

- I. Call to Order at 7:05pm.**
  - II. Recognition of Senators**
  - III. Special Guest/Speaker**
  - IV. Approval of Minutes:** 11 March 2015 approved
  - V. Unfinished Business**
    - a. GSS Executive Board Elections
      - i. President: Tony Patelunas, MC Bio: 34 for, 1 abstention
      - ii. Vice President: Tim Bussey, Political Science  
Vanessa Lovelace, Political Science  
28 Vanessa, 6 Tim, 1 abstention
      - iii. Treasurer: Greg Treich, Polymer Science, 31 for, 4 abstention
      - iv. Communications Director: Thomas Briggs, Political Science, 32 for 3 abstentions
      - v. Activities Director: Jason Snukis, Business  
Nancy Wong, Educational Leadership  
Morad Behandish, Mechanical Engineering  
1 Jason, 15 Nancy, 19 Morad
      - vi. Parliamentarian: Phillip Price, Physics  
Eric Simning, Agriculture Resources Academics  
18 Phillip, 15 Eric, 2 abstentions
    - b. A discussion was held about what to do about Jason, since he was not in attendance of the meeting. Senators Wong, Behandish, Price, and Simning ran off the floor for their respective positions. They each gave verbal statements to the Senate. Questions were asked to the Vice Presidential candidates based on their written statements predominantly regarding GSS's relationship to the union, but also on the current financial status of the Senate.
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Special Allocation Request – SAGE, Morad Behandish
    - i. The motion was amended for the \$800 in refreshments to be cut down to \$300
    - ii. *GSS 14/15-10*: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$300 to SAGE for the purpose of a summer BBQ

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Jason Charrette
  - i. Update – Jason wanted to discuss the relationship between the union and GSS and gave an example of when they have been at odds with each other. He explained that the bargaining committee is requesting for a fee reduction and that if this is the case the fees for non-GA/TAs will increase to cover the costs.
- b. Vice President – Talea Cornelius
  - i. WRTD meeting – Senator Briggs will explain the meeting further in the issues forum
- c. Treasurer – Michael Ambroselli
  - i. Budget Hearings Summary - done with cutting down all of the budges and will be presenting it next meeting
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
  - i. Attendance
  - ii. GSS Service Award – received a total of 17 nominations, 12 graduate students total
  - iii. Promotional Items – ordered tumblers and should have them by next meeting
- e. Activities Director – Nicole Flaig
  - i. Upcoming Activities: Mohegan Sun Night and Happy Hour at th Nathan Hale
- f. Parliamentarian – Pat Butler
  - i. Potential Bylaw Revisions: Suggested for amending the voting procedures of the GSS by moving towards the vote.uconn.edu model. Discussion was given on the plusses (increased efficacy, participation, and turnout) and minuses (fear of being overrun by satellite campuses, needing to create a judicial board, etc).

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. Rec Center Committee– Michelle San Pedro – still talking about where to put the center, no group exercise in the summer, only yoga, the leasing model is being suggested

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Act Concerning TA training – USG

**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
*University of Connecticut*

**Minutes**  
1 April 2015

- i. The undergraduate student government proposed an act concerning TA training. The drafters of the resolution, however, were not present. The resolution was not taken very kindly with some considering the proposal racist and inappropriate. Many senators and graduate students were concerned about the required additional training that the undergraduates were asking. Other senators brought up the concern that they do not receive feedback at the end of the semester. It was decided that there would be the creation of a graduate student liaison.

