%



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

increase in stipends will not change that. The survey results provided by GSS, representing about 10% of the graduate student population, demonstrate overwhelming grad student opposition to the center as currently proposed. As a graduate student who regularly attends Graduate Student Senate meetings and was present for a discussion with university administrators on this issue, I do not feel that these fees have been carefully considered or established for this center, nor do I feel that graduate student usage of or need for this facility has been seriously considered by the university. The outcomes of this proposal would make UConn less competitive for graduate students, and its submission demonstrates a lack of university commitment to and understanding of the graduate community. It's as simple as that.

171 Alex Barnes

- a I'm sending this to you directly because the electronic submission form on the Board of Trustees website is not functioning properly. Also I am unable to attend the actual meeting. In regards to increasing the student fees for graduate students to pay for the \$100 million recreation facility I have to vote an absolute no to raising the fees. A google doc was created and e-mailed to the graduate body that showcased how much other universities charge their graduate students per semester. Before the proposed increase we are already well above the average. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AtcHensTaf4qdZFSVNZcENhVDIyREM2c0o2MDJPX2c&usp=sharing>. Graduate students simply do not have enough money as is and adding this increase will just make it more difficult. I know students who are being paid as TA's/RA's and yet are still barely making ends meet because they have loans to pay off. Increasing the fees will just send them further into debt and would potentially drive them away from graduate school. As a student who uses the current recreational facility I see no reason why we need to spend \$100 million on a new fancy one. I've never had an issue using equipment or any part of the facility due to crowding. I would much prefer the \$100 million go towards renovating academic buildings, such as MSB, which is falling apart. Currently the facade is being fixed but that doesn't affect the inside. Constructing a new building to house research labs, or offices, classrooms and teaching labs would be much more beneficial to the university.

172 Isabella Pilato

- a I would like to contribute a statement against the proposed new recreation facility to be built at UConn, as I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow due to teaching obligations at the same time. As a full-time MA student at UConn, I spend a minimum of 40-50 hours a week on my own studies and research. As an English TA, I devote 20 hours a week to teaching one section of freshman composition. My evenings and weekends are full of research and teaching obligations. With a work week totaling at least 60-70 hours, I simply have no time to potentially spend at a recreation facility. In the times when I do not have to be on campus, I prefer to spend some time at my apartment in Coventry. New amenities would not draw me back to campus; I need time to unwind away from campus whenever I can afford not to be there. From my experience, I see no reason why graduate students should be required to finance the new facility rather than undergraduates. Although undergraduates do not receive a stipend, they have the ability to garner comparable financial support from various avenues within and outside of the university. I graduated from UConn summa cum laude in 2011 with a BA. I was an honors student who did



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

not receive merit-based funding, and I took an average of 17-18 credits per semester in order to complete a double major and a minor. I still found time to apply for numerous scholarships, both in my final year of high school and throughout my undergraduate career, through various departments at UConn and outside sources, to finance my education. I worked part-time at Avery Point and as a grading assistant for my former high school teacher. I could afford to rent a house off campus in my senior year with four other students and even to pay for a one summer course and a summer session abroad in France (neither of which was covered by normal grants and funding). Together with my sister, I bought a used car while in college. My experience suggests that there are avenues of funding available to undergraduates that amount to about the same level of financial stability as graduate students enjoy. I was not wealthy as an undergraduate, and I am not wealthy as a graduate student. My husband and I, also a graduate student at UConn, work extremely hard and do without what we can't afford, so we can manage to live comfortably on a modest income. I did the same thing as an undergraduate. It seems unjust to ask graduate students to shoulder a burden that they are no more equipped than undergraduates to carry. The relatively reasonable tuition at UConn made it possible for me to attend as an undergraduate, as my parents could contribute nothing to my college expenses. Despite receiving no merit-based funding, I was able to fund my entire education through pursuing every opportunity that presented itself and being an excellent student eligible for awards. I came for the education and excellent instruction of professors here, and I received this while an undergraduate. I have also received it as a graduate student. In my experience, UConn has been a place where this Connecticut student could thrive through hard work; with the proposal for this new and expensive facility, I fear UConn will become a prohibitively expensive school that is no longer within reach of underprivileged students. You will end up turning away hardworking students, graduate and undergraduate alike, who are seeking a solid education without the bells and whistles that they have no time or desire to use.

173 Jesus A. Hernandez Cobo

- a Since I cannot make it to the Board of Trustees on 4/24 I send this email, that I email directly to you because the electronic submission form on the Board of Trustees website is not functioning properly, to express the indignation I feel ever since I heard of the proposal of a \$100 million recreation facility that ALL students will have to pay for, even without wanting it. I think it is very good that our university keeps looking for ways to improve our campus and the experience of the students during their time here and I understand that major investments like this entail an effort that should be made partly in the form of an increase of the student fees, since they are used to cover some of the services that we have on campus. However, I would like to remind whomever this may concern that undergraduate students and graduate students have completely different lives and DO NOT use campus facilities in the same way. Therefore, we cannot be thought of as the "student body", in general, when it comes to making decisions like this and there are facts that lead me to think that the creation of a new recreation facility that entails an increase of \$400-600 dollars is ABSURD for graduate students: 1) Most graduate students DO NOT live on campus. 2) Many graduate students DO NOT use the recreational facilities on campus. 3) Many graduate students are international students who work as TAs and



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

whose visas do not allow them to work for more than 20 hours, which means we have to manage our money very well to survive because we are not legally allowed to work more. 4) Even Americans who are working and studying at the same time cannot afford an increased amount of fees every semester unless they receive parental help or external scholarships. An increase in our fees would destroy our economies as individuals for a recreation center that only a few graduate students will use and that will prevent students from coming (or even returning) to UConn due to an excessive amount of fees to be paid every semester, which, if you allow me, are actually already too high. I appreciate that the Board wants to give the students new facilities to enjoy their experience as they grow in this campus, but if you look at the numbers, you will see that WE DO NOT WANT any recreation facilities that jeopardize our economies. It is our salaries and our lives you are going to be trading with for a new building to add to the list. If undergraduate students want that building they shall have it, but they pay for it. If the Board wants to have it, the Board should find ways to pay for it without affecting the students. You cannot put on graduate students, people who are studying and working hard to succeed in life and who struggle to make it to the end of every month, the burden stemmed from an idea based on a campus-expansionist university policy that might prevent us from living decently in a state whose standard of living is high enough without this sort of "extras".

174 Zoe Xiao

- a I would like to say I vote no on the increase of the student fee. I most likely won't be using the new recreational center. It's hard enough to support oneself on graduate assistant income, and I won't be getting financial aid this coming semester.

175 Thomas Hart

- a I vote no on the new recreation center as it is currently proposed. The current student recreation center is woefully under-equipped for the size of the student population. However, I feel it is unfair to fund a new center on the backs of graduate students who almost never use the facility and can barely afford the graduate fees as they stand right now. Some of the features that draws top notch graduate students to UConn are the generous teaching and research assistantships available that make completing a graduate education possible. It is the combination of excellent research, education, and funding opportunities that bring in so many bright graduate students. As a result, the faculty benefit from having stellar students aid in their research and the undergraduate students benefit from having bright educators. However, many potential graduate students may think twice if these these assistantships are offset by high graduate fees that they have to pay for out of pocket. The net result will be a loss in quality of graduate students attending UConn. I would strongly recommend that the Board of Trustee's vote no for the proposed recreational facility. Thank you for your time.

176 Mina Sadeghi

- a This is Mina Sadeghi Najafabadi, I am a graduate student in ECE department at UCONN, I just wanted to make a comment about new recreation center, I would definitely vote NO on building a new recreation center, this is truly unfair to raise our fees. Thank you.

177 Thomas Hart



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I vote no on the new recreation center as it is currently proposed. The current student recreation center is woefully under-equipped for the size of the student population. However, I feel it is unfair to fund a new center on the backs of graduate students who almost never use the facility and can barely afford the graduate fees as they stand right now. Some of the features that draws top notch graduate students to UConn are the generous teaching and research assistantships available that make completing a graduate education possible. It is the combination of excellent research, education, and funding opportunities that bring in so many bright graduate students. As a result, the faculty benefit from having stellar students aid in their research and the undergraduate students benefit from having bright educators. However, many potential graduate students may think twice if these these assistantships are offset by high graduate fees that they have to pay for out of pocket. The net result will be a loss in quality of graduate students attending UConn. I would strongly recommend that the Board of Trustee's vote no for the proposed recreational facility. Thank you for your time.

178 Kristina Piatek

- a As a graduate student who already has a lot of loans from undergrad and struggles to try to pay the fees out of pocket each semester so that I can avoid taking out more loans... I do NOT want an increase on my student fees in the coming years for a rec center that I will never use.

179 William Tootle

- a Along with many of my fellow graduate students, I oppose the building of a new recreation center on several grounds: * Student debt in the US is at absurd crisis levels and by tacking on exorbitant and gratuitous fees, UConn would unnecessarily add to that crisis by increasing the debt of its graduates and their families and greatly restricting their ability to flourish and succeed beyond the University. * Our student fees, as Andrea Bizarro has [shown](#), are already disproportionately high compared to other universities in the region. * UConn is an academic institution not a New England resort. * Fitness facilities already exist and could be improved or expanded at far less expense. * Of almost 300 graduate students that participated in an online survey, 5% live on campus, 60% use a gym outside of the university, and 50% rarely or never use the UConn gym. * 74% of graduate students surveyed oppose the building of the new recreation facility. * I would not use it because when I do infrequently have the time to exercise, I do so outdoors and off campus where I live. * I did not come to UConn for its "amenities." I came to learn from and work with its esteemed faculty, to make use of its vast library resources, and to work with similarly dedicated scholars to try and solve some of Connecticut's and the wider world's countless pressing social problems. Exorbitant amenities fees not only fly in the face of such efforts, they ultimately hinder them.

180 Swarnali Banerjee

- a I absolutely vote "NO" to he recreation center. There are so many other areas where money could be spent from our pockets for our immediate benefit and to top the list would be the transport system for Uconn students to and from Willimantic. I am a research student and I do not even have a personal computer in my office, and none of the other graduate students do. A recreation center does not make sense at all when the bare minimum requirements of students



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

are not made. There should be a vote as to how many students even want to use the same. I strongly oppose to such an investment.

181 Ying Yan

- a I am a graduate student from ECE department. I want to say that the email "Help Prevent Increase in Fees" shocked me a lot. Actually, I rarely go to gym. This is because for our graduate student, we should focus on our research thus we have no time to use the recreational facility. It is unfair for us to pay for a lot of money for building these utility. In addition, most of us come from other countries thus the only financial support is the funding from our supervisor. If we did not focus on our research, we will be fired. It is definitely a disaster for our international students. In my opinion, UConn should reduce our burden rather than increase it. Please think about this determination by standing on our perspective. Thank you.

182 Madelynn von Baeyer

- a I am writing to express my opinion on the proposal for the new \$100 million rec center. I stand behind the 74% of graduate students who do not support this proposal. While I agree that the University's current rec center is not adequate for the current population, however graduate students cannot afford a 14% increase in our school fees. Very few graduate students use the current facilities, not just because it is public and it is crowded (things that I understand will be addressed with the new rec center) but because it is not convenient for us to use facilities on campus. Most graduate students live off campus and as off campus students, we are a part of other local Connecticut communities. Other facilities off campus are closer to our homes and fit in our daily schedule better than any facility on campus. I urge the Board to reconsider the financial strain it is putting on the graduate student population for this rec center, a center that few graduate students have need for.

183 Danielle Wong

- a I apologize if the tone of this email is a little sassy but I am incredibly disappointed at the way this whole situation of building a new recreation center is being handled. I am currently in my second year of graduate study at the University of Connecticut. I lived on campus for the first year and after that horrifying experience of being placed to live in the middle of undergraduates I have moved over 45 minutes away from campus. Now, my anger for this proposal comes from that experience but also from the fact that I live 45 minutes away. I live 45 minutes away because I would for one like to keep a professional distance away from undergraduates but also because if I lived closer to campus my work would suffer from the noise level and actions of the undergraduate population. I come to campus 5-6 days a week and spend sometimes up to fourteen hours on campus (because of class, meetings, class for class I am TAing for, and for research). The last thing I want to do on my down time is go to a gym that is overrun. I should also mention I have my own personal gym in my apartment complex. The same can be said for most graduate students who live off campus. I also do not see the need to pay an extra 300-500 dollars a year to build a new gym that my or my fellow graduate students will not use. Now, I am not necessarily against the building of a new gym, I have been in the current one and can attest to its diminishing usability. What I am against is the resort that the University has taken to fund this endeavor. I do not feel that those who have looked into the cost for graduate student have



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

taken into consideration the toll this added fee will have. Like most departments my funding differs from being 50% to 75% each semester. I am barely able to survive paying rent, buying food, buying gas, and not to mention buying all my books each month. The fees combined now add up to being a little over 2,000 dollars. Coming from the University of California system for my undergraduate institution, my yearly fee at UConn is just about shy of equaling up my total tuition for a quarter. I personally do not think that my fees should be as much as a quarter tuition... At least when I pay tuition I am getting something out of it. I pay fees to things I do not even use nor will I ever use. And I understand that, that sometimes you can't just pick and choose the things you pay for because then no one will ever pay. But... over 2,000 dollars?! Now you can argue that I can go out and get a job. My department actually threatens funding and it is frowned upon if it is found that you have a second job. Not only that, but having a second job will lead to a tradeoff. Having another job will pay for your fancy new gym but it will also negatively affect my research and scholarship – which could then negatively affect my job prospects when I graduate. Unfortunately I feel like this University does not care about graduate students in general. Supporters of the new center came to the Graduate Student Senate and it seemed like all they cared about was telling us how amazing it was going to be and not acknowledging the financial hardship that would also occur. It is seemingly almost ironic to me that it is the graduate students and faculty who help UConn significantly maintain its R1 status. UConn prides itself, as it should, how it is a top 20 public university and a prominent R1 university. Shouldn't UConn also pay attention to its graduate student population, the population that has a part in UConn's reputation? Currently, compared to other R1 universities in New England, UConn charges its graduates on their fees more than double. Of course then again there is the big elephant in the room how a new Basketball Development Center has been able to be built through private donations. Not only that but the Basketball Development Center represents a very small portion of the student population while the Rec Center will represent the whole student population. How come a technique of finding alternate funding is not being used? I hope you take these comments into consideration and reevaluate how this center will be funded.

184 Marie Brault

- a I am writing to express my extreme concern over the proposed raise in graduate student fees to support a new student rec. center. The fees that I currently pay (over \$1000/semester) are already a burden on my \$15000/year stipend. I am curious as to why the university is unable to more efficiently use the fees I already pay to finance a recreation center, especially since UConn's fees are already much higher than peer institutions in the region. Thus, I ask that the board NOT raise graduate student fees to fund a new recreation center.

185 Michelle Maloney-Mangold

- a I am writing to oppose the funding of a new recreational facility with student fees. As an adult graduate student, I came to this conclusion for many reasons. First, I already have a gym membership in my own town (30 minutes from campus), for which I pay \$240 a year. I have that membership because I do not wish to exercise (and shower) anywhere near my undergraduate students, and because the gym is close to my home. Second, graduate students at UConn already pay an exorbitant portion of their salaries to student fees; our fees are much, much higher than



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

other universities in the Northeast. For three years, my stipend has been \$20,396, but my fees have risen to about \$2,200 a year (including parking). As I'm sure the Board of Trustees is aware, that means that my fees cost me 10% of my annual salary. The fee increase the university is proposing would be a 14% increase--or what I see as a 3% pay cut. Given that about three-quarters of the graduate student population will never even use this facility, it is unfair and outrageous to expect them to pay for it with even higher fees. Third, it is the position of most graduate students that the university did not fully explore its options in funding this incredibly expensive facility. Before forcing this fee increase on undergraduates (and their parents) and graduate students, the university should look at other options, especially alumni and private donors. UConn is a public, land grant university; it should be encouraging all CT students (not just wealthy ones) to attend our great institution, not pricing them out of it. Lastly, I would just like to say that I have been extremely discouraged by the university's response to graduate student concerns about this facility. What we have heard, in so many words, is that the university feels that it is already paying us a "stipend," so graduate students should suck it up and pay whatever they are told to pay. This mentality has also trickled down to the undergraduate population, which seems to be parroting this response. What is left out of this dismissal is the incredible work that graduate students do for the university. We are paid what is called a stipend but is really a salary earned for teaching courses, working on academic journals, serving in administrative positions, or doing invaluable research. We are being treated as if the university just lavishly rewards us with gifts while we complain about pitching in, but this obviously could not be further from the truth. Graduate students are a cheap source of labor which is too often exploited; I have friends who have not been told what class they are teaching until three days before the semester starts and friends who have been asked to double their work load for the same pay. I have friends who care deeply for their students and put in way more than 20 hours a week to make sure they succeed. I also have friends who have to take out student loans just to cover living expenses--loans that they will barely be able to pay when they move into a tenure-track job at \$50,000 a year (if they're extremely lucky) or into an adjunct position making \$2,500 a class (which is much more likely). In short, please don't trivialize our commitment to the mission of the university and the extremely hard work we put in. The last time I checked, offering a \$100 million gym was not part of a research university's mission.

186 Frank Griggs

- a I am a graduate student of at the University of Connecticut, and do NOT want to a new recreation center and the accompanying fee increase.

187 Rebecca Gottlieb

- a As a current graduate student of UCONN, I do NOT approve of the vote on the new recreation center. I do NOT support the increase in graduate student fees for facilities I will not use. Graduate students do not have time for activities on campus, and do not have money to pay a \$400-600 a year increase. Not only do we not have parents supporting us like most undergrads, we also face different loans, those of which accrue interest while we are still in school. Every dollar counts, and I know I do not have an extra \$400-600 to spend on a fancy rec center I will never use because I am busy doing research. This motion will lose the faith of the grad students



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

(who bring in a lot of funding from research projects) and are just as important to the university as undergrads. It is almost insulting that grad students will be looking at these type of fee increases for a rec center. I hope your vote will reflect this.

188 Sravan Thota

- a It's already heavy fee paid by graduate students. There are many international students, who are suffering from reaching basic necessities from the kind of stipend we are provided. If you keep on increasing the fees, we would suffer a lot., and most of us are not concerned on recreational activities in UConn, as all of us are living away from campus. So, please kindly consider these aspects and don't put this burden on graduate students. If possible increase the stipend.

189 Chris Burrows

- a I'm writing concerning the proposed fee increases to grad student fees aimed at raising funds for a new recreation center. I'll echo what I expect to be the sentiments of the majority of grad students--I'm not in favor of raising fees. Currently, student fees are already quite high. A fee increase in the hundreds of dollars range will push the total fees due into a substantial portion of my stipend. Essentially, this would be a pay cut, which is why I'm sure many graduate students will be angry about these changes. Graduate students work very hard, often doing most of the labor involved in experimentation and data-analysis, with limited monetary compensation. A fee increase like this makes it seem like the administration doesn't really appreciate our contribution to the university. Having said the above, I do understand the need for new gym facilities. I agree that the current facilities for students at UConn are inadequate for a university of this size. However, these are mainly issues for undergraduate students that live on campus. If grad students have to pay for these facilities, perhaps now is not the time for such an ambitious building project. If fees were increased at the same time as grad student pay, for example, I'm sure the recreation center would be much more palatable. Given that state employee pay is unlikely to rise appreciably in the medium term future, perhaps financial austerity should color the spending policies of the university, unless outside sources of funding can be found.

