

- I. Call to Order** 7:06 pm.
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 3 December 2014 approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
 - a. GSS Service Award committee
 - i. Tony Pateulanas, Parisksheet Nanda, Greg Triech, Mike Winder
- VI. New Business**
 - a. GSS 14/15: 8 - *That the GSS use \$200.00 from the Special Allocations fund to hire a tax consultant to give a presentation to graduate students in preparation of April 15th*
 - i. There has been a lot of confusion over taxes in the past with competing information from the university. The senate agreed that it would be a good idea for someone to come to talk with graduate students. Senator Wong brought up the idea to bring someone from the bursar to the presentation to help with additional questions. Motion passes.
 - b. GSS 14/15: 9: *That the GSS Establish a Temporary Procedure for the Spring 2015 Executive Committee Election*
 - i. Parliamentarian presented a motion to temporary change the election process to for the upcoming spring elections (more information is attached below). Treasurer Ambroselli asked how it would work with last minute nominations and Parliamentarian Butler answered that it would not be an issue and candidates can circulate one at meeting. Motion passes.
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
 - a. President – Jason Charrette
 - i. Update
 - 1. The SEC volunteered to do the analysis for us since there is a time sensitive window they would like the answers for. They would like to present the information to the BOT about the desire for grad centric housing.

2. Rec Center Committee – Now the committee will go through us and not undergraduates. The committee will consist of three graduate students amongst other undergraduates. The committee is tasked with supporting graduate student interest, whether it be earlier/late hours, childcare, etc.
 - a. GSS voted for our representatives to be Phillip Price. Julia Drouin, Michelle San Pedro
 - b. Vice President – Talea Cornelius
 - i. Regarding the WRTD bus there is less movement than we would have liked and we are waiting to hear from John Armstrong.
 - ii. Career services are looking to be more involved. They do not have a way to access department heads and so I would like for all of you to email me the name and email of your department head. She is thrilled to talk to graduate students and would like to be more involved in graduate student life.
 - iii. Insurance – right now eye glasses are not covered. It is not terrible feasible for someone to come in to make glasses, but it may be useful to have someone in to give eye exams. To do this though graduate student need to show interest, this will be a small increase in fees since it will be a new hire. Senator Simming brought up the suggestion of maybe finding providers that can give eye exams. This is something VP Cornelius will continue to look at.
 - iv. Vibrant graduate life – we are trying to have a vibrant graduate life with a calendar where grads can submit activities
 - c. Treasurer – Michael Ambroselli
 - i. The Budget for Tier II groups is due January 31st
 1. So far we have only received seven budgets. If you have any questions feel free to email or talk to Michael until Friday evening. The budget needs to be in before the deadline
 - ii. We got our financial statement and not much has changed. We have received money but also spent money. We tend to float around \$30,000.

- iii. SASFAC Public Hearings will be happening. They are going to hold open an open forum. All the times and dates can be found on the GSS calendar and also SASFAC website.
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
 - i. Attendance
 - ii. Committee Report Forms
 - iii. New Website!
 - 1. We have a new website that we are trying to keep updated as much as possible.
- e. Activities Director – Nicole Flaig
 - i. Upcoming Activities
 - 1. In planning stages are also a Game Night with board games and rented time in the Game room in SU, a singles mixer in the Benton, a Mohegan Sun trip, and possibly an end-of-semester coffee day or social mixer at Nathan Hale (depending on budget).
 - ii. Graduate Prom
 - 1. Grad Prom has a photo booth and DJ set up, will have cash bar and fun lighting like last time. Theme is "CLUE" as in the board game (if you don't know it, "Mystery" and "Who-done-it" is the idea). I NEED A COMMITTEE TO WORK ON THIS. I'll have very specific directions to those who want to just help and some creative thought projects for those who want to do that sort of thing. Have them email me. Date is Feb 27th (Friday). Dinner at 7pm, dance at 8pm.
 - iii. Breakfast with the President, Monday, February 9th, 9:30am
 - 1. Breakfast with President Herbst is coming up Feb 9th. Working on organizing the questions to address to her. Email already sent to those who will be attending
- f. Parliamentarian – Pat Butler
 - i. President and Treasurer Pay
 - ii. Intent to Run for at large senators for GSS is on Feb 9th

iii. Apportionment presentation (more information can be found below)

VIII. External Committee Reports

IX. Issues Forum

- a. Buses – Tom Briggs – The buses weren't running today yet campus was still open. There needs to be more communication between the university and WRTD.
- b. Nancy Wong – Student Welfare Committee – Starting in December the DOT will be taking over WRTD so there is going to be a leadership change
- c. Co-Op board of directors – Tony Pateulunas – we should think about GSS maybe supporting someone to run this impacts graduate students