- b. WRTD – Tom Briggs

**X. Adjournment at 9:32pm.**

Minutes  
1 April 2015

**Attendance**

SENATOR			
Name	Email	Constituency	Initial
Huong Nguyen	huong.nguyen@uconn.edu	EDLR	HN
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	MH
Jordan Ficks	jordan.ficks@uconn.edu	Philosophy	<del>JD</del>
Phillip Price	phillip.price@uconn.edu	Physics	PP
Pariksheet Nanda	pariksheet.nanda@uconn.edu	Optical Society	PN
Tony Pithonak	tony.pithonak@uconn.edu	GOMCB	TP
Oakley Womack	oakley.womack@uconn.edu	Ed Psych	OW
Julia Drouin	julia.drouin@uconn.edu	SLHS	JD
David Bracey	david.bracey@uconn.edu	Humanities - Present	DB
Theresa Briggs	theresa.briggs@uconn.edu	Clinical Science	TB
Vanessa Love	vanessa.love@uconn.edu	Political Science	VL
Ruth Yule	ruth.yule@uconn.edu	LA&ISA	RY
Katie Ragan	katie.ragan@uconn.edu	Sociology	KR
Erica Willis	erwillis1714@gmail.com	History	EW
Jim He	jim.he@uconn.edu	Economics	JH
Jan Gutierrez	jan.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	JG
Edward Eten	edward.etten@uconn.edu	CEE	EE
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	MS
Eric Simning	esimning@gmail.com	ARE	ES
Gabe Marmatejos	gabriel.marmatejos@uconn.edu	Gender at large	GM
Andy Tucker	andrew.tucker@uconn.edu	Psychology	AT
Meera Nair	meera.nair@uconn.edu	ANSC	MN
Betty Lou Starnes	betty.starnes@uconn.edu	Art History	BS
KATIE DAVIS	katie.davis@uconn.edu	GRADUATE ART ALLIANCE	KD
Tamara Boush	tamara.boush@uconn.edu	HSA	TB
Meredith Behandish	m.behandish@uconn.edu	ME/CSE	MB
Susana Dhakal	susana.dhakal@uconn.edu	CEE (EERI)	SD
Valeri Koley	valeri.koley@uconn.edu	CEE	VK
Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	Linguistics	AT
Carmen Britton	Carmen.Britton@uconn.edu	HHS	CB

## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

## Minutes

1 April 2015

[illegible]

## **SAGE Special Allocation Request**

<i>Organization</i>	Student Association of Graduate Engineers
<i>Event</i>	SAGE Summer BBQ
<i>Proposed Date</i>	05/08/15
<i>Contact Person(s)</i>	Morad Behandish
<i>Date Submitted</i>	03/20/15
<i>Exec. Approval</i>	03/25/15
<i>Presented to Senate</i>	04/01/15

### **Proposed Budget**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Outside Revenues</b>	<b>Exec. Recommendation</b>
620	Refreshments	\$800.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$800.00</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>



An Act Concerning Teaching Assistant Training

WHEREAS; the Undergraduate Student Government is charged with advocating on behalf of the student body,

WHEREAS; the Academic Affairs Committee of USG is tasked with furthering the academic experiences of students,

WHEREAS; this legislation is being brought forward at the behest of the Academic Affairs Committee,

WHEREAS; the quality of Teaching Assistants has been at the center of many student's concerns,

WHEREAS; these concerns reflect the students' ability to learn due to the lack of consistency among Teaching Assistant's teaching and grading methods,

WHEREAS; through research, it has been discovered that training resources available for Teaching Assistants are not being utilized effectively,

WHEREAS; there is still more research to be done regarding the perspective of the Teaching Assistants and how they view the training programs,

WHEREAS; currently the USG lacks an effective channel for collaboration and communication with the Graduate Student Senate,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; the Undergraduate Student Government asks the University Administration to conduct a review of the effectiveness of the current Teaching Assistant training process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the **Undergraduate Student Government** should work to build an effective relationship with the Graduate Student Senate,

(Optional)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that a (Senator?) should be designated as a Graduate Student Senate liaison, in order to begin building a relationship that could lead to future cooperation.