190 Heather Haversat

- a I am a doctorate student at UConn. I live 45 minutes away and I have NEVER used the recreation facility in my last 3 years as a doctorate study. The fees imposed by UConn already exceed that of comparable universities. I attended UConn as an undergrad as well and went to the current rec center maybe 10 times. I actually belonged to Cardio Express at the time because it was cleaner, nicer, and had tanning included. **And if there was a nicer gym on Uconn's campus I still wouldn't have gone because Cardio Express was a great deal!** It is absurd for UConn to build a new rec center that costs so much money. The physically active students are going to go elsewhere for a gym membership anyways. As a current graduate student, I refuse to pay for a fee on a recreation center that I will never step foot into it. I think that if it is built you may join if you would like acknowledging that you will be charged so that students have the option. Say NO to the new center.

191 Amy Sopcak-Joseph

- a I am writing to oppose the proposal for a \$100 million student recreation facility at UConn, paid for by student fees. As a graduate student, I have concerns about the proposed amount of fees



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

in relation to the low stipend I receive, about how this is being forced upon students who will not use the facility, and about how this will affect the recruitment of new graduate students to UConn. I certainly understand that a new recreation facility at UConn will be used to recruit prospective undergraduate students, who often consider posh living quarters and extracurricular options in addition to academics. However, the facility is not at all a selling point to graduate students, especially if it will significantly raise fees. Though it may seem that a few hundred dollars a year is not much money in the grand scheme of things, when you only make \$15,000 a year, it is significant. This year, I paid over \$2,000 of that \$15,000 stipend back to UConn (an institution which also solicits donations from me as an alum!). Some of these fees, though not all, go towards services I do not use or have any interest in using, but UConn charges me for them anyway. The willingness of the school to impose more fees on me and other students for more services that we don't plan to use is, quite honestly, maddening. Why wouldn't I use the new recreation facility, even if it would benefit my health and well-being? There are two main reasons. First, I do not live on or near campus, so coming to campus to work out at such a facility is not as convenient for me as it would be for someone living on campus or close by. Since I already have to park far away from my department (and pay for that privilege), I am not likely to also haul in exercise clothing so that I can go to the recreation facility. Second, because I am a teaching assistant and I try to maintain professional relationships with my undergraduate students, I do not savor the idea of encountering these students while I'm working out. While some people may consider this to be silly and superficial, as a young woman who already has to work harder to cultivate respect and professionalism from some undergraduates, this is a real concern. It may seem like a personal boundary that is my choice to maintain, but I know of other TAs in my department who share the same concern. Because my department has just finished recruiting new graduate students for next year, I am also very concerned about how additional fees will impact UConn's ability to attract bright students to graduate programs. When competitive applicants receive multiple offers from schools, some of which won't require them to pay any money – tuition or fees – to attend school, UConn already is at a disadvantage because of the more than \$2000 in fees charged to graduate students each year. Adding \$300-\$400 in fees per year for a facility these students may not intend to use is only going to make it harder for departments to convince prospective students to come to Storrs. If departments cannot attract new graduate students, who provide key services as teaching and research assistants, both undergraduate students and faculty will be affected. Departments will face problems with covering teaching assignments that they need the cheap labor of graduate students for, and faculty members will not have the course graders and research assistance that they expect because they work at an R-1 institution. Furthermore, I think the refusal to consider alumni donations as part of the plan to support the building of a recreation is short-sighted. Just like I would need to carefully consider purchasing something that is really beyond my household budget and perhaps delay that purchase, UConn needs to carefully consider whether undertaking this large expenditure is prudent at this time. I understand that donations can be inconsistent and take time to raise, but why not start by soliciting donations from the current students – soon to be alumni – who are in such support of this plan but who will never benefit



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

from it? The fact is that donations could be used to help finance this plan, even if they do not cover the entire cost, which would cut the cost to be passed on to undergraduate and graduate students. Private donations should be part of the plan up-front, not as something that could possibly reduce fees or reduce the interest later. Lastly, I think that it is really outrageous that UConn had money set aside for recreation facilities in the UConn 2000 construction program, but the school used this money for the Burton Family Football Complex and the Shenkman Training Center (as described in a Hartford Courant article, http://articles.courant.com/2007-04-25/news/0704250415_1_recreation-center-new-fitness-center-student-fees). For all of the money that UConn's athletics brings in, it is ridiculous that money that should have been used for the good of the entire student body was used to benefit a very small percentage of the undergraduate population. Current students could already be enjoying a fancy new facility, built with those funds! Based on such management of the UConn 2000 funds, undergraduates should be insulted that UConn would prefer to charge them hundreds of dollars a year in fees to finally build a recreation center for general use instead of supporting the current proposal.

192 Ionnis Papavasileiou

- a I would like to let you know that at least for my lab, all the students here are very anxious about this upcoming increase in student fees. We already think that graduate student fees are very high compared to other public universities and a possible increase of up to \$600 per academic year is considered as extremely high. All of us like going to the gym but an increase of \$300 per semester is like enforcing us to pay for something that is overpriced. Anybody can have access to gyms outside of the university campus and pay a more reasonable amount. Apart from that, paying for something that someone (especially the masters students) may never use because they will graduate and the facility could be still in the construction phase does not seem reasonable.

193 Sujan Shrestha

- a I vote no to Fee increase

194 Penny Benson

- a I am writing to express my concerns regarding the financing of the building of a new recreation center on campus. I am not in support of the University acquiring a \$300 million bond that will become the burden of current and future graduate students who, for the most part, have neither the time to use such a facility, nor the financial means to pay for it. Our fees are already out of sync with comparable universities. The life of a graduate student centers upon their work, and while a healthy lifestyle certainly supports that work, a shiny new facility will neither attract high quality graduates nor better the lives of those who are here. We have a facility that I've heard is more than adequate. I would love to use it, but frankly, I've never had the time. I don't think that spending \$300 million dollars is going to change that scenario. Thank you for considering my input. Had I not been busy with multiple obligations, I would attend the meeting and speak out in person against this extravagant proposal.

195 Abhisek Saha

- a As a graduate student I strongly say NO to this idea of sharing cost of new proposed rec center and find this extremely outrageous on the Board's part to overburden us (especially the grad



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

students) with unnecessary and uncalled for expense for the reasons well put together by Andrea Bizarro in the attached email. I myself have been paying for Gym every month but I have never used it. Please reconsider our situation and try to understand how difficult it is to support families at times with this little stipend we get.

196 Xiupeng Wang

- a I have never heard any other university charges so much fee from graduate students, especially even the funded students with scholarships or fellowships. I was shocked to be noticed that I had to pay over 1k per semester myself, which is over 2k per year! This means for the ones who do not have full fellowship, like half GA, would not get paid enough to support their study, research and living cost here, which is quite common in some departments. Other universities I know so far, either have comparatively very low fee or waive all the tuition and fees along with the scholarships. Want to build a recreation center? fine with me. but increase the fee to a even higher level? NO NO NO! By the way, since the state of CT has already decided to funding UConn on STEM fields with a massive amount of money, why are you still staring at students' pockets? I know that even the grants are specifically assigned to STEM, there is still about half of the money would be taken by the university as so called administration fee or something similar.

197 Riyazahmed Desai

- a I vote NO on recreation center.

198 Thomas Labadorf

- a I agree with everything in Andrea Bizarro's statement. So much is added on to student activities fees that it has be overbalancing the real purpose of the university – education! As a grad student, I don't even time to participate in extra-curricular activities. I'm already paying excessive taxes to support Connecticut's wasteful spending. This new rec center is not necessary. Just look at the banner photos on the UConn Recreation Center page. How many people are actually using the facilities that exist today?? <http://web.uconn.edu/recreation/>. I strongly disapprove of raising student activities fees and if that means no new recreation center, then I oppose it.

199 Aileen Vandenberg

- a I am a graduate student in the Civil Engineering Department. I vote YES on the new recreational facility. This university's rec facilities barely meets the current demand. In a few years, it will be so crowded and overused that I will be forced to pay money to an outside gym. I'd rather have my money go to the University for state-of-the-art facilities. I like being able to work out in the middle of my day and get back to my research. I live far from campus, I don't want to have to travel off-campus to work out and then come back.

200 Rachel Stahl

- a I vote NO on the recreation center

201 Steven Williamson

- a As a graduate student I already need to pay my fees each semester on a credit card that I then pay off across the semester. I am frankly a bit horrified to hear that the Board of Trustees is considering a substantial fee increase on graduate students to finance the construction of a new recreational facility. While I appreciate that such a new facility would be attractive to incoming undergraduate students, I suspect that graduate students will be unlikely to benefit substantially



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

from such a facility. In fact, given the demands of graduate school I suspect that few grads have the opportunity to use the current facilities with any regularity. (A quick survey of the exercise habits and dietary regimens among graduate students will confirm this.) Furthermore, given that a very high number of grads commute to campus from more affordable areas in the region, I suspect that they would prefer not to subsidize a facility that would be used primarily by residents of the campus, particularly when the proposed fee increases would be equivalent to a high-end gym membership at a local health club. For these reasons I am utterly opposed to the proposed fee increase.

202 Jeremy Stromer

- a I am writing to voice my opinion on the proposed graduate fee increase for the recreation center. I like many other graduate students do not have the time to use the proposed facilities. Likewise, I feel the current graduate fees are already quite high and make it difficult to live off a small teaching assistant salary. I couldn't imagine having to live off of \$600 less a year. Please reconsider the increase in graduate fees.

203 Orlando Deavila Pertuz

- a I vote NO on the recreation center

204 Orko Momin

- a I am a graduate student in the ECE department of the School of Engineering and I write to you today to express my disapproval of building a new recreational facility on campus at the expense of significantly increasing Grad Student Annual fees. We, the graduate students, form the backbone of the University's Research endeavors. According to <http://research.uconn.edu/> there are currently 85 research centers here on campus. Not only do we perform various cutting-edge research leading to publications, patents and increased publicity and goodwill for UConn, our research endeavors attract many undergraduate students to this school. Due to existing research endeavors, undergrads get a chance to apply themselves in various labs and get exposure to what I call **real learning**. As a research institution we provide undergrads that additional edge that they may not get at other institutions.... And we do all of that while getting paid somewhere between \$19,384 - \$22,678 (http://www.payroll.uconn.edu/resources/dept_admin/ga_stipend_listing_2011_2012.html) over two semesters. Out of this amount, we pay back to the school ~\$2100 dollars per year in student fees. Which is between ~9-11% of our actual pay over the year!! Also I must mention that a survey of such fees at institutions across the country reveal that UConn's fees are much higher than the average. If we do an *approximate* break down of our bi-weekly pay, on average we get around ~1500 dollars (at 19,384/year) per month after taxation and paying the \$2100 fee. Some of us get paid a small amount during the summer months, some of us don't. Decent housing around campus or even 5/10 miles away from campus cost around 750-1000 dollars a month. Some of us double up in rooms in order to reduce this cost and at the age of 25-35 sharing a room is not at all ideal. We are not college students, we need our privacy... But many of us are also married and have kids which means they certainly cannot afford to share rooms. Taking all these factors into consideration we have around one paycheck worth of money or less, to pay for gas, electricity, internet, food, transportation, clothing, books and everything else.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

That's 400-700 dollars per month to live off of. It gets even worse for international students some of who actually have to contribute to a family at home. So in this 400-700 dollars, feed yourself, manage transportation, clothing etc etc... and then try to provide for your family at home. Suffices to say, we don't eat out much... **No wonder there is a gigantic line outside of Ted's whenever the Graduate Student Senate holds one of those free pizza night.** Given these circumstances, do you really feel that slapping us with another \$400-\$600 dollars more of graduate fees for something statistically only 26% of us will ever use, is appropriate? Please recall this 26% is also out of only those who responded to the survey asking us whether we will use this facility or not. Some of us did not respond and those that didn't most probably do not care for the facility. Hence if you took them into consideration the percentage of grads in favor of this facility would be further lowered. We really appreciate the efforts being put forth by the Board of Trustees towards making this campus healthier but I cannot agree with making these efforts at the expense of alienating graduate students in the manner proposed (i.e. taking out a \$300 million bond and increasing student fees by 400-600 dollars per year). I really appreciate you reading my plea and commend your patience if you have read this far into this email. I hope you will consider other avenues of raising the fund required to make this additional recreational facility if you so desire. Alumni donations and selective paid memberships are two obvious alternatives I would request you to consider if you haven't already. But I implore the board to reconsider the proposal as it stands as it will be burdening the graduate student body with much more than it can already handle. I, with many other like-minded graduate students, really appreciate your reconsideration of this matter.

205 Xingyu Cai

- a I, as a graduate student, am strongly against increasing the graduate student fee because of a new recreation center, which is seldom used by graduate student. The fee is already relatively extremely high compared with other similar universities. It is not reasonable to force graduate student to pay such big amount of money without benefiting from it.

206 Joon-Sung Kim

- a I am Joon-Sung Kim who is graduate student of Polymer Program. I feel that current fee is already far more than enough. Even I used our gym a few times a year. The reason I don't use frequently is Not because it's not fancy but because I am too busy to go. I don't want to increase student fee.

207 Russell Meister

- a I just want to make my voice heard by saying that I vote NO on the recreation center plans. As a graduate student, I have to pay a pretty hefty set of fees to being with. Looking at comparable university student fees per year I am quite outraged that the university would allow fees to raise even more! I can tell you now that I will not be using this facility AT ALL and do not want to be burdened with paying for it. I have every intention of attending the the meeting tomorrow at 10:30 in order to make my voice heard even more.

208 Clifford Vickrey

- a I am writing briefly to express my alarm at the University's decision to, in a rushed and non-deliberative fashion, finance a \$100 recreation center through student fees.As a Graduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

Student (PhD. Candidate), I have seen my program of Political Science starved of cash and relevance--this upcoming Fall, for instance, funding only two incoming students. Colleagues, even recipients of funding, are saddled with student debt, high living expenses, exploitative teaching assistantships, and low morale. Some certainly fall below the officially delimited poverty line. Most live at a great enough distance from Storrs, or have easy enough access to off-campus gyms, to make any on-campus recreational facility prohibitively inconvenient. To ask harried Graduate students to finance a facility that only a small fraction of them will ever use is--pardon my vituperation--an insult, and almost as great an insult as the argument (heard in some quarters) that a \$400-per-annum fee hike is to their "benefit." There has to be a better way.

209 Navid Asadi Zanjani

- a I vote No on the recreation center.

210 Jose Santana

- a In case my opinion still counts for something, I vote no on the recreational facility. I have been a student at UConn since 2001 and now a graduate student while working full time. In my opinion, the university has lost sight of its mission to educate and be in the forefront of academic excellence. In fact, much of its decision making now seems to be based on corporate america mind set which has no place in a university setting. I also have to agree with the comments made in regards to "graduate student life". I do not use the union, gym, nor extracurriculars on campus because I simply do not have time to enjoy those luxuries. I'm more concerned about networking with fellow researchers, generating publications, intellectual property, and contributing to the scientific community. Very similar to a fancy car with all the bells and whistles but does it really serve it's purpose?

211 Anurag Rimzhim

- a I am writing this email to you to express that I would NOT like to pay extra money as my fee to help build the recreational center. I am a grad student, live off campus, have not visited the present gym for even once during the last three year and do not want to visit the new proposed recreational center. The stipend I get is already quite low and I have to give up almost all recreation to help me survive in that money. This additional increase in the list would be just too much burden on us. I already have not come to terms with why we have to pay such high semester fee and then this increase would be just too much! Please be not that unkind to us. We are financially on our own and many a times find it hard to make both ends meet. Why should I pay when I will not use those facilities?

212 Jenna Shapiro

- a I am shocked and disappointed that the university would increase graduate student fees when we already have one of the highest fees to pay in the area, *especially* since a overwhelming majority of the graduate students will NOT use this new gym. Many of us are trying to support families on a graduate student stipend, and cannot afford to pay for such embellishment. We are one of the main reasons this university is a RESEARCH 1 university by supporting our faculty in their research endeavors. We do so much for this university's reputation, and I am saddened that this is the outcome; that the board and undergraduates feel that this is an acceptable burden to



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

place on already struggling graduate students. Please put yourself in our shoes and think this over. I vote NO to the new recreation center.

213 Amy Florian

- a As grad students we work very hard for very little money and even less appreciation. We are the reason Uconn can even be able to teach so many undergrads. Most of us live at the poverty level already and increasing fees is another way to tell us we are not appreciated and that no matter how hard we work for you we will continue to be paid less. We don't have extra money to pay for things we don't even use. It really is an outrage and a complete disregard for our living conditions. Show us Uconn cares about their grad students and our contribution. Please don't take more money.

214 Xiaoyan Tang

- a I am a graduate student and I do not like the idea of increasing grad student fee. A lot of grad student just never use the gym. Personally It is unfair to make it mandatory!! Also, the money income sources can come from different ways, it is unnecessary to get from students who may never benefit from using the new building. Thank you so much!

215 Charles Bridge

- a The reason for this email is to state my opinion for the proposed increase in graduate student fees. It is absolutely incredible that the University would propose that already financially burdened graduate students (try living in Connecticut with an income of \$20,000/ year) could afford such an increase. Our fees are substantially higher than many surrounding state universities without the proposed increase. Does the University even attempt to calculate the cost of living for Connecticut graduate students when appropriating Graduate Assistant salary?

216 Nicole Depowski

- a I was shocked last week when I read the emails from GSS regarding the building of the new recreation center on campus. Specifically, I cannot understand why the Board of Trustees thinks it's responsible to take out a \$300 million bond that will be repaid through a dramatic increase in student fees. Furthermore, I cannot understand why, when 74% of graduate students who responded to the poll said they would NOT use the facility, they would still be burdened with an increase in fees to subsidize use of the gym for undergraduates. I do not work in finance, but the basic financial skill I have learned so far is predicated on the notion that I should not buy things that I cannot afford. I will admit that this is a lesson I learned late in my undergraduate career and certainly understood quickly upon graduation. I think it is irresponsible for the decision makers on campus to heed cries of undergraduate desires rather than consider the financial consequences of this decision (as I'm sure most undergrads are not). It may be possible that UCONN is finally overextending itself with the vanity of needing a 'state of the art' recreation facility at the expense of its students. Students do not need a fancy facility to stay healthy. Athletes on campus have private facilities for their personal use and as many of us know, individuals who are dedicated to their health and fitness will find ways to work with what they have. It's not that the undergraduate community 'needs' a new gym; the undergraduate community *wants* a fancy new gym and I'm sure school recruiters *want* a fancy new gym as well. I understand the necessity of fees and agree that some things should be subsidized by students.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

However, \$2,084 per academic year seems outrageously high for graduate student fees. Now that an increase of up to \$600 (in some estimates) for graduate student fees is being proposed, I took the liberty of researching other top public universities and universities nearby to compare graduate student fees. For your convenience, I have attached an Excel spreadsheet that hopefully puts our fees into perspective. The numbers reported include activities fees, registration fees, technology and transportation fees at various institutions, along with the internet link if you would like to see for yourself. Monetary value aside, I would also like to address the issue of graduate student life on campus and how divorced it is from the undergraduate style of living. A majority of graduate students do not live on campus and most of us are supporting ourselves and a family on the graduate stipend we receive without help of parents who can still call us dependents (as many undergraduates do). We do not use the union as we cannot afford to buy our lunch, we do not use the gym because we do not have time, we do not attend extracurriculars on campus because our research, teaching, and education are our extracurriculars. Furthermore, many of us attempt to do all this without taking out loans in ADDITION to loans we already had to take out for our undergraduate education. Finally, and most importantly, I am willing to bet that a vast majority of graduate students did not come to UCONN for the amenities. We did not come here to go to the gym, participate in spring weekend, or participate in college sports. While some of these things may serve as convenient distractions at times, we came here for our research. We came here to work with our advisors, further our educations, publish research, and contribute to scientific knowledge in 100s of different domains. When you are recruiting undergraduate students and talking about the ACADEMIC opportunities available to them, you are most likely talking about centers, labs and other various programs that would not be feasible without support from graduate students. The support we give our advisors allows them to dedicate their time to teaching and grant writing that are so necessary for the academic integrity of this institution. I ask that you please not forget how vital graduate students are to this campus and don't offend us by increasing our fees for something we will not use. I also ask that you please not dissuade competitive graduate students from applying to or attending UCONN due to the overwhelming burden of fees compared to similar universities in the area. Finally, I ask that you re-think this burden you are planning to put on students (both graduate and undergraduate) that will need to be paid over 30 years. I don't believe that this will be the only increase to student fees during that time, but I do believe that our fees reflect the vanity of UCONN decision makers that we need to have nice shiny new things that we cannot afford, rather than spending a fraction of that money to renovate and improve what we already have. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, and I hope that there is still time to stop this outrageous proposal and regret that I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow (which I heard about a week ago) due to research obligations. I only wish that I had more time in my schedule to stop the research I do for this University and actually take the time to look into the financial decisions being made on this campus. I hope that I can trust UCONN decision makers and trustees to make responsible decisions that don't require the masses to subsidize the vanities and desires of the minority.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a As a grad student, I am not satisfied with reasons for increasing grad fees and I vote NO on the recreation center and ask you to consider our votes.