X. Adjournment 8:30pm



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Minutes
28 January 2015

ATTENDANCE

Department/ Tier II Group	Name	Email	Initial
Animal Science	Meera Surendran Nair	meera.nair@uconn.edu	MS
Anthropology	Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	MS
Civil and Environmental Engineering	Valeri Kolev	valeri.kolev@uconn.edu	VK
	Anif Heban Edward Eskew	anifheban@uconn.edu	EE
Communications	Karen Piantek	karen.piantek@uconn.edu	
Economics	Xiupeng Wang	xiupeng.wang@uconn.edu	
	Jun He	jun.he@uconn.edu	JH
Educational Leadership (UCSAA)	Huong Nguyen	huong.nguyen@uconn.edu	HN
Educational Leadership (NGSA)	Mike Mudrick	mudrick@uconn.edu	MM
Educational Psychology	Ashley Wisniewski	ashley.wisniewski@uconn.edu	AW
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	
	Kaitlin Gallagher	kaitlin.gallagher@uconn.edu	KG
English	Brandon Benevento	bbenevento@gmail.com	
	George Moore	george.p.moore@uconn.edu	GM
Graduate Art Alliance	Claire Coleman	claire.coleman@uconn.edu	
Graduate Art History Society	Betty Lou Starnes	betty.starnes@uconn.edu	
	Hannah Kennedy	hannah.kennedy@uconn.edu	
Human Development & Family Studies	Carmen Britton	carmen.britton@uconn.edu	

UConn UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE		GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE <i>University of Connecticut</i> Senator Attendance 28 January 2015	
LANGSA/LCL	Nicole Coleman	nicole.coleman@uconn.edu	10
	Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso	ruth.yuste-alonso@uconn.edu	
Linguistics	Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	20
Medieval Studies	Meg Megan Goodrich	mfgoodrich@gmail.com	14
Molecular and Cellular Biology	Anthony Patchinas	anthony.patchinas@uconn.edu	2
Philosophy	Jordan Ochs	jordan.ochs@uconn.edu	
Plastics Engineers	Gregory Treich	gregory.treich@uconn.edu	
Psychology	Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	17
	Talea Cornelius	talea.cornelius@uconn.edu	
	Andy Tucker	andrew.tucker@uconn.edu	
Sociology	Heidi Obach	heidi.obach@uconn.edu	
Speech Language and Hearing Sciences	Julia Drouin	julia.drouin@uconn.edu	JD
Iranian Cultural Organization	Reza Amin	reza.amin@uconn.edu	Amin
	Sajad Mirzaei	sajad.mirzaei@uconn.edu	
Graduate Students of Color Association	Shanna Graham	shanna.graham@uconn.edu	
	Dana Miranda	dana.miranda@uconn.edu	
Senator at Large	Anees Ahmed	anees.ahmed@uconn.edu	
	Morad Behandish	m.behandish@engr.uconn.edu	

GSS 14/15: 9

It is my recommendation that the senate adopt a motion to establish a more effective procedure for the election of the GSS executive committee in the Spring semester of 2015. Given that a more substantive and permanent change would require an emendation of the Constitution there are certain parameters that must be followed for the election procedure this year:

Article VI: 3A: The election of all Officers shall be held annually at the next to last Senate meeting of the Spring semester; nominations will be opened at the regular meeting prior to the election.

Practically speaking this means that the voting must take place during the meeting of the senate. In order to expedite the process while allowing candidates time to circulate a statement of their position I suggest the following procedure:

GSS Motion 1-15: Motion to Establish a Temporary Procedure for the Spring 2015 Executive Committee Election

- Nominations will take place at the regular GSS meeting before the elections (3/11).
- A short written statement from each candidate will be due the Wednesday following the meeting of the nominations, sent to the Parliamentarian and then circulated as a one collected document by the Communications Director (3/18).
- The second to last meeting of the GSS will have a discussion section of fifteen minutes, prior to the election, for the senators to ask questions of the candidates directly or forward any questions from their respective constituencies. The discussion section can be extended by ten minutes with a majority vote of the senate (4/1).

The goal of this motion is two-fold, to give the senators a chance to see a statement from the candidates in a form that will allow for private consideration, and it will give senators an opportunity to ask questions to the candidates based on their prepared statements.