Authors: Theodore Terpstra and Hannah Seelye

Sponsors:

**Student Recreation Center Committee**

**March 26, 2015**

<i>Chair:</i>	Cyndi Costanzo	<i>Representative:</i>	Michelle San Pedro
	Executive Director		GSS Senator
	Cynthia.costanzo@uconn.edu		michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu

*Website:*     <http://recreation.uconn.edu/new-recreation-center-q-a/>

*Committee Type:*     External

**Overview of Report**

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The Executive Director reiterated that the new recreation center will charge students based on credit hours. Since graduate students enroll in 9 credit hours in contrast to undergraduates with 15 credit hours.

**Detailed Report**

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**NEW RECREATION CENTER LOCATION.** The Master Planner, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, will determine whether the recreation center will be built on 1) in its current location, adjacent to Athletics or 2) behind McMahon or Y-lot. The Executive Director of the Rec Center prefers the latter location. University shuttles will be routed to either location. The two year construction is slated for completion by Fall 2017. Cyndi is open to input on multipurpose rooms (see website for more info). Each student group may propose a section of the building and state its purpose.

**GROUP CLASSES.** Bodywise spinning, kickboxing, Zumba, cross-fit, and other group classes will be suspended in Summer 2015. They will move from Putnam to a new location. Yoga classes to continue in a racketball court from May to August. Bodywise classes will re-open in Fall 2015. Also, staff moved upright bikes and step equipment from the first bay, which is currently used as a stretching space. There is now a 30% increase in space; up to 60 more students can exercise in this area.



EQUIPMENT. The Executive Director opted for leasing model over upright buy of exercise equipment. Previous directors preferred to buy equipment because their budget was unknown. However, Cyndi believes that the leasing model offers several advantages, including a guaranteed warranty. She can resell equipment with a 20% buyback in credit for new purchases. With the long-term goal in mind to purchase more equipment for the rec center, she contends that the leasing model is ideal. New equipment, which meets an industry standard of a three year turnover, attracts students to the rec center. Students would not use old equipment.

ARTICLE VI: Procedures

3) Elections

~~A. 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~~

A. The Election of all Officers shall be held annually in conjunction with the Student Activities Leadership Office as part of the UConn Joint Elections during the Spring Semester.

A.B. No more than two officers shall be from the same constituency, and the President, Vice President, and Treasurer must be from different constituencies.

B.C. Candidates for President shall have been a Senator or member of the Executive Committee for at least one academic year.

~~C. Closed ballots shall be used in all elections for officers and committee chairs.~~

D. The Election of all Officers will be open to all graduate students via the Joint Election ballot.

D.E. Each officer shall have a term of one year; terms shall end the least day of the spring semester and begin on the following day.

F. If a vacancy in the Executive Committee is created during a meeting, nominations for the position will open at that meeting. The election to fill the position shall occur at the next meeting. If a vacancy opens between meetings, the election may be held at the next meeting, provided the Executive Committee notifies the Senate at least one week before the meeting where the election is to be held. The Executive Committee may schedule special meetings of the Senate for these purposes.

E.G. If for any reason the Election of Officers cannot be held in conjunction with the Joint Elections for UConn, the election will default to a closed ballot election in the senate. The election will take place in next to the last meeting of the spring semester with nominations opening the meeting prior to the election.

F.H. Procedures for electing or appointing constituency Senators, their timing, and term lengths shall be at the discretion of particular constituencies.

# Storrs-Willimantic Bus Service

Why UConn needs to improve the Storrs-  
Willimantic Bus service

# Contents

1. Number of on/off-campus students
2. Transport services provided on/off-campus
3. What is a fair service UConn Transport should provide to all students?