218 Kathleen Burns

- a Please vote no on the proposed recreation center. As I grad student I don't want to be burdened with something that I will NEVER use.

219 Kyle Beltle

- a I am writing to express my disagreement with the University's decision to build a new rec center and fund it via mandatory student fees. As an online graduate student I have no need for such amenities. I would prefer that the university focus its resources and energy on improving the quality of the education it provides so that our degrees will continue to enjoy a good reputation in the business community.

220 Andrew Rose

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

221 Katherine Weeks

- a I am a full-time PhD student who is adamantly opposed to the proposed fee increases. My reasons are as follows. I am fortunate enough to receive a graduate assistantship, for which I am grateful. Unfortunately, to retain my assistantship I am limited in what other monies I can earn. I may teach an extra class or so in the summer without jeopardizing my funding, but I cannot get another job. If I need more money, all I can do is take out loans - unless I chose to give up my funding and health-insurance. As such, I am very upset about the massive increase to fees proposed for graduate students, in order to cover services many of us will not use and will provide no benefit. The amount discussed comprises roughly 2.5% of my gross income. So far this year I have paid more than \$2000 toward required university fees that were not covered by my tuition waver. This means that more than 10% of my pay is already required to keep my graduate assistantship - if I did not pay these fees, I could not remain a student. Increasing this amount to roughly 12.5% of my income, when the income is not particularly large to begin with and is also artificially capped is an unreasonable burden to place on students. Furthermore, if students are unable to earn a living wage while attending graduate school at UCONN, that will impact the school's ability to attract and retain quality graduate students. Moreover, on a personal note, as a commuting student with a young child in daycare, even if improved campus facilities were available tomorrow they would not benefit me at all: the prestige of my graduate program would not increase, I would not have time or ability to use the facilities, and more financial stress would negatively impact my quality of life. A student like me gains absolutely nothing in exchange for the increased financial burden. Please reconsider increasing graduate fees.

222 Shantanu Namjoshi

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

223 Nieranjan Perera

- a I vote NO on the recreation center, Please do not increase the fees by \$400-\$600.

224 Spundana Malla



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I am a graduate student from Chemistry department. I **strongly disagree** for 14 % increase in fee. We as graduate students have many responsibilities and the stipend that we get is hardly enough for our daily expenses. We can mere amount of 1500 \$ per month after all deductions (including tax deductions, and fee deductions). Out of this amount we had to pay rent which is around 800 \$ and other expenses sum up to more than 700 \$ (like food, car insurance, gas, phone, electricity, internet, credit card bills, personal necessities). Actually the amount that we are getting right now is very less and most of the graduate students are in debt. If the fee is going to increase further. We will have trouble even with our basic necessities. **Please do consider all these aspects and do not increase the fee.**

225 Julie Jenkins

- a I realize the meeting on voting for the rec center is at 10:30am today but since this was just recently brought to my attention, this is the first chance I have had to write a response. I will keep it brief... I am already paying a very high amount of graduate student fees for luxuries I do not, and have never used here at UConn. That is lot of money to add to my fees when I do not even currently use what I am paying for. It may not seem like a lot to you, but on a graduate student salary/budget, that is an extreme amount. I have never used the current rec center, nor do I even know where it is located. I have no interest in helping to pay for a new recreation facility.

226 Ran-Der Hwang

- a I vote NO on the recreation center

227 Kunica Asija

- a I believe it is extremely unfair to expect Graduate students to bear the burden of paying off the loan for another Recreation Center. Yes, we could do with a bigger and better Center, but I along with other Grad students am not being granted an increase in my salary to compensate for the increase in the fee bill. I believe that the school can expect Graduate students who will be making use of the recreation center (after how many ever years it takes for completion) to help pay off the loan that the school will take because they will be using the recreation center. I think it is unfair for the authorities/school to expect me to pay for something I may not even use. I vote NO for recreation center hoping my voice along with the others will be heard.

228 Ashlesha Raut

- a I vote no to recreation center.

229 Mariya Pindrus

- a I vote no on the recreation center

230 Katherine Mueller

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. As a graduate student who commutes from over an hour away, it is unlikely that I will ever use this facility. The fee is particularly burdensome for PhD students who plan to be enrolled at UConn for many years (6+) while they complete their degrees and who live on small graduate stipends. Graduate students should be allowed to opt in to this new facility. I am adamantly against mandatory fee increases for this project. Please respect the needs and concerns of UConn's graduate and commuting students.

231 Jennifer Satterwhite



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a My name is Jennifer Satterwhite and I am one of UCONN graduate students. I have recently heard of the increase in graduate student fee via word of mouth in the Department of Chemistry. However, I disregarded this notion of a large increase in fees because I did not believe those individuals, but then I received numerous emails from both the GSS and our graduate student communicator and the rumors were true. I decided I should research the reason for the \$400 to \$600 increase in fees myself before being the typical graduate student that just complains. After investigation I learned that the reason the fees would be increasing is due to a new 'state of the art' recreational facility. The first question that came to mind was, "Where is the recreational facility now?", next, "Why should I have an increase in my fees when I do not use the probably already state of the art facility we currently have?" and finally I asked myself, "Is this something the university 'needs' or center that the undergraduate students 'want'? I truly hope the committee that makes the finally decision on whether or not the graduate student fees will increase at least read all of the emails from the graduate students that attend YOUR SCHOOL! My first question is, how many of you on the Trustee committee were graduate students yourselves? If you were please take a minute now to sit back and reflect on your time as a graduate student and how much work you did for the pay you received. Those of you who did not go the graduate school let me explain at least quickly the life of a Chemistry graduate student...We teach 20 hours a week, we grade for our class and faculty, we proctor and grade exams, not to mention we take our on course work, study for our on courses, and then research for 40 hours a week or more for our advisors. The stipend we are awarded is \$21,000.00. With this money I must pay a home mortgage, provide myself food, pay home bills, pay back student loans from undergrad and pay the university fees at UCONN. If you total this all that actually gives me very little money in case of an emergency. So with what money would you like me to pay the extra \$400 to \$600 fee? If our stipends do not increase and you increase the fees for a NEW GYM that most of us do not use (see poll), you will inturn have students struggling to make ends meet and cause un-needed stress. In case you are not aware, we as graduate students are the heart of how your university and faculty members survive and we do not obtain any credit for this, ever!!!! Please consider all opinions provided by all of YOUR UCONN Graduate students. Note that all of YOUR graduate students are how YOUR faculty members are able to provide grants and amazing research which is why our academics and ranking of the university is so high. The ranking of your academics is not based on the fancy gym facility. So...really think, would it be a reward to YOUR GRADUATE students to have an INCREASED FEE for a facility that do not use...I believe not!

232 Brittany Schnurr

- a I vote no on the recreation center. It is not fair that graduate students will have to endure such a large increase in fees for something that we will never get to appreciate. Money is tight as it is, funding is getting more and more limited for graduate students, especially now that departments will be cutting their hiring of work study students. Please keep in mind that graduate students do a lot for this University, both with labor and with our help in promoting the University with our research endeavors. Please allow us to continue to contribute to the University by keeping our fees the same.

233 Paul Wortman



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. I think it's ridiculous that you are gonna raise grad student fees to pay for undergrad facilities when on top of this, the small effort the school puts toward the graduate students is embarrassing. I also find it insulting that you are going to increase graduate student fees when you've recently spent money on a new basketball building that could have been used for this recreational facility. UConn spends money they don't have and then tries to bleed the graduate students dry.

234 Chelsea Blatchley

- a I would like to voice my concern regarding the proposed student recreation facility. I do not think it is reasonable for graduate students to assume an increase in student fees of \$400-\$600 per year to accommodate the cost of this proposed facility. I think the gym UConn has is perfectly fine as a recreation facility for the student body and that investment in a new gym seems like a frivolous expense when state budgets are already limited. Student fees for graduate students are already exorbitant when compared to other Universities in the Northeast (see link below for comparison). I think asking graduate students to shoulder more cost is an unreasonable proposal for something that many graduate students will not use (74% in a recent poll indicated they would not use the new facility). Thank you for taking the time to read this e-mail and I hope student opinion is carefully taken into consideration when the board makes its decision.

235 Heidi Vincent

- a I would like to add my voice, albeit late and briefly, to the debate regarding the construction of the new recreational facility. My opinion is that the facility should not be built at this time. I sincerely feel that at this time it is an amount that many students simply cannot afford. As a full-time teacher working my way through grad school and commuting nearly an hour after work, the additional \$400-\$600 in fees will be a significant burden for a facility that, quite frankly, does nothing to benefit me or many of my colleagues. In fact, I recently cancelled my gym membership in the town where I live, not because I do not exercise or care about my health, but because the cost was too much at this time. I am now told that UConn will be charging me twice as much as those gym fees for a facility an hour away from my home whether I like it (or use it) or not. This facility is not necessary at this time, as there are already resources available to students both on and off-campus for students. I hope the Board seriously considers the burdens students are already carrying, as well as the economic environment in which we are trying to meet these same burdens.

236 Carla Silva-Muhammad

- a [Resent Andrea Bizarro's email in agreement.]

237 Jonathan Harvey

- a As a current doctoral student in the Department of Music, I would like to express my strong reservations about raising grad student fees to pay for a new recreation facility on campus. I currently support myself and my family through my work at UConn, but I do not live on campus - in fact, I don't even live in the state of Connecticut. I know that my situation is not unique among graduate students, and I think that, while improving facilities is important for the University, the cost of this improvement should not be paid largely by the very set of students who will be least likely to use it. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I regret that I cannot attend the



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

meeting this morning due to teaching obligations. If I had the time in my schedule to stop the teaching I do for this University and attend the meeting, I certainly would. I hope that the Board of Trustees makes a decision that is good for the graduate students of this school, and votes against this fee hike.

238 Qihang Shi

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. thank you.

239 Bobbi Stromer

- a I would like to voice my disapproval of raising graduate student fees to help finance a new rec facility. Like many other graduate students, my free time is limited and therefore do not often find time to use the current facilities. It is frustrating to me already that I am forced to pay fees for services and facilities that I don't / can't use. To add an additional couple hundred dollars to these fees would be outrageous. I also feel that this rec center is more for undergraduates and will be used as more of a recruiting tool for incoming undergrads than anything else. I don't feel I should have to pay for a nicer place for undergraduates to workout.

240 Alice Zelman

- a I am absolutely opposed to the exorbitant increase in fees for graduate students to pay for a new rec center. The overwhelming majority of grad students would not use this facility! I certainly will not. I work too hard to have time to go to the gym and prefer to exercise at home. And we already pay a disproportionately high fee for gym use. If undergraduate students want a new gym, then THEY should pay for it. Our stipends are quite small and we cannot afford to further subsidize a facility that we won't even use.

241 Allyson Yankle

- a I am urging you to reconsider the option to build a new recreation facility that will be paid for by mandatory student fees. I understand that this is an exciting time for the university with the expansive new hiring, remodeling, and building. I understand that this part of the initiative to keep UConn as one of the top public universities in the US. I know that there has been a movement to add in extra amenities in order to attract a competitive undergraduate population. This is all well and good, but I feel that what is being forgotten is the graduate student population, which the university depends on to help function. The proposed recreation facility puts an undue burden on the graduate students. First, we are asked to contribute equally in fees despite the fact that the number of undergraduate students at the Storrs campus is 17,528 compared to 7,955 graduate students **total** (<http://www.uconn.edu/students.php>). Second, not only are graduate students the minority, we are also not likely to use the new facility. In the poll conducted by the Graduate Student Senate, 74% of the respondents said that they not use the facility. So, not only are we the minority of the student population, but even a majority of us say that we will not use the new facility. This is a facility for the undergraduates and wanted by the undergraduates and yet the graduate students are facing a similar burden for in terms of paying for the facility. The proposed fee increase to graduate students to subsidize the recreational facility is between \$400 and \$600. On first glance, this does not seem too much considering the price tag. However, I'm asking that you consider the larger picture. My current stipend is around \$14,000 with an additional \$2,000 in fees. Currently, my rent costs almost 60% of my take home



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

pay living in Mansfield to cut down on transportation costs. I have to take out federal, unsubsidized loans to cover the university fees and my costs, particularly in the summer because most of the summer teaching jobs have been taken by faculty to cover the fact that their own wages have not had cost of living adjustments. While the current fee structure places the burden of paying on student fees, I'm urging you to consider the wider economic environment. I am not planning on receiving an increase in my own standard of living wage, but also the state of Connecticut is not in the best financial shape. I think that spending this kind of money on a facility that does not contribute the wider UConn community sends a poor message about the interests of the university and its ability to maintain its affordability to Connecticut families. I hope that the Board of Trustees balances out the whims of those who want the recreational facility now with those that argue for caution. I have no doubt that a new recreational facility could benefit undergraduate recruitment; I'm just saying that right now is not the time to consider such an expense. My issue with the project is asking all UConn students to chip in relatively evenly for something that is so aimed towards one segment of the population. Furthermore, the minority graduate student population depends largely upon a stipend that does not leave much room for substantial increases to our fee bills. Finally, do not forget that the University's mission is towards research and education of ALL of its students first and foremost. I feel that the University needs to keep in mind that an increase of fees for both graduate students as well as undergraduates may hurt the University. By publicly reinforcing the increase of fees, this may deter students who were considering enrolling because it is too expensive, particularly at this point in time. I would argue that the University should put off a decision in favor of such a facility until it is economic viable to do so.

242 Clifford Vickrey

- a I am writing briefly to express my alarm at the University's decision to, in a rushed and non-deliberative fashion, finance a \$100 recreation center through student fees. As a Graduate Student (PhD. Candidate), I have seen my program of Political Science starved of cash and relevance--this upcoming Fall, for instance, funding only two incoming students. Colleagues, even recipients of funding, are saddled with student debt, high living expenses, exploitative teaching assistantships, and low morale. Some certainly fall below the officially delimited poverty line. Most live at a great enough distance from Storrs, or have easy enough access to off-campus gyms, to make any on-campus recreational facility prohibitively inconvenient. To ask harried Graduate students to finance a facility that only a small fraction of them will ever use is--pardon my vituperation--an insult, and almost as great an insult as the argument (heard in some quarters) that a \$400-per-annum fee hike is to their "benefit." There has to be a better way.

243 Grant Bouchillon

- a My name is Grant Bouchillon and I am a 3rd year Environmental Engineering Graduate student. I know the board is looking for ways to increase revenue, but asking grad students to foot the bill for a rec center that most of us don't even have time for is asking a lot. Here are some things that might give some insight into the grad student life. I work in my lab at least 50 hours a week. Do I currently have time to spend at the rec center? Would I ever use the new rec center? No ma'am. Did you know that my stipend awarded from the department does not cover grad fees? Between



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

the grad fees, and taxes I make less than 23,000 a year? That's slightly above minimum wage and barely covers my living expenses. Increasing our fees would put a strain on my already strained wallet. Is this any way to treat the current and future scientific leaders in our respective fields? Please vote **NO** on the rec center tomorrow. Thank you for your consideration.

244 Anish Kurian

- a As you have probably seen by now, there is a spreadsheet that has been passed around the graduate student listserv here regarding Grad student fees here @ UConn when compared to several comparable universities: (<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AtcHensTaf4qdDZFSVNzcEnhVDIyREM2c0o2MDJPX2c&usp=sharing>). The fact of the matter is UConn is way on the wrong side of the median. I think if you were then to look up stipends, you would come to find that accounting for cost of living, UConn is also on the wrong side of the median for this number as well. As the age old saying goes "two wrongs don't make a right" and in this case "two even more wrongs, don't make a right". Yes, the stipend increase of 4% is a nice bone to be tossed, however when looking back at stipend numbers in relation to increases in fees, cost of living, and simple inflation, since the 2008 financial crisis, the fact of the matter is stipends never recovered. Now tacking on an extra \$400-\$600 fee for Graduate students, is taking 3 steps backward and one step forward. I agree that a new Rec facility would be nice. However putting this burden on the shoulder of students in terms of fees, whether graduate or undergraduate is a cop-out by the administration and really not the first option that should be explored. If this project was so important steps should have been made to fund raise and seek private donations. This is one of the primary functions of a good and healthy administration. Additionally, a brand new football facility was built in recent years, and benefited a small number of UConn students. I do not see how if that type of situation arose, a case where many students could benefit would not be a lucrative option for state, private, or fundraising. The "too little too late" excuse and the big push to get this passed ASAP is not the manner in which this needs to be approached. The fact of the matter that the vote will occur over the summer when many students are not around, and the fact that Grad student voices and opinions are seemingly disregarded is inappropriate and appalling. The money for this type of facility should not come from solely from student fees. I think if students had to contribute a portion (\$50/year) this would be much more well received and appropriate. Many graduate students do not live near Storrs or would they use the facilities here. charging people \$500 for something they would not use seems very disturbing. An opt-in system for Grads seems more appropriate. Seeking outside donations seems appropriate. Looking for state funding seems appropriate. Taking out a \$100 bond 30-year bond, and then paying close to \$200 interest on the bond to pay off building this Rec center, not appropriate. We talk about financial responsibility and financial burdens. With this proposed plan, the financial burden will be on both the university and its students, two places that do not need further financial burden at this current point in time. Building this facility and expecting students to foot a large part of the bill is a horrible idea and financially irresponsible of the administrators and board of trustees to approve. Please feel free to email me if you have any questions about my comments. Thank you for your careful consideration.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees 24 April 2013

245 Andrea Kadilak

- a I would like to voice my extreme dissatisfaction at learning that the UConn graduate student fees were proposed to be increased another \$300-600 from their already high prices. As it is, spending over \$2000 out of pocket per year, which cannot be covered by any scholarships or fellowships, poses as significant financial burden. An additional several hundred dollars added to that bill, which is already significantly higher than many other well-ranked area colleges, is ridiculous. These fee bill increases will not only lead to discontent among current graduate students, but will also serve to dissuade top students from choosing UConn from its competitors, which can only harm the ranking of the school. The University of Connecticut should be first and foremost a place for learning, scholarship, and research. Top graduate students are needed to help teach students in classrooms and labs and also conduct the ground-breaking research the University should be placing above all else. An additional recreational facility is not necessary on campus and expecting graduate students to pay such a large sum instead of successfully raising that amount of money is irresponsible. If anything, more money should be spent on student scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, and research facilities instead of additional high-end athletic facilities which the bulk of graduate students would not use (because we are spending most of our time teaching and helping students and conducting research). I ask that you please re-consider the additional \$300-600 on the graduate student fee bill as well as consider reducing the fee bill to levels on par with competitor schools and re-evaluating the priorities of the university. UConn should not merely be known as a place with a good basketball team and fancy new gyms, but somewhere ground-breaking research is conducted everyday and a place where that research and the graduate students who conduct it are supported whole-heartedly by the administration at all levels.

