



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

3 April 2013

- I. Called to Order at 7:00 pm.

- II. Special Guests: Changes to the Graduate Assistant Health Benefits
 - a. University is changing the Graduate Assistant health benefit plan that will affect all graduate students
 - b. Historically the grad assistant plan has been managed by the state of Connecticut. For many years they are the one who design the plan, not giving the University to design a plan that meets the University's needs and graduate student needs. The office of State Comptroller does, however, manage the benefits of all state employees. So when the University has gone to them with challenges/issues with the plan, but they've in essence said there is not much they can do about it.
 - c. In 2010, the state of Connecticut decided that the state is going to become self-insured, so the University of Connecticut is now responsible for managing the graduate student plan. As the University tried to get assistance to transition into this position, they were continually ignored by the office of the comptroller.
 - d. For the past eight months, the University has been trying to develop a plan that really addresses all students, graduate students included. They're trying to determine what makes sense for this population. There was a tremendous number of things that were wrong with the plan the State had set out for the University.
 - e. About two years ago, we were one of the first schools in the United States that, in 2012, met the 2014 standards for the Affordable Health Care Act. The price went up to \$2564, but it was a great plan.
 - f. Every student must prove that they have medical insurance. If a student does not have that waived, then they are immediately billed \$2564 on September 1. For graduate students, the process has been very confusing.
 - g. Please see Addendum for more details.
 - i. The student plan does not have eye care benefits. Dental is a separate benefit that students can opt into.
 - h. As of May 1, communications will begin to go around to graduate students about this new plan. The type of communication they've done in the past is by mail and email.
 - i. Chantelle suggests that we present this at our next Senate meeting.
 - i. They will need to develop a Q&A fact sheet.
 - i. Safet would like to know if the medical evacuation and repatriation applies to American students abroad, not just international students coming to the United States.

- III. Recognition of Attendees
 - a. All Present. Presiding: Chantelle Messier, Secretary: Erin Eighan.



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- IV. Approval of Minutes: 13 March 2013
 - a. Approved.

- V. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 - 1. Started budget hearings. Had one last week and will be holding three next week. Anish will be holding his Activities Budget hearing on Wednesday immediately before the GSS meeting.
 - ii. Monthly Financial Report for March
 - iii. SASFAC and the GUF
 - 1. Part of the General University Fee (GUF) is allocated to the Division of Athletics. All student recreation programs fall under Athletics. The total annual recreation budget is much bigger than the annual GUF allocation that goes to Athletics. A lot of people are concerned about how large a proportion of our GUF fee goes to Athletics, but in theory all of the Athletics GUF allocation goes to recreation, which directly benefits students 100%.
 - 2. Currently, for work study, 75% of the work-study wage is paid for by the federal government and 25% comes from the central University budget. Starting next fiscal year, the 25% will have to come from the University units hosting the work-study student. That may come into consideration when SASFAC decides on whether to increase the GUF fees.
 - 3. Based on the latest estimates from the State of Connecticut, it is expected that fringe benefits will rise by 2.5%.
 - 4. If NextGen CT goes through, there will be potentially more revenue for the University, given a larger student body, but there may also be more staffing needs to support the larger student body, which may counteract against the increased revenue.
 - 5. Career Services is becoming a University-wide unit that includes regional campuses. The division of funding for Career Services might be a concern, given that all University campuses will now be contributing funds to the unit.
 - 6. SASFAC wants to know what progress has been made regarding the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life engaging graduate students.



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- b. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- c. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Next Year’s Budget Suggestions
 - 1. Events designed for older graduate students and graduate students with families
 - a. Family-friendly events could be organized around Halloween or other holidays something like that
 - b. As long as we’re not directly paying for alcohol, that’s fine. But if we’re paying for an event at which alcohol will be served, we have to encourage responsible consumption.
 - c. Could consider chartering buses to different local events (i.e. the Big E, Artist Open Studios, etc.)
 - 2. Events at regional campuses
 - a. Avery Point picnic/BBQ with transportation
 - b. Greater Hartford campus
 - c. We do explicitly empower them to host their own events that we will fund. If whoever wants to be more closely involved with the planning of those events, that would be fine. We do tell them that we will pay for them to host events on their campus.
 - 3. Speed dating has gotten a few requests
- d. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
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3. Speed dating has gotten a few requests
- f. Secretary – Erin Eighan
- g. Vice President – Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Survey
 1. The Statistical Consulting Center at UConn can help us analyze our survey data. There is a cost associated, though it may be waived.
 - a. Try requesting a waiver. If we do pay for this, we're essentially taking money out of the budget for future years.
 - b. Consider also asking Bing to do it.
 2. Student Life Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 8, 2013 to discuss the new survey and changes to the Federal Work Study program.
 3. It might be beneficial if the FPPs were changed to make the VP a non-voting member of the Finance Committee to aid in the appeal process.
 - a. Chantelle recalls that the goal of the appeals process when it was designed in the past was that the VP be an objective mediator, who did not participate in the original process.
 - h. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Scheduling next year's Professional Development Symposium
 1. Should we go for the same scheduling?
 - a. Over Winter Break it was hard to get in touch with anyone, so if the Symposium was held early on in the Semester, it would be hectic to cram all the final planning.
 - b. Include some workshops and breakout sessions.
 2. Should Chantelle schedule this or is this something that the next President should have input on?
 - a. Book the space as soon as possible, but careful of the cancellation policy.
 - ii. GSS Orientation in the Fall
 1. We may want to try to be available to help.
 2. Logistical issue about holding an orientation before some departments have elected their Senators.
 3. Consider constructing a handbook for newcomers in addition to a one-time Orientation each year.
 4. Things to include



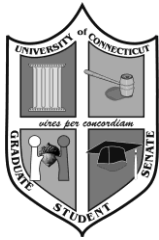
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- a. Basic parliamentary procedure
 - b. Basic outline of organizational documents
 - c. Discuss the actions the Senate can take and how to take them (i.e. Motions, Resolutions, etc.)
 - d. No more than an hour, an hour before the first meeting of the semester.
 - i. The University Senate always has coffee and cookies to encourage people to go.
 - ii. Could potentially have a meet and greet session in combination with this.
- iii. Officer Transition Plans
1. They need to be signed by the last Exec meeting so Exec officers can get their final paychecks.
 2. Bring all the paperwork to the last Exec meeting (April 17)
 3. Transfer of signature authority.
 4. Transfer of keys.
 5. Make sure that you're sending all of your GSS related documents to Bing to upload to the GSS Google Drive.
 6. All officers-elect should come to the final Exec meeting on April 17 in Whetten 200. We can then have a dinner meeting on May 1 with outgoing and incoming Exec.
- iv. Bing can only stay for one semester last year as our graduate assistant.
1. Ian could talk to him about extending his contract after it ends in May to continue on at least until the next semester ends.
- VI. Prepare Agenda for the Next Meeting
- VII. Adjournment at 9:20 pm



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Addendum: Changes to GA Health Benefits
3 April 2013

Graduate Assistant Costs

POE Plan Annual Premium

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

POS Plan Annual Premium

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



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



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