1. The number of students  
on/off-campus

# A. On-campus students

- Students living on-campus:

Total undergraduate students	18,395
Undergraduate students on-campus (71%)	13,060
Plus graduate students on-campus	40
<b>Total students on-campus</b>	<b>13,100</b>

## A. On-campus students, contd.

- Students living “off-campus” but served by UConn bus lines:
  - No data
    - No requirement to self-report local address
    - Against Fair Housing practice to collect it

Carriage, Celeron, Club House	?
Misc houses Mansfield	?
Oaks on The Square	?
<b>Total students living off-campus served by UConn bus lines</b>	<b>Estimate = 1,794*</b>
Students living on-campus	13,100
<b>Total students living on UConn bus lines</b>	<b>14,894</b>

\* Based on the figure of 10,000 student commuters provided by off-campus services

Source: UConn Fact Sheet 2015 - [http://uconn.edu/content/uploads/2015/02/UConn\\_Facts\\_2015\\_Final.pdf](http://uconn.edu/content/uploads/2015/02/UConn_Facts_2015_Final.pdf)



## B. Students living off-campus

Total graduate students*	6,499
Minus graduate students on-campus	40
Plus undergraduate students off-campus (29%)	5,335
Total:	<b>11,794</b>
Minus students living off-campus served by UConn bus lines	1,794?
<b>Total students off-campus</b>	<b>10,000**</b>

\* i.e. not including Health, Law, Pharm., Med., or Dental students.

\*\* figure estimated by off-campus services

Source: UConn Fact Sheet 2015 - [http://uconn.edu/content/uploads/2015/02/UConn\\_Facts\\_2015\\_Final.pdf](http://uconn.edu/content/uploads/2015/02/UConn_Facts_2015_Final.pdf)

# UConn Transit-fees

- All students pay a \$60.00 transit fee per semester

	UConn Main Campus students	Number of students	Transit Fee each student pays	Total contribution to UConn Transport	Percentage contribution to UConn Transport
A	On-campus	14,894	\$60.00	\$893,640	59.83
B	Off-campus	10,000	\$60.00	\$600,000	40.17
	Total	24,894	\$60.00	\$1,493,640	100

- Do off-campus students get their fair share of services?

## 2. Transport services provided on/off-campus

# A. Transport Services: On-campus

- On-campus students: 59.83% (\$893,640)

	Lines	Buses	Day	Evening	Night	Daily Round-trips	Monday-Friday service
1	Blue	3	12m	17m	30m	53	6.45am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
2	Red	2	13m	13m	24m	46	7.00am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
3	Green	2	20m	20m	40m	44	7.00am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
4	Yellow 1 Yellow 2	2	17m	34m	34m	28 18	7.00am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
5	Orange	1	23m	23m	23m	44	7.00am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
6	Purple	2	22m	45m	45m	31	7.00am - Midnight (10pm Fri)
7	Silver	1	30m	30m	-	28	7.00am - 9.00pm
	<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>				<b>292</b>	

Source: UConn Transportation Services webpage - <http://transpo.uconn.edu/>

## A. Transport Services: On-campus, contd.

- Late Night and Weekend Services

	Lines	Buses	Day	Evening	Night	Daily Round-trips	Service hours
8	Late Night	2	-	-	20m		10.00pm-2.00am (Fri and Sat)
9	Weekend	1	37m	37m	37m	11 (Sat) 8 (Sun)	11.00am-6.00pm (Sat) 6.00pm-Midnight (Sun)
10	Safe Rides						Midnight-2.00am (Mon-Wed) Midnight-3.00am (Thurs) 10.00pm-3.00am (Fri) 6.00pm-3.00am (Sat) Midnight-2.00am (Sun)  (Hours vary out of term)

Source: UConn Transportation Services webpage - <http://transpo.uconn.edu/>

## A. Transport Services: On-campus, contd.

- Out-of-term services

	Lines	Buses	Day	Evening	Night	Daily Round-trips	Monday-Friday service
1	Blue	1	30-45m	-	-	17	7.00am-6.00pm
2	Yellow	1	30-45m	-	-	20	7.00am-6.00pm
3	Purple	1	30-45m	-	-	12	6.48am-8.16pm
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>				<b>49</b>	

Source: UConn Transportation Services webpage - <http://transpo.uconn.edu/>

## B. Transport Services: Off-campus

- Students not living on UConn bus lines: 40.17% (\$600,000)
  - WRTD Storrs-Willimantic Service