246 Hamidreza Shabgard

- a As a married graduate student who must support his family's life with his research assistantship I am frustrated of the news concerning possible increases in graduate fees for the cause of building new recreation center. It is even more annoying considering the fact that I use the current gym less than once a month. It looks like UConn tends to "punish" graduate students just for being a graduate student. Why should graduate students who their busy research and teaching duties prohibit them from exercise pay for facilities they do not use?

247 Brian Castellucio

- a I am a graduate student in the Psychology Department. Upon learning of the proposal for a new recreation center, I was impressed that UConn had raised enough money for such a project. Then, I learned that UConn has NOT raised ANY money for such a project. Financing a large-scale project by increasing fees is horribly irresponsible. Graduate students CANNOT be asked to pay more than our already extreme annual fees. This is a matter of UConn demonstrating its commitment to the graduate students who compose the "labor class" of the University. The grads are the work force that supports the intellectual progress of the institution. With all due respect, there is an enormous difference between undergraduates and graduates in level of contribution to the institution. While undergrads' parents may pay a substantial portion of the University's operating costs, we graduate students are in the laboratories and libraries doing the



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

"hard labor" of academia to help bring UConn into a new era of prestige. We are truly the unseen, unacknowledged muscle pushing the University toward its rightful place among the greatest public research institutions in the country. Please do not make the mistake of approving an irresponsible funding plan that will place a burden on graduate students' humble finances for ANY project at UConn. To be clear, I am not opposed to the creation of a new recreation center funded by private donors. Rather, I am opposed to the increase in fees that the current proposal would cause. I was embarrassed on behalf of the University to read on the FAQ page the following: "A bond will be necessary to fund the construction costs, and then be repaid in full over 30 years. To secure the loan, a consistent, reliable source of funding such as a fee is required. Private fundraising is not sufficiently predictable. Receipts derived from pledges of private donations, which are also typically paid over time, might conceivably reduce the amount borrowed or interest expense, depending on timing. Based on our ability to secure private funds for similar facilities such as the Student Union, we believe significant donor support is unlikely. Waiting until even a portion of \$100 million is raised would likely guarantee that the project would not move forward for many years, if ever." This sort of rigid response to the very legitimate question of funding source is an insult to the intelligence of the student body. To assert that "private fundraising is not sufficiently predictable" to rely on for this project is to deny the success of current and past fundraising campaigns at UConn and at universities all across the country. There is no evidence that trying to fund this project privately would not be feasible. I urge the University's administration to be wise. Do not build a new facility on credit. Raise money, and pay for it properly. If no one wants to raise money, that is a quite different issue from fundraising not being a feasible approach to funding a UConn project. Make no mistake, an increase in graduate student fees, no matter the reason, will be met with ruthless resistance both from those who have raised their voices against the recreation center proposal and from those who have not, but toil in laboratories across the Storrs campus at all hours of day and night, quietly and humbly providing the muscle that keeps our proud and growing research institution moving forward.

248 Parvaneh Fazeli

- a I vote No on the recreation center.

249 Christina Henderson

- a I'm currently a graduate student in the English Department at UConn and would just like to register my opposition to the hike in graduate student fees that will occur in order to finance the proposed \$100 million recreation facility. I won't be able to attend the meeting tomorrow, and I'm writing to you directly because the electronic submission form on the Board of Trustees website is not functioning properly. I have loved my time here at UConn and feel privileged to work with such talented faculty and students. I'm thankful for the opportunity to teach courses each year, and the stipend I receive for doing so. Nonetheless, living on a graduate student budget for the seven years it will take me to get my PhD (and MA along the way) is actually challenging. More than \$2,000 dollars of my stipend already goes back to the University in the form of graduate fees. Adding an extra \$300 or \$400 for the rec center would make it even more challenging. While I plan to have completed my dissertation by the time the fees would take



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

effect in 2016, I don't think future graduate or undergraduate students should have to bear this burden. UConn undergraduates already pay a huge amount to go to a state institution. It seems to me that accessible, quality education should be UConn's goal and that decreasing, not increasing, student fees should be a key priority.

250 Japneet Kaur

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

251 MD Shakil

- a I am a graduate student. "I vote **NO** on the recreation center". It would be overwhelmingly burdensome for the students. I, rather, would like to see reduced graduate student fees from the next. Because it's high compared with the other institutes.

252 Matthew Histen

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. The fees are already outrageous for graduate students, and I am unconcerned with such a facility. There are enough services as is to keep people active and involved.

253 Somaiyeh Ghaffarnia

- a I vote NO on the recreation center!

254 Mengxuan Lu

- a I am a grad student in school of business. I would like to express my strong feeling against the proposed increasing fee for the grad students who will burden the new recreational facility that we barely use. Please consider the opinions and feelings from the students who will be affected by your decision.

255 Ashley Balsano

- a I am outraged at the fact that UCONN would even consider building the recreation center and charging their students an absurd amount of money to do so, when the majority of the students do not even want the recreation center. I am broke, as most college/graduate students are, and DO NOT HAVE THE MONEY to spend on extra fees. If I did, I would not request financial aid. So... I VOTE NO ON THE RECREATION CENTER.

256 Lauren Haisley

- a I will keep my e-mail brief, but I wanted to respectfully protest the increase in graduate student fees to pay for the new UCONN rec center. When 74% of the graduate students say they will not use the rec center (and likely hundreds more who are too busy to respond to the e-mail and too busy to use the rec center), it is unfair to saddle us with a large portion of the cost. I imagine that undergrads are more likely to use this facility as well as athletic teams etc. Therefore if UCONN would like to build this new facility, these should be the people paying it- the people who will be using it.

257 N/A

- a I vote NO to anything that is increasing our graduate student fees.

258 Andrey Karpyuk

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

259 Shengli Zhang



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

- a I vote NO on the recreation center. The graduate student fee is really too high that I cannot afford any increase.

260 Alison Mant

- a I share you general shock and outrage. I am afraid I am in class at the time of the meeting tomorrow, but I would like to add some comments in my absence. Apologies for the brief nature of my email, but I am writing this in between deadlines. The magnitude of the fee increase is out of all proportion with the benefits - which I will not be able to use myself (I doubt they plan to have it fully functional in the next 4 years). I am essentially being asked to fund a rec center and huge personal cost that I will never get to use. After paying fees and taxes, I live on ~\$8,000 a year. The fee increase is essentially 5-10% of my living wage, which is already far, far below the poverty line. I do not have any parental financial support during my graduate studies. Given the information provided in your email UConn already charges fees well beyond other universities. I argue that this limits its competitiveness in attracting graduate students. Charge the users - a monthly gym membership can be used to fund the project. Do not charge the already overburdened graduate students, many of whom have no interest in the center and of those that do, few to none will actually be around to see the project completed. If the university continues with this plan and increases my fee bill accordingly I will advocate for the graduate students to unionize themselves. I will, quite frankly, refuse to pay that part of the fee bill. Good luck tomorrow. Heaven help them if they pass this pile of crap.

261 Angela Alston

- a My name is Angela Alston and I am a non traditional grad student. I absolutely vote NO on the recreation center. I read the email composed by Andrea Bizarro and I agree with everything she said. One thing i would like to stress is this. Most grad students do not utilize the gym anyway, nor do we have time. Why would UCONN think it's fair to ask us to be willing to pay more for something I dont use. Also, the majority of events that are offered on this campus are designed with the undergraduate students in mind. There are many events I would love to attend like the Trustee meeting tommorrow however, the majority of events offered are at a time when most grad students cant take a day off work to go. Im not going to repeat everything she said but I must stress I ABSOLUTELY DO NOT AGREE on this recreation center. I am sure there are so many other things that money can be spent on rather than something like that.

262 Gayathri Srinivasan

- a As a graduate student at UConn, I request the authorities to reconsider their decision about fee hike for Student recreation center. It would greatly burden each and every graduate student here. Thank you for your time!

263 Olivia Saccomanno

- a I absolutely vote no on the proposed recreation center and the increase in graduate student fees to pay for the 300 million bond. I am an MFA Acting Graduate who is very satisfied with the professors at this program but not at all with my experience with the priorities of this school as an institution. Our acting facilities in DRAMA/MUSIC are abysmal. I would like to see the board of trustees come and work in a building that has not been renovated or even really improved in 20+ years (from 8am to 11:30 pm monday-Friday, 8 hours on Saturday, plus untold hours that we put



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

in on projects and classwork outside of class time). In fact it was only last year, when they removed the ASBESTOS in the lobby floors. *****Our facilities are severely unclean to the point that they are unsanitary and a health concern***** Instead of increasing my fees to pay for YOUR facility which I will never have the time to actually use because I am a GRADUATE STUDENT DEDICATED TO MY DEPARTMENT, how about you use the fees I am already paying (dont get me started on the difference in the amount that we are ALREADY paying compared to other public universities) to make the classrooms and office that I work in at least SANITARY. Absolutely, I vote no and I hope that you take this into consideration as you make a decision that the OVERWHELMING MAJORITY of the graduate population OPPOSES.

264 Olga Koullis

- a As a commuter and as a graduate student who selected UConn based on FINANCIAL reasons, I am outraged that the University considers it ethical to significantly increase graduate student fees in order to build a new rec center. Many graduate students such as myself do NOT have time to spend in rec centers during our intense course of study. Nor do we have the FINANCIAL STABILITY to support such an endeavor. It is highly irresponsible of the University to ask its most financially hard pressed members (graduate students!) to take such a significant hit in pay, which is what fees ultimately are.

265 Zara Rix

- a I either vote NO on the recreation center or request that consideration be made of the distinction between graduate and undergraduate students. As a full-time graduate student and teaching assistant, I live on 20,000 a year. 2,000 of this is already claimed by the University in student fees. A rise of up to \$600 of fees a year is more than a month's rent. As a graduate student, I attend UConn for its academic excellence, not its facility centers, and I would ask that as graduate students as a whole report that we shall not use the facility, we be exempt from the exorbitant cost of constructing it.

266 Dina L. Rivera

- a I vote NO on the new recreation center.

267 Kristen Riley

- a I unfortunately will not be able to attend the meeting tomorrow, Wednesday 4/23/13, but wanted to voice my opinion about the increase in fees in order to fund a new recreation facility. Particularly, 1. If the university cannot pay for the recreation center with relatively little burden on students (especially graduate students supporting families and the like), don't build it. 2. Here's what I mean by "burden." The over \$1,000 in fees every semester is nearly crippling. I legitimately barely eat anything but peanut butter during the first month of the semester because of that fee amount. I live well within my means and scrimp and save. So adding an additional \$400-\$600 in fees will mean that I will have to take out loans to cover the difference. It is a financial burden, it is a credit burden, it is a health burden, and it is an emotional burden. 3. This burden is not only my personal experience. In fact, financial stress has been empirically linked to a variety of negative health outcomes, including increase in smoking, drinking to cope, increased risk of cardiovascular disease, etc. (see Hakkio and Keeton, 2009 for a review). 4. Graduate students are outraged, and feel unsupported by decision makers at this university



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

(especially when we can see comparisons to other universities' much lower fees). The university that we work tremendously hard to support and in which we attempt to foster an environment of collaboration and caring kindness. We, with the support of our advisors, are the ones who conduct research to make this a Research One university. We teach your undergraduate students with care and kindness and detailed attention. We are integral to the functioning of this university, and this does not seem like an appropriate way to keep us feeling included. So, with this measure, you are not only simply increasing some fees. You are sending a message that you don't care about graduate students' overall stress burden, our current and future health, and our tremendous contributions to this university. Please take this into consideration when making decisions around the recreation facility and increasing fees for graduate students. Thank you.

268 Jennifer Oliver

- a I vote NO on the recreation center.

269 Virginia Ruiz

- a I vote NO to the increase in graduate student fees. I agree with Andrea Bizarro in that I, as a graduate student, will definitely not have the time to use any university amenities such as a gym. I am also shocked that our student fees are so much higher than the University of Hartford.

270 Volodymyr Serhiyenko

- a I am a graduate student at UConn. I received email from GSS regarding possible increase on graduate student fee. I strongly disagree with the possibility of the increase for already too high student fee. I vote NO on the recreational center! Moreover, I would like the matter of graduate student fee to be discussed in the nearest future. With the high fee it is becoming very challenging for graduate students to support themselves, especially those with a family! High student fee is making us think not about our research but how we are going to pay rent during the next summer.

271 Maryam Sadeghi

- a This is Maryam Sadeghi a graduate student in Allied Health Sciences department. I vote NO on the recreation center.

272 Dasal Jashar

- a I am emailing to address my concerns and reserve about the potential fee increase next year due to plans for a new recreation center. As an graduate student, I am currently struggling to pay the current activities fees and know that I would find it very difficult to pay the potential increase. This compounded with not taking part in on-campus activities/facilities due to me living far from campus, makes this potential change difficult to swallow. Please take this into consideration when voting tomorrow.

273 Guang Ouyang

- a I am a graduate student here at UConn. I write this email because I received email from GSS regarding possible increase on graduate student fee because of the proposal of a new recreational center on campus. Just like the vast majority(survey shows 74%) of graduate students, I would not be willing to pay the proposed fee for a new recreational facility, because I don't think I am going to use it. The part I don't understand is that why the entire graduate student population should be requested to pay for something most of them don't need? If a new



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

recreational center is really needed by the majority of some student population (maybe undergraduates, maybe further survey are needed to confirm of this), why not simply requesting that specific student population to be responsible for that cost? Obviously (from available survey), graduate students are not a student population whose majority really need a new recreational center. If a new recreational center is really needed to be built, I have a suggestion here and wish you may consider: Making this fee optional to graduate students, and the new recreational center will only be open to those who paid for it. I was a student of University of Miami, and above is actually how U of Miami deal with the fees for recreational center. They make wellness center fee mandatory for all undergraduate students though. Thank you for reading my email, and hope you may make a wise decision for all UConn students on this issue.

274 Mehdi Sadi

- a I am a graduate student and I vote NO to the new Recreational Facility. The existing Grad student fee is too much given the high living cost of this area. If the fee is increased, UCONN will lose talented grad students and the university's rank in the area of research will go down. If you look at the current grad student body, how many US citizen grad students are there? Most of those with US citizenship do not attend UCONN because of its lower rank. Mostly poor international students work hard on graduate research and keep UCONN grad school's ranking to somewhat respectable range. Not only the fee increase would be an injustice to the existing international grad students, but also it will keep potential future hard working grad students away from UCONN.

275 Lin Nie

- a I am certain this is the Nth email you have received from graduate students voicing concerns over the annual fee increase to be forced upon us. I am among many other graduate students that are simply shocked by the college's decision to do this. It might come as a surprise to most administrators that the Rec center will not benefit the graduate students as much as the rest of the voters not because we choose not to do but because the conditions, job descriptions of ours. It comes to this: the college is asking us to pay our students to have more fun in the Rec center while being occupied ourselves educating the students for the college. I wish I could come up with a win-win solution. Being graduate student is an odd status, somewhere caught between being the educational system's slave and its practitioner, and all we can do is to seek as much protection from those in power as we could.

276 Gayatri Phadke

- a This email contains my comment on the issue of graduate students fee increase for the new recreation center at UConn. I am forwarding this email to you as I was unable to upload my comment online. I am a chemistry department graduate student and currently live off campus. I have not used the Gym or the Recreation center at UConn since my arrival. I am writing to state my opinion against the proposed increase in graduate fees to build a new center. I and many of my colleagues seldom use the facilities at UConn as most of us teach and conduct research as part of our PhD program. Roughly, we teach and grade for faculty an average of 20 hrs per week. The research consumes majority of the rest of the time, leaving no time to spend at the gym or the rec center. The resounding statistics also emphasize that this situation is similar across all



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

departments at the university. Thus the question of whether the recreation center would benefit us is entirely unwarranted. Moreover, the question of whether this center would be built during the time I spend here as a graduate student takes precedence. More likely, if the new center is built, it would not become available for the next 2-3 years. This means that even if I were to have the time to spend at the center, I would not be able to make full use of it before I leave UConn. So I urge you to consider other alternatives to increasing the graduate student fees across the board.

277 Nicole Jones

- a While I completely understand that all students must bear the costs for university improvements, it seems that this particular cost is something that will provide the least amount of benefit for graduate students. I would be more than willing to pay-per-service should I decide to use the facility. I would also be willing to pay for a facility or for a negotiated discount at other facilities that was more applicable for graduate students. In the future, I think it would be beneficial to involve graduate students in the conversation earlier, as what is often perceived as a benefit for many undergraduates is not necessarily perceived as such for graduate students.

278 Abdullah-Al Mamun

- a I am a graduate student in the CSE department of the School of Engineering and I write to you today to express my disapproval of building a new recreational facility on campus at the expense of significantly increasing Grad Student Annual fees. I vote NO to the new Recreational Facility.

279 Kazi Farzan Ahmed

- a I implore the board to reconsider the proposal of building a new recreational facility on campus at the expense of increasing Graduate Student fees significantly. While the majority of graduate students, who merely manage the living cost with their paychecks, do not even use the recreational facility, to impose the burden of the additional fees on them would no way be justified.

280 Margaret Luciano

- a I am (again) voting No on the recreation center.

281 Ho Cheung Brian Lee

- a I am a first year graduate student. After reading some of the documents regarding the new recreation center, I was surprised. I don't understand why university cannot charge student based on their usage. Instead, all of us have to pay in order to provide a "free" recreation to some students. I am a graduate student. I am not coming for well-rounded education, so I think it's not my interest to build a new recreation center. Indeed I think the facilities in recreation center is fine for me. Also, it's already a great burden for most of the grad students to pay almost 5-10% of their assistantship as school fee. I am an international graduate student. My graduate assistantship is about 20000. I have to pay for the rent, car, insurance, PLUS student fee. I could spend \$25 - \$33 to pay my daily expense for at least two weeks. Given the tight budget and expensive living standard in here, I do not want to increase another 14% for my student fee. I believe as a responsible, highly respected university, they should always consider the welfare of the student, not transferring their financial burden to their students. If you use student's money to build such a nice recreation center, why can't you use the money more wisely by funding more



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

research centers to boost your research ranking, why don't you spend more money on hiring more teaching staff to improve your teaching standard. Isn't education the most important goal of a university???. Why recreation center? Unfortunately I have classes tomorrow but I will say NO to increase my student fees because of the recreation center. Thank you for your attention.

282 Emily Moulton

- a I am emailing with my concerns regarding the new recreational facility proposed by the university. I am a graduate student in the clinical psychology program, and am deeply concerned about the increase in fees that would be associated with this new facility. I feel that it is unfair to burden graduate students with these fees when it is HIGHLY likely that proportionately very few graduate students would use the proposed center. As a graduate student, I do not currently (and will not) work out on campus, and can find cheaper options off campus than the proposed center. Further, it is graduate students themselves that would will have to bare the burden of these additional costs, while it is likely the parents of undergraduates who will pay their fees. While I cannot speak to others' financial situations, I know that it would be a huge burden and extremely difficult to afford these additional fees on my small stipend. I strongly oppose the building of this new recreational center for this reason. I understand, and can sympathize with the need for a new facility, but I feel that it is wrong to ask graduate students to help financially, when they are barely making it by as it is.

