

- I. Call to Order** at 7:10 pm.
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker: Dean Kent E. Holsinger, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate School**

Dean Holsinger: There are currently no plans to change the carrier. On the plan we on were before, the premiums that students had needed to be enough to cover that policy. Then we became self-insured, and they were not charging us for premiums that we were supposed to and we wound up owing 4 million dollars. Nothing here needs to pay back the deficit. What happened was we were actually underpaying the cost of insurance. Now we need to pay substantially more. The graduate school is taking a \$75,000 cut and everyone else is. Health insurance realized how much money was going to graduate health insurance and found it best to cut the % given. We are presenting two options

- 1. Same dollar subsidy would apply to all students (regardless of if single, family, dependents) which means GA+1 and family would have a large out of pocket fee and this would only apply to students who enroll in Fall 2014
 - 2. Reduce dollar subsidy to GA+1 and Family by 5% per year starting in Fall 2014, increase individual deductible to 500 and this would apply to everyone
- a. Madelynn von Baeyer: Under either of these things when you reduce the premiums for dependents, are adult and children dependents the same?
 - b. Dean Holsinger: as far as I know the way our coverage works, when you elect to cover a person there is no distinguished difference
 - c. Senator Reeds: look at next three years projected, have we any guarantee that this will happen or is the insurance going to change again
 - d. Dean Holsinger: honest answer is I don't know, second answer, there is no guarantee for sure, understanding for budget situation is that the real pain were going through is that in fiscal year 15 and 16 (yr 1 and yr 2) if we manage the deficit in the following years we will be okay
 - e. Jeremy Jelliffe: The shift from last years insurance to this year is garbage we have to pay more. We can only go to the infirmary which is not comfortable. Has the university considered giving us a tax credit? If I use up, with the affordable care act, it is still better for the university.

- f. Dean Holsinger: no one has investigated whether we could make a change if we could provide a health insurance subsidy. It has been floated but not yet been investigated because there is so much uncertainty with the affordable care act – in your case it would work out, not sure how it would work out across a population – moving forward this is going to be something we look at if it will be better for students
- g. Jeremy Jelliffe: The affordable care act, it is an idea even if for a family, they would get enough tax reimbursement
- h. Dean Holsinger: even with a dollar amount, if you are only source of income, you would be better off to take individual coverage and have individual family members through exchange
- i. Senator Lovelace: I have a question about these cuts, why do they have to happen? Why doesn't the university invests in research
- j. Dean Holsinger: when on a grant, in addition to paying for stipend and tuition, the PIs have to pay fringe benefits. The challenge for a PI is that they won't be able to get as much money and it also becomes a disincentive to have a graduate student onboard. This is what brought it up.
- k. Senator Lovelace: That still does not make sense, what does this make up?
- l. Dean Holsinger: The fringe benefit rate calculated from all graduate students, even worse if it weren't. One of the challenges is that there is a relatively small pool on what insurance is based on. If we split RA from TA insurance it would be substantially higher than it is now.
- m. Senator Fisher: under the affordable care act we are not eligible for subsidies –
- n. Dean Holsinger: You are eligible because it is considered student insurance
- o. Erin Bartram: We all understand you are the messenger – but this is not a choice that we have to decide between the two – I resent needing to lose more coverage when the university was able to find money to give raises to upper administration
- p. Leland Aldridge: 20% fringe benefit rate covers the GA?
- q. Dean Holsinger: Looking at the amount when 20% was calculated university portion would be smaller, numbers give rise
- r. Leland Aldridge: So 33% is the fringe benefit rate and every graduate student would cover those? It would be going from 20 to 33?

- s. Dean Holsinger: We were underpaying and it was not known – this is the university’s fault, old plan was by CT and they would set rates, then when we were doing the plan (when we became self-insured) we found that we owe 4 million and need to expand the fringe benefits to cover
- t. Leland Aldridge: well the 13% was coming from somewhere else?
- u. Dean Holsinger: How the federal government works is that the rates need to be based on statements with actual experience. Fiscal year 14 ends June 30th, 14’ is when statements are audited and finalized in the fall or early winter then the budget people will sit down with people and deal what actual experience was in cost in health insurance and stipend. They then calculate rates and apply it to year -16
- v. Maria Seger: Is the state of CT aware trying to push people onto the exchange
- w. Dean Holsinger: I am not sure, I have not told them
- x. Maria Sege: Well, it will cost money for them to do that so why do they want to pay the 3.5 million dollars and then we stay on the insurance we have now
- y. Dean Holsinger: they may want to, they want more healthy young people
- z. Maria Seger: Maybe this is something that can wait a year instead of forcing people to pay for something with only 6 months notice. What other class of employees are experiencing these cuts?
- aa. Dean Holsinger: I am not aware of full cuts but in the graduate school employees on special pay roll will be affected. We have to reduce how many we have and how many hours they can work. We don’t have faculty in graduate school, Mun Choi will be talking about budget at senate meeting , it is my understanding every unit on campus all the schools and colleges were asked to make plans for reductions and reductions may include not doing staff and faculty searches but not affecting current employees because they are contractually protected
- bb. President Charrette: Next Gen CT submitted proposal to hire faculty, only one that got was one was social work and NEAG, it is my understanding that the body will deliberate which one they would choose?
- cc. Dean Holsinger: it would be helpful if there were predominance opinion for one proposal or the other. If there is one nearly less awful it would be useful to know.
- dd. Senator Reeds: The majority of department cuts are disproportionately affecting graduate students, this debate about student v. employee is insulting, I believe that don’t endorse either option.
- ee. Dean Holsinger: if that is the message you want to send I can take the message back