	Lines	Buses				Roundtrips	Service Hours
	WRTD Storrs-Willi	2	-	-	-	13 4 (Sat)	6.00am - 8.06pm (Mon-Fri) 7.44am - 5.00pm (Sat)
	WRTD Rt.195	1 (minivan)	-	-	-	0.5	8.10pm - c.9.00pm (Mon-Sat)

- Students who drive to campus and take UConn buses from parking lots



# Difference in Transport Services

	Live on a UConn bus line (\$893,940)	Live off a UConn bus line (\$600,000)
Buses during week-day peak hours	13 (7 lines)	2 (1 line)
Round-trips daily	292	13 (only 8 full round-trip)
Bus wait time	12mins - 45mins	17mins - 3hours and 13mins
Late night services	Until Midnight (Mon-Thurs) Until 2am (Fri-Sat)	Until 8.30pm (Mon-Sat)
Safe rides	Until 2/3am	None Bus service shared with non-UConn users
Sunday service	6pm-Midnight	None
Out of term service	3 buses run 7am-8pm	2 buses run 6am-8.30pm
Walking as an alternative*	Yes**	No
Bus shelters	Plenty	Limited. None in Willimantic
Online route-trackers	Yes	No

\* For an able-bodied person in clement weather

\*\* With the possible exception of the Purple line's Depot Campus detour

### 3. Fair solutions

# Reasons to improve the Storrs-Willimantic Bus service

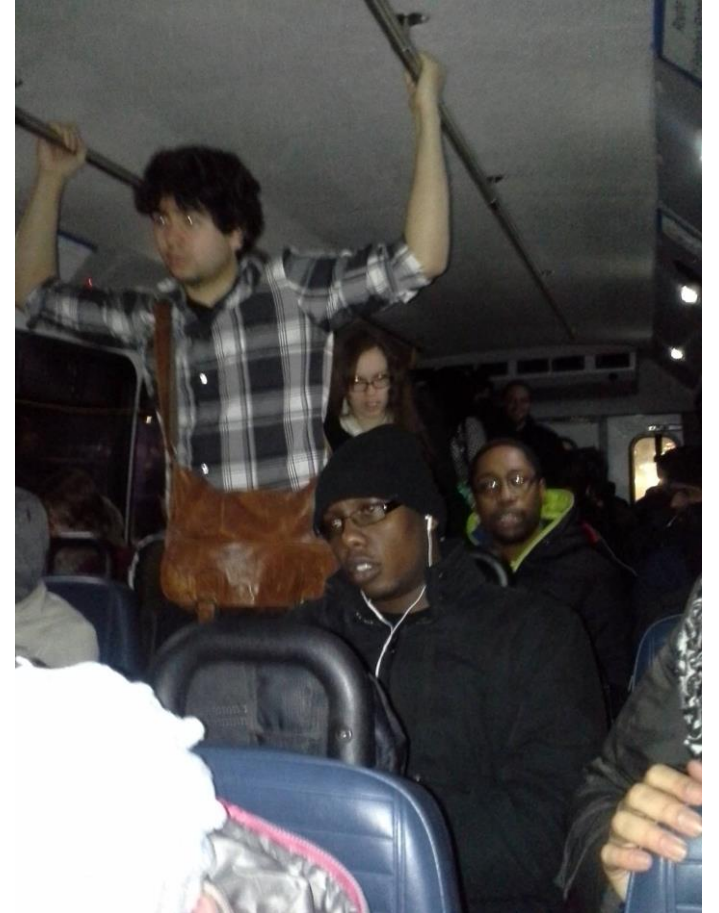
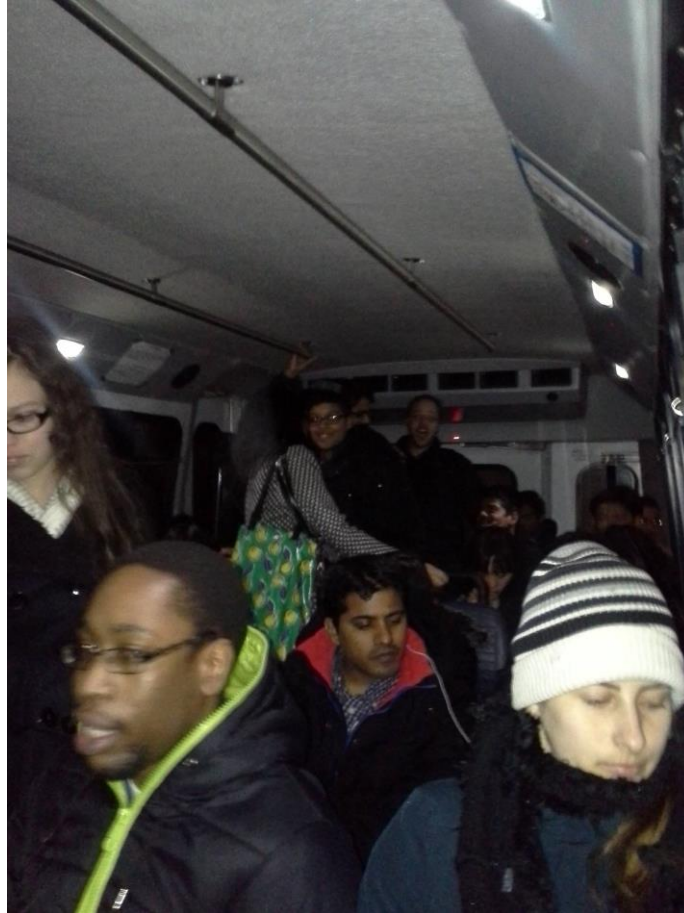
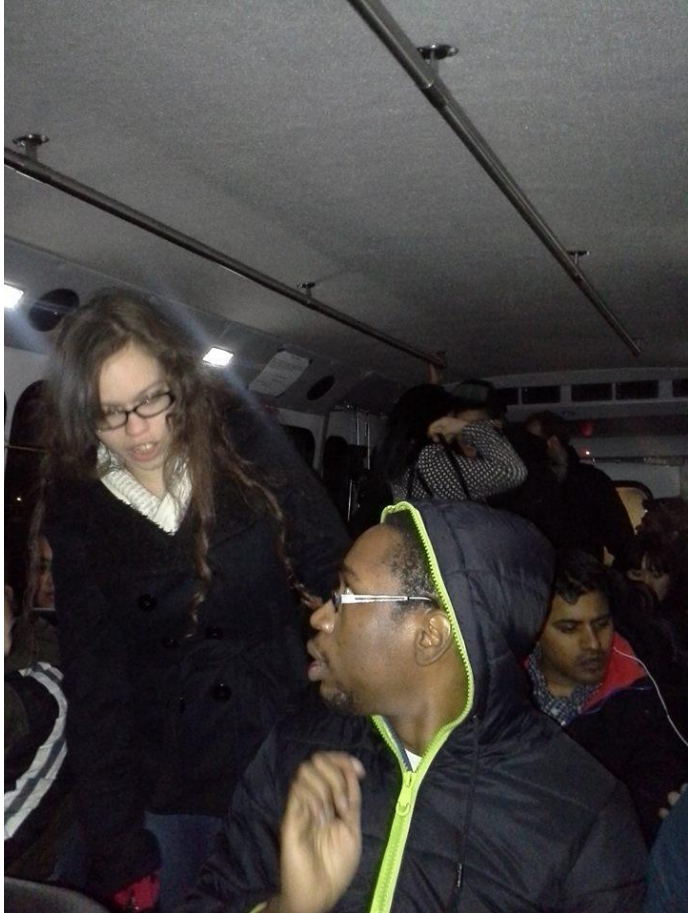
- Limited on-campus housing for graduates
- Willimantic/Mansfield only option for students without cars
- International students without cars/license
  - 22% of total graduate students are international\*
- GA duties
- Reduce need to run a car
- Alleviate parking pressure
  - and reduce need for on-campus bus services to distant parking lots
- Environmentally friendly
- Good for Storrs and Willimantic economy