E-mail from Talia Shabtay:

April 22, 2013

Susan Locke

Assistant Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees

University of Connecticut

352 Mansfield Road, Unit 2048

Storrs, CT 06269-1048

Dear Susan Locke:



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

I am writing to express my views and offer some suggestions regarding the University of Connecticut's proposed estimated 14% graduate student fee increase to pay for the new recreation center. Contrary to what you might be hearing from my graduate student colleagues, I am thrilled that UConn is planning such a facility. The lack of such a facility actually disturbs me deeply and has negatively impacted the quality of my experience as a UConn graduate student. I have spent a great deal of time thinking about the glaring omission of a comprehensive recreational and physical activity center since the first day I set foot on campus - I exaggerate none.

As someone who completed a Master's degree at The Ohio State University, I can wholeheartedly attest to the difference OSU's state-of-the-art Recreation & Physical Activity Center (RPAC) makes in the lives of all students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The RPAC's suspended indoor track, multiple levels of cardio and resistance training equipment, pools, private squash courts, and the open light/space/air design of the centrally located building *literally changed my life*. The argument that grad students don't live on campus doesn't fly when you have locker rooms with rows and rows of large, clean, and well functioning lockers, and more than twenty private showers with individual changing rooms, *cleaned every hour like the ones at OSU*. I usually spend 8-12 hour days on campus at UConn and it would be so nice to be able to take a two hour break and work out in a building I could walk to instead of moving my car and driving half way across eastern CT. I would like to again emphasize that the locker rooms at OSU were modern, provided hairdryers, were properly *ventilated*, and *cleaned constantly by professional cleaning staff*. This is *absolutely integral* to a facility that is used by professional students and staff in the beginning, or even middle, of their workday. (FYI, the graduate student fees at OSU? *Half* of UConn's and my stipend was 125% of what I receive today).

Now, what *does* disturb me about UConn's proposal, perhaps even *more* than the lack of such a facility at UConn, stems from a conversation during a visit from university administrators Amy Donahue, Michael Kirk, and Kent Holsinger to the Graduate Student Senate Meeting on March 27, 2013. After this conversation, I can say without doubt that the University of Connecticut is *not* doing *everything* it can to raise funds for this facility to *at least* alleviate these proposed fee increases. How can the university's administration, in good conscience, turn to someone sitting in my position and ask for as much as an extra \$450 per year when the administration has neither made an appeal to the state for support, nor even bothered to solicit donors? Don't you believe in the value of this proposed facility? Others will too.

Michael Kirk brought up the UMass Rec facility during his presentation as a point of reference for the type of facility the university envisions. My colleague completed her bachelor's degree at UMass and raves about this facility all the time. She tells me that UMass built their recreational center without increasing student fees by even a dime. How? Through fundraising, according to my colleague. When I asked the administration if they looked into the details of how UMass managed to secure the promise of funds, they had no idea! *This is not acceptable*. An answer to this question *is certainly* worth the university's time and resources. Raising the fees on your graduate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Rec Center Argument for Board of Trustees

24 April 2013

students should be UConn's *last* resort, not a shortcut. This model of planning sends the wrong message to the university community.

I sincerely hope that the administration changes gears as quickly as possible. UConn is better than this. We can and should work together to achieve our goal of bringing a beautiful, covetable, landmark recreation center to campus. Now more than ever the university should be *reaching out to* -not alienating- its graduate students and alumni to help support and secure fundraising initiatives. We are a bright community of creative thinkers and problem solvers and -at least I- would be honored to help the university with an external fundraising initiative -- because I believe in the cause for this rec center, but mostly because UConn -its students and administration- should not settle for an easy way out.

Please feel free to contact me by email if you wish to discuss anything I have mentioned here further, including advice for the design of the new facility. I wish the university the very best in this endeavor and hope that we can find a way for the larger UConn community to come together for the benefit of all.

Sincerely,

Talia Shabtay

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Art & Art History

University of Connecticut

talia.shabtay@uconn.edu



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

University Fee Survey Analysis

Conducted February 2013
Prepared by the GSS PR Committee
Presented to GSS 24 April 2013



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Methodology

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GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Conducting the Survey

- This survey was distributed to the entire graduate student community via the graduate student listserv (GRADS_Announcements-L@listserv.uconn.edu).
- The PR Committee used the free version of Polldaddy.com, a survey client with data-analysis components and integration with our Wordpress account.
- At the close of the survey, the PR Committee collected 237 responses.



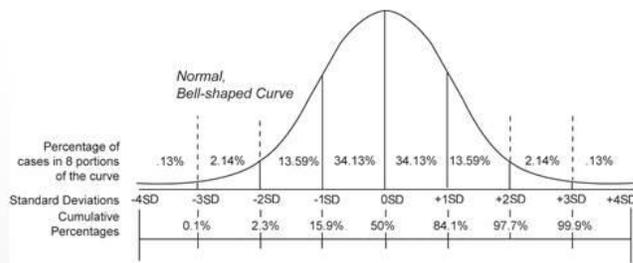
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University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Method of Analysis

- We assumed a normal distribution of the data which allows us to make assumptions on the population as a whole.
- “Normal Distribution” – data from a large sample will be evenly distributed away from the mean.





GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Results
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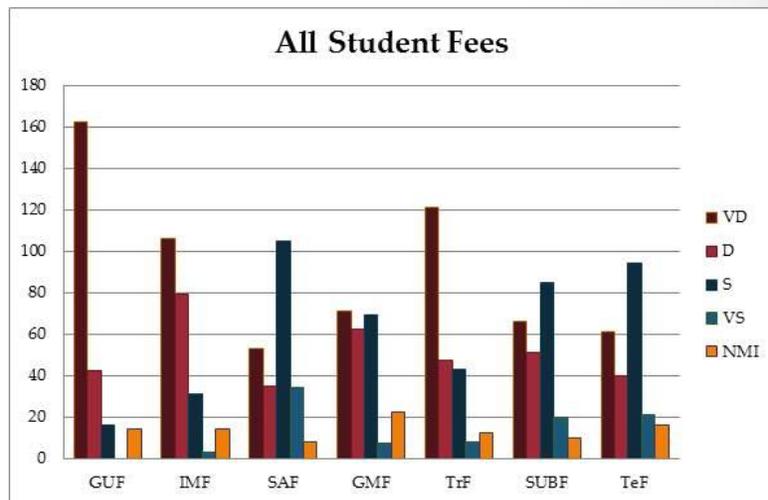
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Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate Student Satisfaction Levels with the Current Fee Schedule

Graduate students were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with each graduate student fee as...

- "Very Dissatisfied" (VD)
- "Dissatisfied" (D)
- "Satisfied" (S)
- "Very Satisfied" (VS)
- "Need More Information" (NMI)





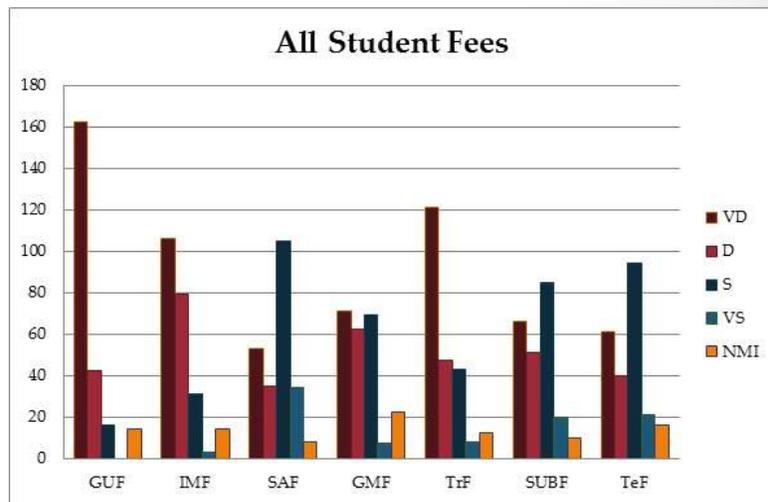
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University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate Student Satisfaction Levels with the Current Fee Schedule

- 97% are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the General University Fee
- 87% are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the Infrastructure and Maintenance Fee
- 70% are at least satisfied (or very) with the Graduate Student Activity Fee
- Overall, 70% are dissatisfied (or very) with ALL fees





GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Most Common Justifications for Dissatisfaction

Participants were asked to specify which fee they were most dissatisfied with and why. Out of 233 responses...

- 90 participants specified that they were most dissatisfied with GUF
- 45 specified the Transit Fee primarily because respondents felt they didn't use the services offered
- 22 specified the Matriculation Fee because the fee description doesn't specify what services this funds nor why it must be paid each semester
- 19 were dissatisfied with all fees
- 17 specified Athletics
- 15 specified the Student Activity Fee
- 13 specified the Technology Fee
- 10 specified Parking (despite the fact that Parking wasn't included in the list of mandatory student fees)

"GUF seems to be an excuse to bill students for things the University can't seem to fund via tuition, on an ad hoc basis. Its size as a single fee is larger than the entire set of fees charged by other comparable universities!"



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Most Common Justifications for Dissatisfaction

Participants were asked to specify which fee they were most dissatisfied with and why. Out of 233 responses...

- 79 argued that they **don't use** the services funded by the fee(s)

"[I am most dissatisfied by the] travel [i.e. transit] fee / technology fee. I have never once taken the bus in 7 years on this campus. And I use only my own computer."

"In 5 years on campus, I have never used the transportation services, or student union and do not agree with having to pay those fees. Also being required to pay student activity fees and technology fees without really knowing what is included in these fees. In addition the maintenance and matriculation fees are constantly on the rise and I feel as though I never know what we are paying for



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Most Common Justifications for Dissatisfaction

Participants were asked to specify which fee they were most dissatisfied with and why. Out of 233 responses...

- 64 argued that fees were **too expensive** generally or that specific fees were grossly inflated
 - This argument was often coupled with an argument regarding tuition and tuition waivers.

"...Graduate students at UConn earn between \$15,000 and \$22,000 per year, therefore I believe that requiring us to pay nearly \$2,000 of that income to the university is excessive given our already limited means."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Most Common Justifications for Dissatisfaction

Participants were asked to specify which fee they were most dissatisfied with and why. Out of 233 responses...

- 51 wanted **more information** about the fee(s)

"I am dissatisfied with the General University Fee and the Infrastructure Maintenance fee because they are so high and, as a graduate student, I don't understand what I get out of them. I am also dissatisfied with the Graduate Matriculation fee (and maybe student activity)- not because they are high but because I don't understand them..."



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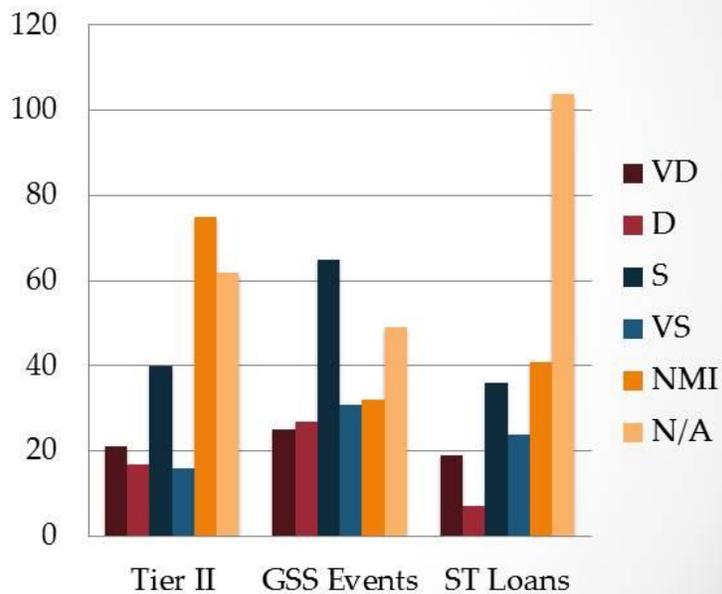
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Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis

24 April 2013

Graduate Student Satisfaction Levels with the Financial Offerings of GSS

Participants were asked to rank their level of satisfaction with the level of financial support GSS offers in terms of Tier-II funding, internal GSS events, and short-term loans.





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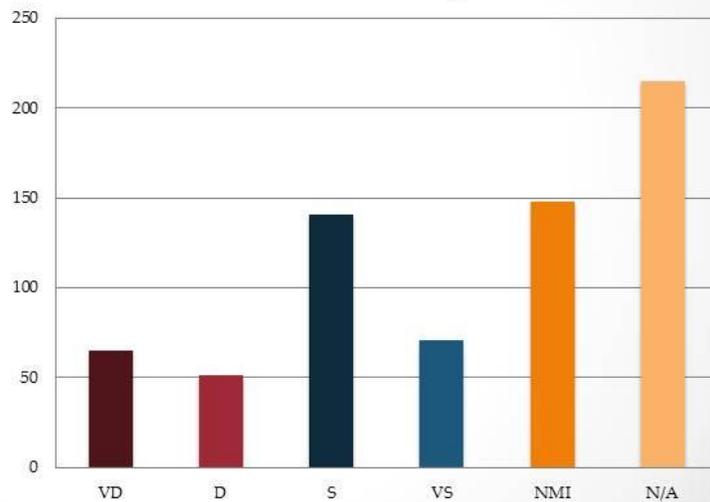
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Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate Student Satisfaction Levels with the Financial Offerings of GSS

Total Satisfaction Level Ratings of
GSS Funding

- 21% of respondents overall felt that they needed more information about GSS's funding opportunities
- 35% of respondents overall felt that one or more of GSS's funding opportunities was not applicable to them





GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate Student Satisfaction Levels with the Financial Offerings of GSS

- When asked if they would like GSS to increase its financial support to the graduate community, **58.9%** of respondents said, "**No**, I do not think it necessary for the Graduate Student Senate to increase its financial support of our community."
- The majority of respondents either didn't want to fund GSS at all or wanted to see a change in the way GSS prioritizes funding. The most popular responses included...
 - Requests for more **Tier-II organization funding**
 - More support for the **short-term loan fund**
 - More **professional development** funding
 - The most popular suggestions for professional development funding came on the level of individual funding opportunities: travel funds, summer stipends, and scholarships.
- A significant number of respondents felt they didn't know enough about GSS or how it supports graduate students.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Trends
...



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate students feel devalued.

- Many graduate students feel as if University fees are a political issue, demeaning and devaluing the service graduate students do for the University's mission
- A number of graduate students are concerned about the University's privileging of some disciplines over the others (particularly when it comes to distribution of financial resources or infrastructure maintenance).

"As graduate students we are basically underpaid employees. Subjecting us to fees that amount to nearly 10% of our salaries is ridiculous. These should be waved as in most departments research (which brings in millions of dollars for the university) is done by graduate students. Get rid of us and see what happens. At least incoming graduate students should be informed of fees PRIOR to accepting."

"I feel that the Fine Arts section of campus is completely overlooked when it comes to... campus beautification, cleanliness, general repairs, money for programs, etc. This should go to the program I am a part of."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate students are concerned about the ratio of fees-to-stipends.

- Stipends do not seem to be increasing in proportion to fee increases and cost of living standards, despite a promised increase of 4% in stipends next year.
- Mandatory graduate student fees are a significant portion of graduate assistant stipends, anywhere from 10-22%
 - The Stors-based graduate student fee schedule for 2013-2014 will total \$2206, ranging from 10% to 22% of 2013-2014 graduate assistant stipends (depending on degree-status and level of assistantship offered)

"I am in general extremely dissatisfied with the amount of our fee bill. This is my fifth year, and my fees have gone up nearly \$400 since I started here. Meanwhile, I have gotten one raise, and it was \$300 a year. I have checked around at other similar universities, and their fees are nowhere near as outrageously expensive as ours. My fees are now more than 10% of my annual salary; raising them even more is completely ludicrous to me."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate students should only pay for non-essential services they use.

- The perception of mandatory student fees is that graduate students aren't using them enough to be charged for them.
- Most graduate students encourage a fee-for-service structure, especially for fees that are not essential to the mission of a research University.
- One common argument: any fee essential to the functioning of a University sounds like it ought to fall under tuition costs and should therefore be waived.

"My frustration is twofold. First, the General University fee strikes me as a catch-all, and one whose cost has increased. It covers Student Health/Safety, Athletics, One Card, and so on. The justification is that these costs aren't part of the educational mission of UConn and so a grad student whose tuition is waived nonetheless pays this fee. But the reasoning doesn't work here: In many ways, the features being paid for are expected elements of a modern university. What university doesn't budget for student ID cards? Moreover, if these aren't part of the educational mission of the university, shouldn't university students be able to opt out of them? And if they ARE part of the educational mission of the university, shouldn't they be waived like regular tuition? My main frustration, I think, is that this fee is more than \$1K, which makes it feel a lot like I had my tuition waived only to be charged for it in the form of a fee."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Graduate students should only pay for non-essential services they use.

- The perception of mandatory student fees is that graduate students aren't using them enough to be charged for them.
- Most graduate students encourage a fee-for-service structure, especially for fees that are not essential to the mission of a research University.
- One common argument: any fee essential to the functioning of a University sounds like it ought to fall under tuition costs and should therefore be waived.

"... Second, the grad matriculation fee has the same problem, writ small. This is a fee paid by every graduate student for matriculating. That sounds to me like tuition. Now, in fairness, I realize that the fee is probably (I hope) funding costs associated with the "process" of matriculating. But, nonetheless, it strikes me that a cost associated with simply being a student.

"I am far less concerned with the Tech Fee, the Transit Fee, and the Maintenance Fee, all of which serve particular, heavily used resources that really are outside the regular academic mission of the University. (I recognize that I'm contradicting myself here: If I should be able to opt out of the One Card fee, shouldn't I be able to opt out of the transit fee? But my frustration is mostly a response to the high price of the General Fee.)"



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Graduate students need more information.

- About the nature of student fees and the relationship between fees and tuition.
- About the nature of individual fees, especially the specific breakdown of what they go to support.
- About GSS as an organization—its mission and integration in graduate student life—as well as its financial commitments to graduate students.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Graduate Student Perceptions of GSS

- Need more information about GSS
- Want GSS to invest more time and effort into vocal advocacy efforts
- Think that GSS primarily supports graduate students with internally-funded social events
- Request GSS offer more professionalization opportunities

"I did not know that the GSS could provide financial support. I never received anything from them. Is this supposed to be a secret only a few are let in on? Or like the rest of the events, only geared to traditional age students?"

"I am not fully aware of what GSS financially supports besides the mixers."

"I don't understand how I need GSS to do anything for me."

"I don't see why GSS has to support us. The University should do what is necessary to keep our costs down."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Graduate Student Perceptions of GSS

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- Want GSS to invest more time and effort into vocal advocacy efforts
- Think that GSS primarily supports graduate students with internally-funded social events
- Request GSS offer more professionalization opportunities

"I... don't feel that the GSS represents me directly enough to want to give them more money [in regards to the proposed Grad Student Activity Fee increase]."

"From what I've seen during my time at UConn (over 5 years), the GSS has become marginally relevant. Grad students need a voice, so perhaps a different format would be more effective. The fact that so many senators run unopposed should point to a general lack of confidence/support among graduate students."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Graduate Student Perceptions of GSS

- Need more information about GSS
- Want GSS to invest more time and effort into vocal advocacy efforts
- Think that GSS primarily supports graduate students with internally-funded social events
- Request GSS offer more professionalization opportunities

"It would be nice to see a GSS organization to be more involved in everyday life, introducing more fun by making small things and not big events..."