Absent from this procedure is a time for the senate to discuss the candidates in their absence. Concerns have been raised that this practice has done more harm than good, resulting in feelings of intimidation, favoritism, and unproductive discussion, rather than fruitful evaluation of the candidates. It is my hope that by circulating statements from the candidates early the senate will be better prepared for the election the following meeting, and the emphasis will be placed on conversing *with* the candidates rather than talking *about* them

Student Welfare Committee

12/18/2014

Chair: Karen Bresciano
Assistant Dean
Kanre.bresciano@uconn.edu

Representative: Nancy Wong
EDLR
nancy.m.wong@uconn.edu

Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/student.html>
Committee Type: Faculty Senate
Committee

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Books
- Transportation/WRTD Issues (guest speaker, Janet Freniere)

Detailed Report

Books

The committee has determined that this initiative should be led by graduate and undergraduate students at the university. The issue with cost of course texts and book buybacks has been broken down into 3 main themes. The following themes are 1) Student Expenses 2) Co-op Benefits 3) Faculty Benefits. The committee was originally tasked to understand more about faculty benefits and their relationship with the Co-Op; however, the committee believes this issue spans across all 3 themes. In order to begin working on these three areas, we will be gathering research and contacting UConn PIRG and other organizations already pushing for textbook change on campus.

Transportation/WRTD Issues

Janet Freniere from Transportation Services discussed issues with graduate student bussing and WRTD. During the meeting, she stated that the Executive Leader, Mindy Perkins, of WRTD was not open to changing nighttime bussing services. Perkins stated that it would interfere with the Foxwoods Casino

nighttime bus schedule, which helps commute individuals in the Welfare to Work program and casino visitors. Moreover, this is an issue because WRTD is also subsidized by the casino.

Freniere also stated that UConn is unable to provide extra buses or transportation for graduate students because they are already short staffed and lacking vehicles for accommodation. They only recently hired more individuals, but they are all still in the process of training during winter break. We discussed supplying our own staff to drive WRTD busses. Originally, it seems that the WRTD buses were driven by UConn staff, but WRTD stated that our drivers were costing them too much money by driving the vehicles.

Along these lines, Freniere mentioned issues with the lack of transparency from WRTD, which she is hoping will change soon. She communicated that Transportation Services has been listening to the voices of the student population, and it pushed for more student friendly changes. However, they have been unable to compromise with WRTD.

The largest update that Freniere provided was that WRTD is becoming part of Connecticut D.O.T. effectively immediately. It is not expected that the Mindy Perkins of WRTD will still be Executive Director after WRTD changes hands. From Freniere's interactions with Connecticut D.O.T., she explained that D.O.T. has been more open about providing services to accommodate the needs of the student population. Currently, there is no resolution. An alternative suggestion was to get another bus or subsidy through the county of Mansfield in the meantime.

Student Life Committee

1/20/2015

Chair: Talea Cornelius
UConn Affiliation
Talea.cornelius@uconn.edu

Representative: Anthony Patelunas
George Moore

Website: URL Address
Internal/Standing

Committee Type: GSS

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential?

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Discussed WRTD bus; hoping to have a meeting with UConn officials in early February
- Reached out to Kay Gruder; discussed ideas for getting more involvement with career services
- UConn health: will talk to SHS director about possibilities for improving SHS services to students
- Community: Having monthly meet-ups/calendar/events

Detailed Report

WRTD

John Armstrong has suggested a meeting with Bill Wendt, director of transportation. Currently waiting to hear more about setting up meeting times before moving forward.

CAREER SERVICES

Plan to gather contact information to give Kay Gruder. Discussed ideas for easier involvement in student life: checklist of things to do, possible interaction with people in non-academic positions. Plan to ask about progress on these fronts (Kay also has to propose and pass new ideas).

Discussed the need to encourage students to meet with her if they have ideas about what might improve career services for graduate students.

UCONN HEALTH

Discussed possible gaps in health services, such as glasses. Plan to talk with Mike Kurland (director of SHS) about the possibility of eye exams. Plan to gather information about what our current insurance covers regarding eye glasses and put together an information sheet.

COMMUNITY

Discussed the need for a more vibrant graduate life. Plan to have a monthly get-together (e.g., Chuck's, Pub 32), which can be posted on a calendar or emailed out. This would facilitate cross-departmental interactions.

Action Items for Senate

- Feedback on community involvement: is there interest in monthly events?
- Gather department head names and contact information
- Vote on honorarium for tax information session (no guarantee, but plan to reach out and ask if the person from last year would be willing to come again)
- Health survey/interest in eye exams?

Apportionment Report for AY15-17

Adopted by the Graduate Student Senate on

RELEVANT GSS BYLAWS

Bylaw III, Section 2, Part C.iiv

Academic constituencies shall be apportioned at least three-fourths of the total number of seats apportioned, including at-large seats but not including the GSS officers.

Bylaw III, Section 2, Part D

While the Procedures Committee shall have flexibility in apportioning seats in the Senate amongst the academic constituencies, the following guidelines should be used:

- i) Dividing lines between the enrollments required for each level of representation (1, 2, 3, or more seats per constituency) should correspond to natural breaks in the distribution of constituency enrollments.
- ii) Constituencies within roughly the 50th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 1 seat.
- iii) Constituencies within roughly the 50th - 75th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 2 seats.
- iv) Constituencies above roughly the 75th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 3 seats.