\* 22% of 8,146 = 1,792

# Reasons to improve the Storrs-Willimantic Bus service, contd.

- Improve quality of life for off-campus students
  - Students living on-campus are expected to need transport beyond midnight and at the weekend, why not students living off-campus?
- Need for a bus linking key population centres of Willimantic, Mansfield, and Storrs.
- Reduce overcrowding

# Overcrowding... 8.30pm Wednesday

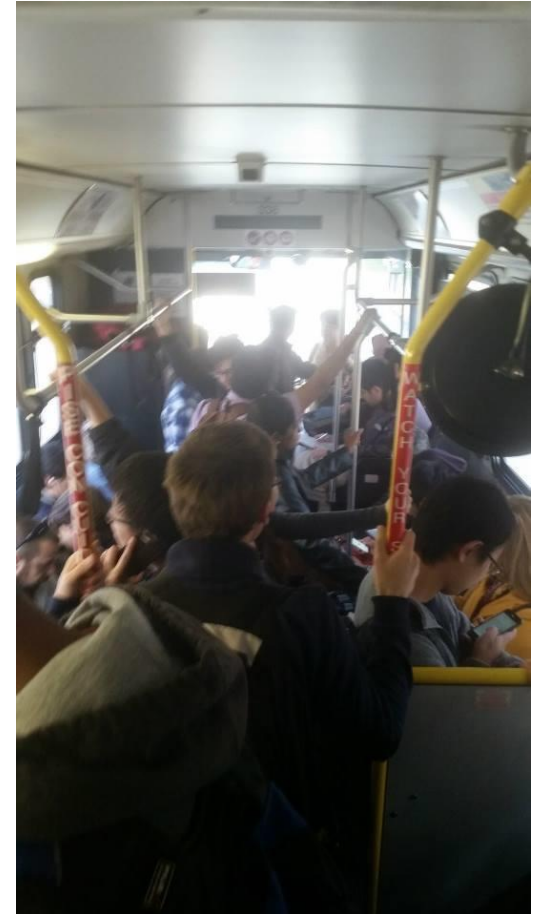


Overcrowding... 8.30pm yesterday





Overcrowding... 8.30am and 11.30am





Overcrowding... 8.30am contd.



# Aims

- **UConn** accepts responsibility for providing a suitable bus service between Storrs and Willimantic that serves the needs of off-campus residents
- **UConn** ensures adequate improvements and monitoring

# Improvements

- **UConn** assists WRTD to implement a better bus schedule to ensure:
  - Quicker routes
  - Less overcrowding
- **UConn** provides a bus service leaving Storrs at 8.30pm and 10.00pm
- **UConn** provides a skeleton bus service on Sunday (10.00am and 8.30pm)
  - So students are never stranded on campus
- **UConn** helps WRTD put online trackers on their buses
- **UConn** ensures future monitoring of ridership to prevent overcrowding

# Questions...

- Who contributes to the WRTD Storrs-Willimantic line?
  - UConn, Mansfield, Windham, CT DoT
  - Who else funds UConn Transport – staff, parking services?
- Reallocation of resources for 2015/16?
  - UConn bus services with excess capacity?
  - Reduce under-used, on-campus services to free up extra funding for WRTD Storrs-Willimantic line?
- Can there be better information flows between UConn and WRTD?

# Future Actions

- On-campus public hearing
  - Matthew W. Hart (Mansfield Town Manager)
  - Rose Kurcinik (Acting Director of WRTD)
  - Joe Comerford (Director of Estuary Transit)
  - Janet Freniere (Head of Uconn Transport)
  - William Wendt (Head of Uconn Transport)
  - Tanya Husick (UConn Transport Planner)
- Create new suggested WRTD Storrs-Willimantic timetable