"The only time events are funded is when it's multi-departmental. That's great when that happens but those will be few and far between.

Smaller, more localized events where a department's grad students get to relieve some stress with a little bit of funding would be fantastic for their mental health."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Graduate Student Perceptions of GSS

- Need more information about GSS
- Want GSS to invest more time and effort into vocal advocacy efforts
- Think that GSS primarily supports graduate students with internally-funded social events
- Request GSS offer more professionalization opportunities

"How about more travel funding for conferences and less events."

"I would like to see more summer funding available: whether in the form of larger short-term loans, more summer work opportunities, and summer fellowships."

"Increased travel funding, competitive summer research funding, and competitive teaching awards would all be a welcome addition..."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Recommendations
...



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Health and Safety Concerns

- The Graduate Student Senate representative to the Environmental Health and Safety Committee should relay these graduate concerns as soon as possible. The health and safety of UConn students should be one of the top priorities of the University.

"I am in the Drama Music building which is completely falling apart. During Christmas Break they had to do work on the floors because of asbestos... Most of my classmates are sick or constantly sneezing due to unsanitary conditions.... The water is discolored and tastes like it might be tainted by sewage..."

"The Infrastructure Fee is obviously not being used in our building, which is in need of drastic improvements for just basic issues of Health/Safety of students. The Art Building is a shame to our university. It is not even a safe place for students. We were notified of a robbery and dangerous suspect that stole all computers in a lab space that is vital for teaching and learning for photography students..."



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Health and Safety Concerns

- The Graduate Student Senate representative to the Environmental Health and Safety Committee should relay these graduate concerns as soon as possible. The health and safety of UConn students should be one of the top priorities of the University.

"The lots for free parking are under lit and dangerous for women walking through at night. Not to mention anyone, because you are less visible to cars in the W Lot. Improvements such as security call boxes and lights, would be important to the many grad students who spend full days on campus."

"... I'm also very dissatisfied with the lack of maintenance on the roads and walkways on campus. Some of the funds directed towards athletic programs could be redirected to ensure locomotion around campus is safe for all."

"...I don't feel that my building (Manchester Hall) is being maintained or upgraded - we have mold and heating problems!"



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis
24 April 2013

Information Campaign

- The PR Committee would encourage next year's Executive Committee and Graduate Student Senate representatives to consider embarking on an information campaign for graduate students that would cover the issues raised throughout this presentation.
- It is especially important that financial and organizational matters of the University and GSS are dealt with transparently and publicized in accessible formats.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Professionalization

- Even though the issue of professionalization was not addressed specifically by the survey questions, graduate students showed enough concern about professionalization to make note of it throughout the qualitative portions of the survey.
- The most directed comments asking for GSS support were requesting individual opportunities for professionalization (i.e. teaching awards, summer funding, fellowships, etc.).
- As this is an increasing concern for graduate students, the PR Committee would recommend that next year's Executive Committee and Graduate Student Senate representatives at least provide graduate students with information about professionalization opportunities through other University units.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Proposed GSS Resolution Regarding University Fees

Whereas, The University of Connecticut, as an institution that receives Title IV federal financial aid, must adhere to the U. S. Department of Education's recent expansion of the definition and reach of prohibited "misrepresentations" by an institution to students, prospective students, and their families to include "any statement that has the likelihood or tendency to confuse" regarding the nature of financial charges; and

Whereas, Acceptance materials and offer letters for graduate students admitted to the University of Connecticut provide incomplete and misleading information regarding the nature of financial charges: specifically, that while they do provide information about the financial charges associated with tuition fees, tuition waivers, assistantships, and/or fellowships, they do not contain information pertaining to the nature of student fees; and

Whereas, The full details of financial offers, including the ratio of stipends to fees and cost of living, are determining factors in prospective graduate students' decision to matriculate at an institution; and

Whereas, Mandatory graduate student fees at the University of Connecticut are a significant portion of graduate assistant stipends as evidenced, for example, in the Storrs-based graduate student fee schedule for 2013-2014 which will total \$2206, ranging from 10% to 22% of 2013-2014 graduate assistant stipends (depending on degree-status and level of assistantship offered); and

Whereas, Descriptions of mandatory fees on the University of Connecticut Office of the Bursar's website are vague, incomplete, or misleading with regard to the services rendered or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of the fee—noting in particular that the Bursar's fee description of the General University Fee (GUF) does not list all of the units supported by GUF, the Bursar's fee description does not indicate what percentage of the total GUF allocation assessed is provided to each GUF unit, the Bursar's fee description of the Graduate Matriculation Fee does not provide details regarding the specific services rendered, and the Bursar's fee description of the Infrastructure Maintenance Fee (IMF) specifies only the debt service provided for an undergraduate residence hall; and



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Proposed GSS Resolution Regarding University Fees

Whereas, The National Association of College and University Attorneys has recommended that institutions review all written materials for accuracy of information, including catalogs, marketing materials, websites and correspondence; and

Whereas, In a survey conducted by the Public Relations Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, 97% of graduate students are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the General University Fee, 87% are at least dissatisfied (or very) with the Infrastructure and Maintenance Fee, and 70% are dissatisfied (or very) with all graduate student fees; and

Whereas, The University administration is proposing to build a new \$100 million recreation facility financed by a 30-year bond to be paid off beginning Fall 2016 by student fees that would amount to approximately \$300-400 per graduate student per year, a significant increase to the already heavy financial burden of graduate student fees; and

Whereas, In a survey conducted by the Public Relations Committee of the Graduate Student Senate, 74% of graduate students would not be willing to pay the proposed fee for a new recreation facility due in large part to the strained financial situation of graduate students and the already substantial fee schedule; and

Whereas, The proposed fee to finance the new recreation facility will bypass the standard University channels in place for regulation and oversight of student fees, namely the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee; therefore be it





GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: University Fee Survey Analysis 24 April 2013

Proposed GSS Resolution Regarding University Fees

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the University of Connecticut Graduate School provide information regarding graduate student fees to accepted graduate students in offer letters or offer packets that, at minimum, includes a list of mandatory graduate student fees, descriptions of these fees, approximate values of each fee, and a link to the Office of the Bursar's website.

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee require groups funded by graduate student fees to provide an accurate and detailed description of the specific services rendered and/or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of the fee, including a specific breakdown of the individual units encompassed by the General University Fee, and that the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee, at minimum, forward this information to the Office of the Bursar for publication on its website.

Resolved, That the Graduate Student Senate strongly recommends that the University of Connecticut Office of the Bursar provide detailed descriptions of the specific services rendered and/or benefits offered to graduate students as a result of each graduate student fee, including a specific breakdown of the individual units encompassed by the General University Fee, and that this information be publically accessible on the Office of the Bursar's website.





GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

Graduate Faculty Council

17 April 2013

Chair: Kent Holsinger
Dean of the Graduate School
kent.holsinger@uconn.edu

Representative: Leland Aldridge
Parliamentarian
Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu

Committee Type: External

Website:
http://grad.uconn.edu/faculty/gfc_exec.html

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- GFC resolution on policies, procedures and fees impacting graduate students or programs
- Complaint Resolution Procedure
- Termination, Dismissal and Hearing Procedures
- Standards and Degree Requirements

Detailed Report

GFC RESOLUTION

On hearing the report of the Graduate Student Senate, the Graduate Faculty Council was moved to pass a resolution to the effect that it strongly recommended that any changes to policies, procedures, or fees having a direct impact on graduate students or programs be made in consultation with the Graduate School, and in particular with the Dean of the Graduate School. The GFC empowered Tom Peters to set the exact language, which it pre-emptively approved. I have not yet received this exact language.

COMPLAINT RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

A final draft of the Graduate School's complaint resolution procedure was presented to the GFC for approval. The grounds on which a complaint could be made were kept broad, which I agreed with, as per my previous GFC report. The language of the document was changed to make clear that only graduate students and post-doctoral fellows could be Complainants under these procedures.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

TERMINATION, DISMISSAL AND HEARING PROCEDURES

A final draft of this section of the Graduate Catalog was presented to the GFC for approval. No major changes were made from what was discussed at the previous meeting.

STANDARDS AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Likewise, no new major changes were made to this section of the Graduate Catalog from last meeting. Particular formatting requirements for theses were removed, with instructions to look on the Graduate School website, most likely to make room for rapidly-changing electronic submission standards.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form
24 April 2013

University Senate Executive Committee
19 April 2013

Chair: Andrew Moiseff, Representative: Chantelle Messier
Professor, President
Andrew.moiseff@uconn.edu, chantelle.messier@gmail.com
u, m
Website: http://www.senate.uconn.edu/exec.htm, Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? [] Yes [x] No
Was anything of relevance to graduate students? [x] Yes [] No
• Work Study budget changes
• New SEC Chair
• President Herbst's comments about the future of diversity at UConn

Detailed Report

NEW CHAIR OF University Senate Executive Committee (SEC)

Next year's Chair of the SEC has officially accepted position. Next year's Chair will be Cyrus (Ernie) Zirakzadeh.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Met with new Master Planner and Architect Laura Cruikshank.

- Discussed master plans for utilities and parking/transportation, which will be some of the priorities for planning.
- A master plan for the University will likely be formulated in the next few years.
- The SEC asked about the process for for communication between community members and the Master Planner. There is no such process in place yet.
- Both the B&G Committee and the SEC emphasized that a good process needs to be enacted so that the University community has input in University planning.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

ENROLLMENT

Discussed how to maintain support for growing international student population, and how the University will define "global citizenship." The needs of international graduate students have been and continue to be a key part of this discussion.

DIVERSITY

Met with President Herbst and other administrators to discuss the future of diversity at the University.

- Faculty hires and diversity. President Herbst suggested that faculty members be more proactive about aggressively recruiting diverse candidates.
- Importance of supporting spousal hiring in promoting diversity. President Herbst stated that spousal hires can sometimes be feasible where both candidates are strong. Some SEC members expressed concern that though there is stated support for spousal hires, many such hiring attempts fail to get enough actual support.
- Academic plan and the role of diversity. President Herbst recommended that those who feel strongly about diversity should communicate that priority to the Deans of their colleges and help to influence the formation of the academic plan.

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

University is starting an analysis of research space use. One metric will be how productive the researcher has been in the space (in terms of grant dollars, publications, etc.). This process would contribute to centralizing the allotment and evaluation of research space on campus.

COURSES AND CURRICULA

In early discussion about a proposed policy that would make it impossible for students to pass a gen-ed lab course if they fail the lab component. This would be parallel to the policy that says students cannot pass a W course if they fail the writing component. C&C will share this discussion with Scholastic Standards.

Continuing to discuss the idea of making it mandatory for instructors to provide a syllabus. Will work this summer on publicizing "best practices" guidelines for creating syllabi.

STUDENT WELFARE

Discussed student welfare at regional campuses.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

- Greater Hartford campus enrolls a particularly diverse group of students, many of whom face the additional challenges of commuting and working outside jobs. Concerns about deferred maintenance at this campus while awaiting projected relocation downtown (likely by 2015).
- Regional campus students feel they are often treated as lower-quality and less important by faculty and administration. Student representatives cited safety concerns and lack of recognition during University decision-making.

Spring Weekend

Spring Weekend has been tentatively reinstated, with the collaboration of USG, University officials, property owners, and local community members. The theme of the weekend will be "Party Responsibly." The goal is for Storrs campus to "function normally but with visitors restricted."

SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS

Will propose amendments to the University By-Laws on emeritus status (see me for draft of proposed amendment).

Work Study budget changes

- The central University budget has traditionally payed the 25% of work study that is not payed from federal sources.
- A proposed change would have made academic departments pay the 25% for work study jobs housed in their department. This is partly in response to more major budget recisions from the state legislature.
- After strong protest from academic departments and students, the administration has changed its proposal: Central budget will cover the whole 25% this summer. Starting in the fall, academic departments will have to pay 5% of all work study jobs in their department. However, in future years academic departments will be expected to accept more of the burden.
- An announcement should soon go out explaining the work study budget changes.

Proposed amendments to the Senate By-Laws regarding final examinations and additional amendments regarding readmission(see me for draft of proposed amendments).



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

University Senate Executive Committee
26 April 2013

<i>Chair:</i>	Andrew Moiseff Professor Andrew.moiseff@uconn.edu <u>u</u>	<i>Representative:</i>	Chantelle Messier President chantelle.messier@gmail.com <u>m</u>
<i>Website:</i>	http://www.senate.uconn.edu/exec.htm		
		<i>Committee Type:</i>	External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- State budget recisions

Detailed Report

CFO

CT legislature’s Finance Committee has approved the capital funding for NextGen, but the Appropriations Committee has recommended a reduction in the operating budget from \$17M to \$10M. With a reduction in the operating budget, we would still get the same capital funding (i.e., for buildings) but have a reduced budget for hiring, faculty support, and students. This could mean the planned increase in undergraduate enrollment (as well as graduate enrollment) would be lower than expected.

State Budget Recisions

- Rich Gray has received a mandate to keep the academic programs, especially faculty hires, on a steady course despite state budget cuts.
- UConn will uphold its four-year commitments for financial aid programs to students. No financial aid dollars will be cut under the current plan for response to the budget recisions. However, it’s hard to know what will happen with financial aid after four years if our financial situation doesn’t improve.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

Mr. Gray expressed pride and appreciation in the undergraduate and graduate student participation at the Board of Trustees public comment about the recreation facility proposal. He indicated that students broached financial issues that he will continue to think about.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UConn's office of Economic Development will be looking into ways to support more high-tech start-ups.

RESEARCH

Suman Singha is now ending his term as VP for Research, and Jeffrey Seeman will be taking over the position.

OTHER ISSUES

Instructional Space Policy

- The policy is a compilation of all of the University's existing policies on the allocation of instructional space.
- The policy was assigned to the Growth and Development Committee to review, but that wasn't completed this year; therefore, the draft was passed on to SEC for review.
- I requested that language in the policy that refers to "faculty" be expanded to refer to "instructors of record," thus including TA's and other non-faculty instructors. Other members of SEC supported this recommendation.
- SEC members suggested that the policy take into account rooms (such as graduate seminar rooms) that should not be centrally scheduled by the Registrar.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

Vice Provost for University Libraries Search Committee

15 April 2013

Chair: John Elliott
School of Business, Dean
dean@business.uconn.edu

Representative: Safet Berisa
Vice President
safet.berisa@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

- If you have any questions about the work of the search committee, you should contact Dean Elliott.

Detailed Report

N/A



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee

23 April 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

- This Committee Report covers the SASFAC meetings held on April 12, 18, and 23
- SASFAC is still deliberating on the GUF recommendations for FY15, given the change in University policy on work-study.
- SASFAC recommendations are expected to be released, at the latest, by the end of May. These recommendations will be passed on to the University central administration, which will make a further recommendation to the Board of Trustees around December 2013. The Board of Trustees is expected to vote on and make a final decision on the student activity and service fees to implement for FY15 in February 2014.

Detailed Report

GUF RECOMMENDATIONS REVIEW

SASFAC carried out further discussions and deliberations on the GUF and Tier III fee proposals for FY15. This part of the meeting is confidential. The GUF proposals, in particular, require further discussion, considering the change in University policy on work-study.

RECOMMENDATION AND DECISION TIMELINE

SASFAC recommendations are expected to be released, at the latest, by the end of May. These recommendations will be passed on to the University central administration, which will make a further recommendation to the Board of Trustees around December 2013. The Board of



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

Trustees IS expected to vote on and make a final decision on the student activity and service fees to implement for FY15 in February 2014.

Action Items for the Senate

- Inform your constituents that the final decision on the GSS fee increase proposal, and other FY15 student activity and service fee requests, will not be decided on until about February 2014. Until then, everyone can expect the first round of FY15 fee recommendations to be released by the end of May.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

University Budget Committee

22 April 2013

Chair: Mohamed E. Hussein
Professor of Accounting
Mohamed.hussein@uconn.edu

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

Committee Type: External

Website:
<http://senate.uconn.edu/budget.htm>

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Special guests: UConn Executive Vice President for Administration & CFO, Rich Gray, and UConn Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mun Choi
- The UConn initiative of hiring 290 net new faculty in 4 years will not be met for a number of reasons. Most notably, because \$1 million in annual additional funds is needed to make the 4-year timeline, the timeline cannot be met with a \$15 million annual cut to the University budget by the State of Connecticut. However, current hiring needs by departments will not be affected and no money raised for this initiative through the increase in student tuition will be diverted to other parts of the University budget.
- The Provost’s Office is offering a one-year reprieve for academic departments struggling to meet the new work-study policy requiring departments to cover 25% of the cost of work-study labor (currently covered by the University Central administration). Under this offer of reprieve, departments would only be responsible for 5% of the cost of work-study labor through a reimbursement process.
- While the University as a whole was dealt a \$15 million cut to its budget by the State of Connecticut, the University is committed to not cutting its academics budget. To make-up for this lack of cut to academics, the University is supplementing the academic budget through cuts to UITS and other smaller units across the University.

Detailed Report

SPECIAL GUESTS



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

UConn Executive Vice President for Administration & CFO, Rich Gray, and UConn Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mun Choi, were invited to speak to the University Budget Committee.

SLOWDOWN IN UCONN'S FACULTY HIRING INITIATIVE

The University of Connecticut recently made a commitment to hiring 290 net new faculty members over 4 years. This initiative is funded, for the most part, through a raise in student tuition. According to Rich Gray, at the time this initiative was introduced to UConn students, he had made it clear that in moving forward with this hiring plan, the University would need an additional \$1 million annually from the State of Connecticut to get the 290 net new faculty hired in 4 years. However, with \$15 million in annualcuts from the State (to continue each year from now into the future), the University has stated that the 290 net new faculty members will not be hired within the originally-planned 4-year timeframe. To clarify facts about this "slowdown", Mun Choi wanted to emphasize 4 points:

- At this point of time, hiring is not being affected by this "slowdown" due to a lack of funds. In other words, all faculty members that departments want to hire right now are able to be hired. As a rough count, about 75 faculty members were hired last fiscal year, 80 have been hired this fiscal year (so far), and 40-50 are estimated to be hired next year.
- The funds for this hiring initiative raised through the tuition increase are NOT being redistributed to another part of the University budget. These funds will remain 100% in the account that pays for this hiring initiative.
- 100% of the funds raised through the tuition increase are being used to pay for the wages and fringe benefits of the new faculty members. Thus, the ACTUAL cost of hiring the net new faculty members – including start-up costs and the building and maintenance of office space – are being covered by the University's central budget.
- The "slowdown" in hiring cannot be fully blamed on the lack of funding from the State. When faculty retire, it is up to the dean of each school to hire a replacement. These replacements do not count towards the new faculty member count when looking at NET new faculty members. Because not all schools are hiring replacements, it has been difficult for the University to reach its goal of 290 net new faculty members in 4 years

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS FOR NEW WORK-STUDY POLICY

In theory, work-study functions by allowing all eligible work-study students' wages to be paid 75% by the federal government and 25% by the Univeristy. In reality, the federal government sets a \$1.3 million cap in funding per school for work-study per year. UConn's annual work-study budget is \$3.9 million, which means that the University actually pays \$2.6 million or 2/3 of the cost of the work-



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

study program at UConn. This high cost of the program was actually a motivation to switch to the new work-study policy, wherein the departments/units hosting work-study students are expected to pay the 25% cost to the University (instead of the 25% cost coming from the University's central budget, as it is now).