Bylaw III, Section 3, Part A

At least one-twentieth of the apportioned seats shall be at-large. All graduate students who do not already represent a constituency in the Senate or serve on the Executive Committee shall be eligible to be at-large Senators.

PERCENTILE DIVISIONS, AY15-17

- **50th percentile** = 59 students. Any academic program having 56 or fewer students is apportioned one Senator according the above Bylaw.
- **50th through 75th percentile** = 60 to 122 students. Any academic program having between 60 and 122 students is apportioned two Senators according the above Bylaw.
- **75th percentile** = 123 students. Any academic program having 123 or more students is apportioned three Senators according the above Bylaw.

DURATION OF THE APPORTIONMENT

While this report is based on data included in the Fall 2014 Graduate School Enrollment Report, the apportioned Senate representation applies to AY15-16 and AY16-17 according to GSS Bylaw III, Section 2, Parts A and B. The apportionment must be redetermined by the first meeting of the Spring semester, 2017.

CHANGES IN REPRESENTATION SINCE LAST APPORTIONMENT

The following constituencies have received a reduction in senators apportioned:

- Communications, from 2 to 1.
- Educational Leadership, from 3 to 2.

The following constituencies have received an increase in senators apportioned:

- Agricultural & Resource Economics, from 1 to 2.
- Chemical & Biomedical Engineering, from 1 to 2.
- Computer Science & Engineering, from 2 to 3.
- Operations & Information Management, from 2 to 3.
- Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences, from 1 to 2.

The following constituencies have been combined:

- Management and Marketing are now Business Administration.

The following constituencies have been added:

- Clinical and Translational Research

- Digital Media and Design
- Sports Management

The following constituencies are no longer recognized as per Article III, Section I Part A of the Constitution of the Graduate Student Senate:

- Judaic Studies (No current graduate student enrollment)

The number of academic constituencies has remained at 58

The number of apportioned academic Senators has increased from 102 to 104

The overall number of apportioned Senators has increased from 109 to 112

FULL APPORTIONMENT

Field of Study	Masters	Doctoral	Total	Seats
Accounting	159		159	3
Agricultural & Resource Economics	49	27	76	2
Allied Health Sciences	26		26	1
Animal Science	14	14	28	1
Anthropology	3	45	48	1
Art History	5		5	1
Biomedical Engineering	65	47	112	2
Business Administration	744	48	792	3
Chemical & Biomedical Engineering	11	50	61	2
Chemistry	6	140	146	3
Civil Engineering & Environmental Engineering	62	57	119	2
Clinical and Translational Research	16		16	1
Communications	6	38	44	1
Computer Science & Engineering	40	84	124	3
Curriculum and Instruction	174	14	188	3
Digital Media and Design	12		12	1
Dramatic Arts	43		43	1
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	12	49	61	2
Economics	16	48	64	2
Educational Leadership	49	43	92	2
Educational Psychology	139	112	251	3
Electrical Engineering	36	117	153	3
English	5	78	83	2
Finance	208		208	3
Geography	5	31	36	1
Geological Sciences	9	6	15	1
History	9	41	50	1
Human Development and Family Studies	21	31	52	1
International Studies	20		20	1
Kinesiology	18	108	126	3

Minutes
28 January 2015

Linguistics		35	35	1
Literatures, Cultures and Languages	25	58	83	2
Marine Sciences	10	25	35	1
Materials Science and Engineering	12	76	88	2
Mathematics	82	58	140	3
Mechanical Engineering	149	71	220	3
Medieval Studies	1	8	9	1
Molecular and Cell Biology	52	95	147	3
Music	10	28	38	1
Natural Resources and the Environment	17	18	35	1
Nursing	125	78	203	3
Nutritional Science	8	14	22	1
Operations & Information Management	246		246	3
Pathobiology	6	15	21	1
Pharmaceutical Sciences	1	52	53	1
Philosophy	1	33	34	1
Physics	7	81	88	2
Physiology and Neurobiology	4	33	37	1
Plant Science and Landscape Architecture	19	9	28	1
Political Science	2	54	56	1
Polymer Science	2	26	28	1
Professional Studies	63		63	2
Psychology		152	152	3
Public Policy	83		83	2
Sociology		46	46	1
Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences	42	61	103	2
Sports Management	23		23	1
Statistics	61	43	104	2
Studio Art	10		10	1
Total	3043	2397	5440	104

At Large Seats

6

Graduate Students of Color Association	1
Iranian Cultural Organization	1
Total Seats	112