Academic departments have complained to the Provost's Office that this new work-study policy is prohibitive for them and their budgets, so the Provost's Office has offered a one-year reprieve, of sorts: For academic departments that host work-study students, the Provost's Office will cover 20 of the 25% work-study cost (or 80% of the cost to the department for work-study) via reimbursement. The reimbursement would be given to the academic departments at the end of the fiscal year. Ultimately, this would mean that departments, for one year only, would only be responsible for 5% of the cost of the work-study student. The reason this offer involves reimbursement rather than direct payment is so that academic departments would be discouraged from hiring work-study students over and beyond what is necessary for the department to function. However, the Provost's Office is willing to work with departments who believe the reimbursement aspect of the offer is prohibitive to their budgets in hiring necessary work-study labor.

CUTS AND REAPPROPRIATIONS IN THE UNIVERSITY BUDGET

As was mentioned earlier in this report, the State of Connecticut decided to make \$15 million in annual cuts to the University of Connecticut budget. In order to deal with this budget shortfall, the University could have made the easy decision to cut 1.5% from all units, across the board. This would have cut spending in academics by \$6 million. The University decided that this was not the direction they wanted academics to go.

The only "cuts" made to academics were those that could more accurately be labeled as "reallocations". "Cuts" were made to the Law and Business schools; however, the funds "cut" from these schools are being routed to create programs in entrepreneurship and innovation that would benefit the entire student population.

To make-up for the fact that the academics budget would not be cut at all, the University decided to make cuts in other parts in the University, most notably in UITS and other small units.

Both Rich Gray and Mun Choi affirmed that any funds raised through NextGenCT will not – and in fact, cannot – be used to "plug holes" in the University budget. Thus, all NextGenCT funds given to UConn will be used for their intended purpose.

Action Items for the Senate



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form 24 April 2013

- Inform your constituents – and departments – of the information noted in the “Overview of Report” section of this report. Specifically, inform your departments to contact the Provost’s Office if the reimbursement process will be prohibitive to your department’s budget in hiring necessary work-study labor.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

Student Welfare Committee

12 April 2013

Chair: Lawrence Goodheart
History Professor
Lawrence.goodheart@uconn.edu
[n.edu](#)

Representative: Ian Gutierrez
Senator
ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu

Committee Type: GSS Internal/Standing

Website: [URL Address](#)

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Kent Holsinger addresses committee.
- Smoking Resolution
- Spring Weekend
- Work Study

Detailed Report

GRADUATE STUDENT WELFARE

The student welfare committee met on March 15th and April 12th, 2013. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the committee meeting on the 15th, when the committee took up graduate student welfare due to the meeting having been rescheduled following a snow day. Kent Holsinger and Tom Peters from the graduate school about graduate student welfare. According to the minutes from the meeting, there was a “wide-ranging and constructive discussion” about graduate student welfare. The committee directed the chair to inform the Senate Executive and Heads Committee of the “imperative to have a full time person in the Graduate School who could act as a student advocate, deal with the holistic student, and conduct exit interviews with students, especially those who might drop out of their respective programs.”

SMOKING BAN

The committee passed a resolution to bring before the University Senate, which was subsequently passed by the University Senate “without comment.” The resolution reads:



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

Resolved: that the University Senate moves that the existing smoking policy be modified to prohibit smoking a minimum distance of 25 feet from any and all university buildings or air intakes across all six campuses, and that the University Senate requests that the President's Council convene a taskforce to revise the current policy and implement the new policy as stated above, which should include an educational campaign that facilitates a culture on campus that seeks to discourage smoking according to the best medical guidance.

A Task Force is being formed to examine the issue more thoroughly – it is NOT yet University policy. It will be the responsibility of the Task Force to determine if the Student Welfare Committee's recommendations can become policy.

SPRING WEEKEND

The weekend formerly known as Spring Weekend will be taking place April 25th through 27th. To prevent hooliganism, there will be a substantial police presence on and around campus. The weekend will be called "UConn Learns, UConn Serves, UConn Cares." More information can be found at www.studentactivities.uconn.edu/springweekend.html.

WORK STUDY

Kathy Libal of the School of Social Work noted that there is a new policy which holds that "departments and schools will have to supply 25% of funding at a time of budget austerity for work/study students." She raised the concern that this policy could detrimentally affect students in the Masters of Social Work program, the majority of whom depend on work/study to cover living expenses. She suggested that this policy may likewise have a detrimental impact on graduate students across departments at UConn.

Action Items for the Senate

- Further explore the policy changes to work/study funding for graduate students and determine the extent to which such changes might harm students.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: Committee Report Form

24 April 2013

IT Governance: Teaching and Learning

15 April 2013

Chair: Kristy Hughes
Vice Provost and CIO
kristy.hughes@uconn.edu

Representative: Ryan Tomchek
Senator
ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu

Website: utis.uconn.edu

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

- SET is going well
- IAM (Identity Access Management) will be working on transferring everyone to one username and password for logins across the campus.

Detailed Report

SET (Student Evaluation of Teaching) is getting positive feedback for the new online system.

IAM is in the process of working and estimating the cost of switching the campus to have one username for everyone. Some of the bullet points as to what this will improve are as follows:

- Protects and shares information much easier than currently
- Usernames would work as many campus across the country and some in other parts of the world. This will allow us access to the resources of other top schools.
- This will also make sure that graduate students (who are teaching and researching) get recognized as faculty as well as students.

The cost for this is estimated at \$3.5 million.

Action Items for the Senate

- SET is still looking for your feedback on the new online evaluations so if you get the chance be sure to send them any comments or concerns you might have.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

UCONN GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
Academic Year 2013-2014 Budget

Finance Committee's Recommendations
to the Graduate Student Senate

Detailed Report

April 16, 2013
Ian Yue, GSS Treasurer
on behalf of the Executive and Finance Committees



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Table of Contents

<i>Definitions and Abbreviations</i>	1
<i>FY13-14 Tier II Graduate Organization Budget Allocations</i>	2
General Summary	3
Detailed Summary	4
Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA)	5
Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES)	7
Ecology & Evol. Biology Grad. Student Association (EEB)	9
English Graduate Student Association (EGSA)	11
Graduate Art Alliance (GAA)	13
Graduate Art History Society (GAHS)	15
Graduate Association of Public Policy Students (GAPPS)	17
Green Grads	19
Languages Graduate Student Association (LANGSA)	21
Linguistics Club at UConn	23
Marine Science Department Graduate Students	25
Medical Anthropology Forum (MAF)	27
Neag Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	29
Philosophy Graduate Student Association	32
Physics Graduate Student Association	34
Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)	36
Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Committee (PGSAC)	38
Student Association of Graduate Engineers (SAGE)	40
TARANG	42
<i>FY13-14 Activities Budget</i>	44
FY13-14 Budget Allocation	45
YTD/Historic Activities Budget Record	48
<i>Full AY13-14 Graduate Student Senate Budget</i>	49
Budget Summary	50
General Operations	51
Executive Committee Stipends	52
Administrative Assistant Wages and Taxes	53
Special Allocations	54
Fiscal Year Income	55
Financial Status of Short-Term Emergency Loan Fund	56
Expense Code Budget Breakdown & Unappropriated Funds	57



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Definitions and Abbreviations

Fiscal Year (FY)

As defined in GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 1.8, “[t]he Graduate Student Senate’s fiscal year shall adhere to that of the University of Connecticut, beginning on the July 1 prior to the school year start and concluding on the June 30 after the school year end.”

Fiscal Year Expenses

Fiscal year expenses are those expenses made within the fiscal year. For instance, expenses made within FY12-13 are those made within the period of July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.

Academic Year (AY)

For the purposes of the Graduate Student Senate budget, the academic year is defined as the period starting from the day **after** the last day of the Spring semester (including final exams) that lies within the **previous** fiscal year through the last day of the Spring semester (including final exams) that lies within the fiscal year in question. For example, AY12-13 spans Monday, May 7, 2012 – Sunday, May 12, 2013.

Academic Year Expenses

Academic Year (AY) expenses are defined as such:

- For **Tier II** and **Activities** expenses: Expenses made within the fiscal year. For example, AY12-13 includes all Tier II and Activities expenses made from July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013.
- For **non-Tier II** and **non-Activities** expenses: Expenses made within the academic year. For example, AY12-13 includes all non-Tier II and non-Activities expenses made from Monday, May 7, 2012 - Sunday, May 12, 2013.

SABO

Student Activities Business Office

YTD

Year-to-date



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

**FY13-14 Tier II Graduate Organization
Budget Allocations**



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

General Summary of FY13-14 Tier II Budget Allocations

<u>Tier II Graduate Organization</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>	<u>Proportion of All Tier II Allocations</u>
Animal Science Graduate Student Association (ASGSA)	\$ 850.00	2.21 %
Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES)	\$ 3,370.00	8.77 %
Ecology & Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Association (EEB)	\$ 1,505.00	3.92 %
English Graduate Student Association (EGSA)	\$ 2,740.00	7.13 %
Graduate Art Alliance (GAA)	\$ 3,150.00	8.20 %
Graduate Art History Society (GAHS)	\$ 2,120.00	5.52 %
Graduate Association of Public Policy Students (GAPPS)	\$ 700.00	1.82 %
Green Grads	\$ 1,570.00	4.09 %
Languages Graduate Student Association (LANGSA)	\$ 2,030.00	5.28 %
Linguistics Club at UConn	\$ 4,495.00	11.70 %
Marine Science Department Graduate Students	\$ 845.00	2.20 %
Medical Anthropology Forum (MAF)	\$ 1,105.00	2.88 %
Neag Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	\$ 5,890.00	15.33 %
Neag Graduate Student Association (NGSA)	\$ 1,200.00	3.12 %
Student American Physical Therapy Association (SAPTA)	\$ 650.00	1.69 %
Student Association of School Psychology (SASP)	\$ 2,960.00	7.70 %
UConn Student Affairs Association (UCSAA)	\$ 1,080.00	2.81 %
Philosophy Graduate Student Association	\$ 900.00	2.34 %
Physics Graduate Student Association	\$ 750.00	1.95 %
Political Science Graduate Student Association (PSGSA)	\$ -	0.00 %
Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Committee (PGSAC)	\$ 2,400.00	6.25 %
Student Association of Graduate Engineers (SAGE)	\$ 650.00	1.69 %
TARANG	\$ 3,350.00	8.72 %
TOTAL	\$38,420.00	100.00 %
Average Budget and Proportion (excluding PSGSA):	\$ 2,134.44	5.56 %
Minimum Budget and Proportion (excluding PSGSA):	\$ 650.00	1.69 %
Maximum Budget and Proportion:	\$ 5,890.00	15.33 %



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Detailed Summary of FY13-14 Tier II Budget Allocations

	ASGSA	AGES	EEB	EGSA	GAA	GARS	GAPPS	Gr. Grads	LANGSA	Ling.	Mar. Sci.	MAP	NGSA	Phil.	Physics	PSGSA	PGSAC	SAGE	TARANG	TOTAL
603 Gifts							\$160.00	\$160.00					\$50.00						\$100.00	\$470.00
604 Photocopying		\$5.00					\$40.00						\$95.00							\$140.00
605 Postage													\$25.00							\$25.00
606 Printing		\$90.00			\$1,250.00	\$20.00		\$40.00	\$150.00								\$50.00	\$50.00	\$20.00	\$1,670.00
612 Advertising		\$80.00																		\$80.00
613 Awards and Prizes																			\$150.00	\$150.00
615 Contractual Services		\$1,500.00	\$290.00	\$1,500.00	\$700.00	\$1,350.00		\$1,000.00	\$600.00	\$1,700.00		\$700.00	\$2,000.00	\$350.00				\$1,000.00	\$30.00	\$11,800.00
620 Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$575.00	\$800.00	\$900.00	\$725.00	\$800.00	\$475.00	\$540.00	\$30.00	\$730.00	\$155.00	\$755.00	\$350.00	\$2,470.00	\$50.00	\$600.00		\$600.00	\$300.00	\$2,200.00	\$13,955.00
621 Supplies – Events/Programs	\$175.00			\$15.00				\$50.00	\$50.00		\$90.00	\$20.00	\$50.00		\$150.00				\$150.00	\$850.00
623 Rental	\$100.00	\$400.00	\$350.00										\$200.00							\$350.00
624 Travel		\$500.00		\$500.00	\$400.00	\$275.00		\$250.00	\$500.00	\$2,640.00		\$35.00	\$1,000.00	\$500.00				\$750.00		\$7,350.00
625 Equipment (<\$1k)																				\$100.00
TOTAL	\$850.00	\$3,370.00	\$1,505.00	\$2,740.00	\$3,150.00	\$2,120.00	\$700.00	\$1,570.00	\$2,030.00	\$4,495.00	\$845.00	\$1,105.00	\$5,890.00	\$900.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$650.00	\$3,350.00	\$38,420.00
PROPORTION OF ALL TIER II BUDGETS	2.21%	8.77%	3.92%	7.13%	8.20%	5.52%	1.82%	4.09%	5.28%	11.70%	2.20%	2.88%	15.33%	2.34%	1.95%	0.00%	6.25%	1.69%	8.72%	

AVERAGE BUDGET	\$2,134.44
AVERAGE PROPORTION	5.55%
MINIMUM BUDGET & PROPORTION	\$50.00 1.69%
MAXIMUM BUDGET & PROPORTION	\$5,890.00 15.33%

} Excludes \$0.00 budgets



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Animal Science Graduate Student Association
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Multicultural Dinner
Event Date: October 1, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
	Sub-Total:	\$250.00

Event Name: Quiz Bowl
Event Date: February 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$75.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$25.00
	Sub-Total:	\$100.00

Event Name: Grad Student Olympics
Event Date: April 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$300.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$100.00
623	Rental	\$100.00
	Sub-Total:	\$500.00

TOTAL: \$850.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Animal Science Graduate Student Association

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$575.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$175.00
623	Rental	\$100.00
	TOTAL:	\$850.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Association of Graduate Economics Students
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: AGES Colloquium Series
Event Date: October 1, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$45.00
612	Advertising	\$40.00
615	Contractual Services	\$750.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
624	Travel	\$200.00
	Sub-Total:	\$1,235.00

Event Name: AGES Distinguished Lecture Series
Event Date: March 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$45.00
612	Advertising	\$40.00
615	Contractual Services	\$750.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
623	Rental	\$400.00
624	Travel	\$300.00
	Sub-Total:	\$2,135.00

TOTAL: \$3,370.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Association of Graduate Economics Students

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$90.00
612	Advertising	\$80.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,500.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$800.00
623	Rental	\$400.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,370.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Graduate Student Symposium
Event Date: March 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
604	Photocopying	\$5.00
615	Contractual Services	\$250.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$900.00
623	Rental	\$350.00
	TOTAL:	\$1,505.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Graduate Student Association

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
604	Photocopying	\$5.00
615	Contractual Services	\$250.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$900.00
623	Rental	\$350.00
	TOTAL:	\$1,505.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

English Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: EGSA Outside Speaker Series
Event Date: Various dates (2x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$1,500.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$500.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	Sub-Total:	\$2,500.00

Event Name: Diversity Committee
Event Date: Various dates (4x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$225.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$15.00
	Sub-Total:	\$240.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,740.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

English Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code*

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$1,500.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$725.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$15.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,740.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Graduate Art Alliance
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Fall and Spring Open Studios
Event Date: November 1, 2013 and Spring 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$100.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
	Sub-Total:	\$700.00

Event Name: Visiting Artist Lecture
Event Date: March 5, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
615	Contractual Services	\$700.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
624	Travel	\$400.00
	Sub-Total:	\$1,350.00

Event Name: MFA Exhibition at The William Benton Museum of Art
Event Date: April 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$1,100.00
	Sub-Total:	\$1,100.00

TOTAL: **\$3,150.00**



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Graduate Art Alliance *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code*

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$1,250.00
615	Contractual Services	\$700.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$800.00
624	Travel	\$400.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,150.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Graduate Art History Society
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Fall 2013 Guest Speaker and Special Topics Workshop
Event Date: October 24, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$10.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$150.00
624	Travel	\$275.00
	Sub-Total:	<u>\$1,435.00</u>

Event Name: Spring 2014 Guest Speaker and Professional Development Workshop
Event Date: March 20, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$10.00
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$150.00
	Sub-Total:	<u>\$510.00</u>

Event Name: MA Thesis Symposium
Event Date: April 21, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$175.00
	Sub-Total:	<u>\$175.00</u>

TOTAL: \$2,120.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Graduate Art History Society FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$20.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$475.00
624	Travel	\$275.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,120.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Graduate Association of Public Policy Students *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: GAPPS Professional Panel
Event Date: Various dates (2x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$80.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$300.00
Sub-Total:		\$380.00

Event Name: GAPPS Professional Development Night
Event Date: Various dates (2x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$80.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$240.00
Sub-Total:		\$320.00
TOTAL:		\$700.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Graduate Association of Public Policy Students

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$160.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$540.00
	TOTAL:	\$700.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Green Grads

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Graduate Student Canoe Trip
Event Date: September 15, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
624	Travel	\$250.00
Sub-Total:		\$1,250.00

Event Name: Earth Day Spring Fling
Event Date: April 22, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$100.00
604	Photocopying	\$10.00
606	Printing	\$40.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
Sub-Total:		\$200.00

Event Name: Critical Mass Storrs
Event Date: Various dates (2x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$60.00
604	Photocopying	\$30.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$30.00
Sub-Total:		\$120.00

TOTAL: \$1,570.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Green Grads

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$160.00
604	Photocopying	\$40.00
606	Printing	\$40.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$30.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
624	Travel	\$250.00
	TOTAL:	\$1,570.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Languages Graduate Student Association
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Recalling the Past: A Trip Down Memory Lane
Event Date: Spring 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
615	Contractual Services	\$400.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$480.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	Sub-Total:	\$1,480.00

Event Name: Film Festivals
Event Date: Various dates (5x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$100.00
615	Contractual Services	\$200.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$250.00
	Sub-Total:	\$550.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,030.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Languages Graduate Student Association FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$150.00
615	Contractual Services	\$600.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$730.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,030.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Linguistics Club at UConn FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: NELS 44
Event Date: October 18-20, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
624	Travel	\$2,040.00
	Sub-Total:	\$2,390.00

Event Name: Linguistics Colloquium Series at UConn
Event Date: Various dates (8x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$1,350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$155.00
624	Travel	\$600.00
	Sub-Total:	\$2,105.00
	TOTAL:	\$4,495.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Linguistics Club at UConn *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code*

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$1,700.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$155.00
624	Travel	\$2,640.00
	TOTAL:	\$4,495.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Marine Science Department Graduate Students
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: New Graduate Student Welcome Ceremony at Esker Point
Event Date: August 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$175.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$25.00
	Sub-Total:	\$200.00

Event Name: Intradepartmental End of Semester Gathering
Event Date: May 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$25.00
	Sub-Total:	\$225.00

Event Name: Documentary Night
Event Date: Various dates (8x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$80.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$20.00
	Sub-Total:	\$100.00

Event Name: Brownbag Presentations
Event Date: Various dates (30x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$300.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$20.00
	Sub-Total:	\$320.00

TOTAL: \$845.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Marine Science Department Graduate Students

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$755.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$90.00
	TOTAL:	\$845.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Medical Anthropology Forum
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Fall Semester Lecture
Event Date: Fall 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$75.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$10.00
624	Travel	\$5.00
	Sub-Total:	\$440.00

Event Name: Spring Semester Lecture
Event Date: Spring 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$75.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$10.00
624	Travel	\$5.00
	Sub-Total:	\$440.00

Event Name: Guest Lecture Series
Event Date: Various dates (5x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
624	Travel	\$25.00
	Sub-Total:	\$225.00
	TOTAL:	\$1,105.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Medical Anthropology Forum FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$700.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$350.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$20.00
624	Travel	\$35.00
	TOTAL:	\$1,105.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Neag Graduate Student Association
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Pages 1-2 break down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 3). Thus, Pages 1-2 are simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Run for Rehab 5K (SAPTA)
Event Date: October 26, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
604	Photocopying	\$25.00
605	Postage	\$25.00
615	Contractual Services	\$250.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$300.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
Sub-Total:		<u>\$650.00</u>

Event Name: Guest Lecturer - Education (SASP)
Event Date: November 8, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$250.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$175.00
624	Travel	\$250.00
Sub-Total:		<u>\$675.00</u>

Event Name: Contemporary Issues in Higher Education Panel (UCSAA)
Event Date: Fall 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$50.00
604	Photocopying	\$20.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$360.00
Sub-Total:		<u>\$430.00</u>



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Neag Graduate Student Association
FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event (cont.)

Event Name: Guest Lecturer - Education (SASP)
Event Date: February 14, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$750.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$360.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
Sub-Total:		\$1,610.00

Event Name: Guest Lecturer - Education (SASP)
Event Date: April 11, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$250.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$175.00
624	Travel	\$250.00
Sub-Total:		\$675.00

Event Name: CBER Day of Research (NGSA)
Event Date: May 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$500.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$500.00
623	Rental	\$200.00
Sub-Total:		\$1,200.00

Event Name: Careers in Higher Education Lunch & Learns (UCSAA)
Event Date: Various dates (4x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
604	Photocopying	\$50.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
Sub-Total:		\$650.00

TOTAL: **\$5,890.00**



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Neag Graduate Student Association FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 3 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$50.00
604	Photocopying	\$95.00
605	Postage	\$25.00
615	Contractual Services	\$2,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$2,470.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
623	Rental	\$200.00
624	Travel	\$1,000.00
	TOTAL:	\$5,890.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Philosophy Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Invited Speaker Lecture
Event Date: March 15, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
TOTAL:		\$900.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Philosophy Graduate Student Association

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
624	Travel	\$500.00
	TOTAL:	\$900.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Physics Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Interdepartmental Halloween Party
Event Date: October 24, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$400.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$100.00
	Sub-Total:	\$500.00

Event Name: Interdepartmental Summer BBQ
Event Date: June 21, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
	Sub-Total:	\$250.00
	TOTAL:	\$750.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Physics Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code*

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$150.00
	TOTAL:	\$750.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Political Science Graduate Student Association *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Annual Conference
Event Date: March 1, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
		\$0.00
	TOTAL:	\$0.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Political Science Graduate Student Association

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
		\$0.00
	TOTAL:	\$0.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Committee *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: R Statistical Training Workshop
Event Date: January 2014 (2 workshops)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
624	Travel	\$750.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,400.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Committee *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code*

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
615	Contractual Services	\$1,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$600.00
624	Travel	\$750.00
	TOTAL:	\$2,400.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Student Association of Graduate Engineers *FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event*

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Science Olympics
Event Date: September 20, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
613	Awards and Prizes	\$100.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$200.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
Sub-Total:		\$350.00

Event Name: Spring Social
Event Date: May 17, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$50.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$100.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$100.00
Sub-Total:		\$300.00
TOTAL:		\$650.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

Student Association of Graduate Engineers

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$50.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$150.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$300.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$150.00
	TOTAL:	\$650.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

TARANG

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Page 1 breaks down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 2). Thus, Page 1 is simply meant to be a budgeting aid for your group, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Diwali
Event Date: November 15, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$100.00
606	Printing	\$20.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$30.00
615	Contractual Services	\$400.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$1,500.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
623	Rental	\$350.00
625	Equipment (<\$1k)	\$100.00
	Sub-Total:	\$2,550.00

Event Name: Holi
Event Date: March 17, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
615	Contractual Services	\$50.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$700.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$50.00
	Sub-Total:	\$800.00

TOTAL: \$3,350.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

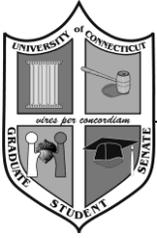
Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

TARANG

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 2 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.3 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$100.00
606	Printing	\$20.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$30.00
615	Contractual Services	\$450.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$2,200.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$100.00
623	Rental	\$350.00
625	Equipment (<\$1k)	\$100.00
	TOTAL:	\$3,350.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

FY13-14 Activities Budget



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

GSS Activities

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event

Please Note: Pages 1-2 break down your budget allocation for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 (FY13-14) by event. For the purposes of GSS reimbursement, the "spending cap" on your budget is not determined by event but rather by budget allocation per expense code for the whole of FY13-14 (see Page 3). Thus, Pages 1-2 are simply meant to be a budgeting aid for you, based on the events proposed in your FY13-14 budget submission.

Event Name: Graduate Appreciation and Information Night (GAIN)
Event Date: August 23, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$185.00
612	Advertising	\$15.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$200.00
615	Contractual Services	\$500.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$11,000.00
623	Rental	\$2,000.00
	Sub-Total:	\$13,900.00

Event Name: Thanksgiving Dinner
Event Date: November 15, 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$40.00
612	Advertising	\$10.00
615	Contractual Services	\$100.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$11,100.00
	Sub-Total:	\$11,250.00

Event Name: End of Fall Semester Social Night
Event Date: Fall 2013

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$40.00
612	Advertising	\$10.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$550.00
	Sub-Total:	\$600.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

GSS Activities

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Event (cont.)

Event Name: Professional Development Symposium
Event Date: February 15, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$200.00
606	Printing	\$300.00
612	Advertising	\$200.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$1,500.00
623	Rental	\$200.00
624	Travel	\$600.00
Sub-Total:		\$3,000.00

Event Name: Grad Prom
Event Date: March 15, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$60.00
612	Advertising	\$15.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$200.00
615	Contractual Services	\$2,000.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$9,000.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$800.00
Sub-Total:		\$12,075.00

Event Name: End of Spring Semester Social Night
Event Date: April 25, 2014

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
606	Printing	\$40.00
612	Advertising	\$10.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$550.00
Sub-Total:		\$600.00

Event Name: Graduate Student Writing Retreats
Event Date: Various dates (8x per school year)

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$1,200.00
Sub-Total:		\$1,200.00

TOTAL: **\$42,625.00**



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

GSS Activities

FY13-14 Budget Allocation: By Expense Code

Please Note: Page 3 breaks down your budget allocation for FY13-14 by expense code. These are your "spending caps" for the fiscal year for each expense code. Funds may be reallocated across expense codes per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 2.3.1.2 (document available on the GSS website).

<u>Expense Code</u>	<u>Expense Code Name</u>	<u>Amount Allocated</u>
603	Gifts	\$200.00
606	Printing	\$665.00
612	Advertising	\$260.00
613	Awards and Prizes	\$400.00
615	Contractual Services	\$2,600.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Pgrms	\$34,900.00
621	Supplies -- Events/Pgrms	\$800.00
623	Rental	\$2,200.00
624	Travel	\$600.00
	TOTAL:	\$42,625.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

YTD/Historic Activities Budget Record

Fall Budget				
	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
GAIN	\$ 13,300.00	\$ 11,586.42	\$ 13,200.00	\$ 10,351.50
Rentals (623)	2,000.00	1,366.85	1,700.00	966.85
Dinner (620)	10,000.00	9,087.45	10,000.00	8,719.55
Kosher & Halal Food (620)	500.00	-	500.00	215.10
Gift Cards (613)	200.00	25.00	200.00	200.00
Mailings & Invitations (604-606)	100.00	20.00	100.00	-
Miscellaneous (603, 620, etc.)	100.00	787.12	200.00	-
Entertainment (615)	400.00	300.00	500.00	250.00
Social Night #1 (620, etc.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,782.00	\$ 1,497.00	\$ -
September Coffee Hour (620)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128.00	\$ 158.00
Social Night #2 (620, etc.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,566.00	\$ 1,497.00	\$ 816.00
November Coffee Hour (620)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 128.00	\$ -
Thanksgiving Dinner (615, 620)	\$ 10,550.00	\$ 11,584.80	\$ 12,950.00	\$ 11,331.80
Alternative Event (620, etc.)	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,494.33	\$ 128.00	\$ 750.00
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 28,350.00	\$ 28,013.55	\$ 29,528.00	\$ 23,407.30
Spring Budget				
	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
Grad School Co-Sponsored Event #1	\$ -	\$ 39.92	\$ -	\$ -
GSS Contribution	500.00	239.91	-	-
(Graduate School Contribution)	(500.00)	(199.99)	-	-
Grad School Co-Sponsored Event #2	\$ -	\$ 95.00	\$ -	\$ -
GSS Contribution	-	795.00	-	-
(Graduate School Contribution)	-	(700.00)	-	-
Grad Prom	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 11,850.83	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 10,770.78
606 Printing	40.00	60.50	25.00	27.00
612 Advertising	-	10.00	-	-
613 Awards and Prizes	200.00	52.10	200.00	246.75
615 Contractual Services	2,000.00	2,296.20	1,800.00	1,500.00
620 Refreshments	10,000.00	8,387.00	9,000.00	8,259.57
621 Supplies	760.00	645.03	575.00	737.46
623 Rental	-	400.00	-	-
Social Night #1 (620)	1,800.00	?	1,440.00	1,092.00
Social Night #2 (620)	-	-	1,440.00	1,382.40
Ice Cream Social (620)	800.00	?	500.00	370.25
Alternative Event	\$ 900.00	?	\$ 1,020.00	\$ -
613 Awards and Prizes	400.00	?	800.00	-
620 Refreshments	500.00	?	220.00	-
GSS Prof. Dev. Symposium	\$ 3,050.00	\$ 775.67	\$ 2,850.00	\$ 1,621.58
606 Printing	100.00	299.80	500.00	135.00
612 Advertising	400.00	170.00	-	-
615 Contractual Services	1,050.00	300.00	2,000.00	550.00
620 Refreshments	1,750.00	1,628.98	600.00	725.00
621 Supplies	-	-	400.00	-
624 Travel	1,750.00	376.89	1,000.00	174.83
631 Miscellaneous	-	-	350.00	36.75
(Graduate School Contribution)	(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)	-
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 19,550.00	\$ 12,761.42	\$ 18,850.00	\$ 15,237.01
TOTAL	\$ 47,900.00	\$ 40,774.97	\$ 48,378.00	\$ 38,644.31

Values in red are estimates based on anticipated expenses and revenues not yet deducted from/deposited into the GSS SABO account

Values in italics and accompanied by a \$ indicate the full cost of a specific event



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Full AY13-14
Graduate Student Senate Budget



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Full AY13-14 Graduate Student Senate Budget

Accurate as of 04/16/2013

	AY13-14 Proposed	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
General Operations	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,977.21	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,626.40
Executive Committee Stipends	11,330.00	11,000.00	7,103.66	11,000.00	10,898.05
Administrative Assistant	6,180.00	17,511.00	4,258.99	17,001.00	12,873.76
Activities	42,625.00	47,900.00	40,774.97	48,378.00	38,644.31
Special Allocations	5,000.00	5,000.00	1,164.51	30,515.00	29,380.27
Tier II Graduate Organizations	38,420.00	35,167.00	13,627.07	30,000.00	20,816.33
TOTAL	\$ 108,235.00	\$ 122,578.00	\$ 70,906.41	\$ 142,294.00	\$ 118,239.12

Percent Utilization of GSS Budget: 77.85%

83.09%

Percent Utilization of Estimated Annual Income: 84.07%

136.66%

Note: **Academic Year (AY)** expenses are defined as such:

- For **Tier II** and **Activities** expenses: Expenses made within the University of Connecticut's fiscal year (July 1 - June 30). For example, AY12-13 includes all Tier II and Activities expenses made from July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013.
- For **non-Tier II** and **non-Activities** expenses: Expenses made on the day after the last day of the Spring semester (including final exams) that lies within the previous fiscal year through the last day of the Spring semester (including final exams) that lies within the fiscal year in question. For example, AY12-13 includes all non-Tier II and non-Activities expenses made from Monday, May 7, 2012 - Sunday, May 12, 2013.

Values in red are estimates based on anticipated expenses and revenues not yet deducted from/deposited into the GSS SABO account



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
 24 April 2013

AY13-14 General Operations Budget

	AY13-14 Proposed	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
604 Photocopying	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 31.91	\$ 50.00	\$ 19.95
605 Postage	80.00	100.00	41.25	100.00	27.16
606 Printing	250.00	50.00	174.51	50.00	426.72
607 Promotional Items	750.00	-	-	500.00	50.00
608 Refreshments	2,600.00	2,000.00	2,366.00	1,600.00	2,953.56
610 Supplies	400.00	900.00	167.73	1,100.00	940.28
611 Telephone	550.00	1,000.00	814.86	1,000.00	1,208.73
625/626 Equipment	-	1,400.00	180.95	-	-
631 Miscellaneous	-	500.00	200.00	1,000.00	-
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,977.21	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,626.40

Values in red are estimates based on anticipated expenses and revenues not yet deducted from/deposited into the GSS SABO account



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation

24 April 2013

AY13-14 Executive Committee Stipends

	AY13-14 Proposed	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
President (642)	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 2,933.34	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Vice President (642)	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	750.00
Secretary (642)	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Treasurer (642)	2,400.00	2,400.00	1,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Activities Director (642)	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,200.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Parliamentarian (642)	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Worker's Comp. at 3% (644)	330.00	-	70.32	-	148.05
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 11,330.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 7,103.66	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,898.05

Note: Expense codes in parentheses. YTD values account for Worker's Compensation, which was not budgeted for. Worker's Compensation is accounted for in the AY13-14 Proposed values and is assessed at 3%.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

AY13-14 Administrative Assistant Wages and Taxes

	AY13-14 Proposed	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
Summer					
Wages (642)	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,952.00	\$ 948.30	\$ 4,808.00	\$ 1,632.75
Worker's Comp. at 3% (644)	36.00	198.00	9.81	192.00	46.87
Sub-total	\$ 1,236.00	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 958.11	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,679.62
Academic Year					
Wages (642)	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 10,475.00	\$ 3,268.20	\$ 10,170.00	\$ 11,194.14
Worker's Comp. at 3% (644)	144.00	1,886.00	32.68	1,831.00	-
Sub-total	\$ 4,944.00	\$ 12,361.00	\$ 3,300.88	\$ 12,001.00	\$ 11,194.14
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 6,180.00	\$ 17,511.00	\$ 4,258.99	\$ 17,001.00	\$ 12,873.76

Note: Expense codes in parentheses. In AY12-13, the GSS Graduate Assistant position was converted to a Student Labor Administrative Assistant position. This resulted in lower expected wage costs.

Values in red are estimates based on anticipated expenses and revenues not yet deducted from/deposited into the GSS SABO account



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

AY13-14 Special Allocations

	AY13-14 Proposed	AY12-13 Budgeted	AY12-13 YTD Actual	AY11-12 Budgeted	AY11-12 Actual
Emergency Loan Fund (631)	-	-	-	\$ 25,000.00	25,000.00
Other (631)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	1,164.51	\$ 5,515.00	4,380.27
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,164.51	\$ 30,515.00	\$ 29,380.27

Note: Expense codes in parentheses; although actual AY13-14 expenses spent from the "Other" category will likely fall into expense codes other than 631 Miscellaneous, for simplification, all \$5,000 was budgeted into this category. The Special Allocations for the Spring Activities Budget and GSS Professional Development Symposium were removed from this section. They were included in the AY11-12 and AY12-13 Activities Budget.

Values in red are estimates based on anticipated expenses and revenues not yet deducted from/deposited into the GSS SABO account



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

GSS Fiscal Year Income

	FY13-14 Projected	FY12-13 YTD	FY11-12 Actual
516 Co-Sponsorships	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,200.00	\$ -
531 Miscellaneous	\$ 250.00	\$ -	\$ -
532 Prior Year Income	\$ -	\$ 1,042.47	\$ -
546 Interest (Univ.)	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 62.69
547 Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	\$ 83,200.00	\$ 82,108.00	\$ 86,459.35
SUB-TOTAL	\$ 85,550.00	\$ 85,350.47	\$ 86,522.04

Note: These values are accurate for the fiscal year. The projected income from co-sponsorships are anticipated GSS/Graduate School co-sponsored events. The remaining FY13-14 Projected values are those that were presented before the Student Activity & Service Fee Advisory Committee.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

Status of Short-Term Emergency Loan Fund

	As of 04/11/2013	As of 06/30/2012	As of 06/30/2011
Claim on cash (Available funds)	\$ 85,526.16	\$ 75,476.27	\$ 52,703.98
Loans receivable (Funds loaned out)	\$ 35,041.61	\$ 45,091.50	\$ 42,669.92
LOAN FUND RESERVES	\$ 120,567.77	\$ 120,567.77	\$ 95,373.90

Note: An amount of \$25,000 was transferred from the GSS SABO account to the Short-Term Emergency Loan Fund on 10/17/2011. Additionally, an amount of \$10,000 was transferred from the GSS SABO account to the Short-Term Emergency Loan Fund on 03/01/2011.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation 24 April 2013

Full AY13-14 Graduate Student Senate Budget

Income:

501	Donations	-
502	Dues	-
512	Advertising	-
513	Awards and Prizes	-
515	Contractual Services	-
516	Co-Sponsorships	-
517	Food Sales	-
518	Merchandise Sales	-
519	Participation Fees	-
522	Registration Fees	-
523	Rental	-
524	Travel	-
530	Penalties and Fees	-
531	Miscellaneous	250.00
532	Prior Year Income	-
533	Change Fund Returns	-
540	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
546	Interest (Univ.)	100.00
547	Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	83,200.00
Total Income:		\$ 83,550.00

Expenses:

601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	670.00
604	Photocopying	190.00
605	Postage	105.00
606	Printing	2,585.00
607	Promotional Items	750.00
608	Refreshments -- Organization	2,600.00
609	Subscriptions	-
610	Supplies -- Organization	400.00
611	Telephone	550.00
612	Advertising	340.00
613	Awards and Prizes	580.00
615	Contractual Services	15,700.00
616	Co-Sponsorships	-
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-
619	Participation Fees	-
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	47,955.00



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Addendum: GSS Budget Recommendation
24 April 2013

621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	1,650.00	
622	Registration Fees	-	
623	Rental	3,600.00	
624	Travel	7,950.00	
625	Equipment	100.00	
626	Equipment -- Capital	-	
627	Insurance	-	
628	Repairs and Maintenance	-	
629	Utilities	-	
630	Penalties and Fees	-	
631	Miscellaneous	5,000.00	
632	Prior Year Expenses	-	
633	Change Funds	-	
640	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-	
641	Employee Benefits (Tier III)	-	
642	Wages -- Student (Tier III)	17,000.00	
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-	
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	510.00	
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-	
Total Expenses:		\$ 108,235.00	
Net Profit (Loss)			\$ (24,685.00)
AY13-14 Beginning Balance*			30,553.75
Plus Net Profit (Loss)			(24,685.00)
AY13-14 End Balance (Unappropriated Funds)			\$ 5,868.75

* This value is estimated using the following formula:

AY12-13 Anticipated Income - AY12-13 Anticipated Expenses + Surplus

where

AY12-13 Anticipated Income = \$83,200 in student fees + \$100 in interest + all other known *non-Activities-related* income from AY12-13 (Activities-related income is accounted for in the AY12-13 YTD Activities expenses)

AY12-13 Anticipated Expenses = Sum of all AY12-13 YTD expenses *except* Tier II expenses and Activities expenses + 70% * AY12-13 Budgeted Tier II expenses + 90% * AY12-13 Budgeted Activities expenses

Surplus = GSS SABO account fund balance ("surplus") value at the beginning of FY12-13 (July 1, 2012) = \$30,442.55.