- ff. Kim Armstrong: Right now I am on GA+1 but will be moving up (I am pregnant right now) what would the difference be?
- gg. Dean Holsinger: there are a lot of details about those details that we need to firm up that are not yet firm , what do we do if they go from MA – PH.D is that a new enrollment? There are a lot of things we have to do, if currently GA+1 and family can maintain at least those, reasonably confident that GA+1 should be fine. In the grand scheme of things, total number is fairly small (in GA+1 and GA with families) the movement between groups will be small, doubt there will be a general policy, need to deal with individual cases then when they arise
- hh. Haley Kilroy: Last year we were told we would be in the same pool of undergrads if that were true, which is not because it is not true, why were we misinformed for a period of 6 months?
- ii. Dean Holsinger: I doubt that was intentional, I don't know I did not learn about the changes until very late last year. I know there was discussion about having a blended rate, not sure when or why that may have happened
- jj. Lazri DiSalvo : What are ways we can have our interests be taken more seriously
- kk. Dean Holsinger: Jason has met with the provost, I don't think anyone wants to do this, provost is really concerned about ability to support graduate students, can't hurt to have a resolution from this body to express that its deeply unfair but it is unlikely to change outcome
- ll. Erin Eighan: Will there be a chance to ask the rest of these questions in a public atmosphere in a town hall meeting?
- mm. Dean Holsinger: I can suggest it but it might not happen, not from willingness to do so, but because if we go with scenario one, offer letters are going to be going out very soon.
- nn. Erin Eighan: Why does this need to happen for Fall '14, what is the rush?
- oo. Dean Holsinger: I was presented with this by the people who deal with the budget
- pp. Jeremy Jelliffe: Why are they choosing to cut graduate students? They are not cutting faculty, we don't have the ability to collective bargain, it is not an option.
- qq. Dean Holsinger: I know as a faculty member we took pay freezes for five years and our union agreed to do that to avoid these sort of things
- rr. Jeremy Jelliffe: It does not seem this is really thought out
- ss. Dean Holsinger: I agree, but we are dealing with a complicated system and we almost need to make decisions with incomplete information

- tt. Leland Aldridge: what is the change in the projected fringe benefit rate going to be with these changes?
- uu. Dean Holsinger: I do not know the exact number for sure, I cannot do the math in my head, but it will be around 25-26% right now

IV. Approval of Minutes: 4 December 2013

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

- a. Health Insurance Issue (GSS Resolution 13/14-11 ***is in full at the end of the minutes**)
 - i. Senator Fisher: I left some parts open because I was not sure how much the university would be saving
 - ii. Senator Reeds: we just had the dean of the graduate school, what options do we have? We know we don't have any other options, if we don't make a stand second time in 12 months this will be changing for us, with no guarantees, no other choice
 - iii. Leland Aldridge: options here are that insurance needs to be paid for, had to be paid for in a closed system, what the employees pay and the fringe benefits that comes from what is paying the employee, had it at 20% if no changes then 33% but with changes proposed 25-26%, clearly wiggle room as to how much the funding body is willing to pay, why is 25% acceptable but 33 not acceptable? We get this messenger coming in, and we can't do anything with Kent, he can tell us the way things we are, we don't ever get access to who makes these decisions
 - iv. President Charrette: I feel like I am constantly giving terrible news, we really can't advocate for you , the faculty are just as confused and in the dark as we are, even though we want to reject this out of hand, we really should consider these options, this is a Sophies choice situation, option one is loading this to people we don't know, possibility they will go in eyes open, or all the people in here will suffer, should probably make the decision, or they will make it for us, do think we should consider, up to you in the end

- v. Parliamentarian Gutierrez : I do have disapproval in Jason's idea, buying into this false choice offered to us, agree it is a false choice, by passing resolution and making stand, take stand and then don't say anything then someone like Kim gets screwed because we did not say anything. We can make principle stand and then do what we want, if our feedback means anything to anyone, do care about the welfare about graduate students
- vi. Kourtney Kinsel: Is there a way for Kim not to get screwed? I refuse to be complacent
- vii. Leland Aldridge: Looking up narrative of what has gone on seems like we have signed up for health insurance under certain conceptions and everybody grumbled a bit and didn't explore what would happen. We need to think of the impacts of what has happened and to acknowledge that in any way these choices are ridiculous.
- viii. Erin Eighan: Can I clarify? Where is this resolution going to and where and what impact it would have if any? Wondering might we include a clause voicing our discontent at this false choice being forced on us in the timeline that it is being forced on us? There are ways of pushing back. We say we can't make this decision because we don't have all of the facts, if you want us to make a more informed decision we can do this at a later date, and at a public meeting
- ix. Secretary Wong: If I can clarify, Kent just sent me an email saying if we do pass a resolution to send it to him so he can bring it to the Provost tomorrow in his meeting
- x. Jeremy Jelliffe: Are there other bodies we can send this to? Faculty we can send it maybe graduate faculty council?
- xi. President Charrette: On Friday I have a Senate Exec Committee and Monday University Senate, this was already brought up in GFC and I have already let faculty know but the response is terrible.
- xii. Senator Fisher: not to make a decision explicitly talks, we do not want to have this as a baseline, we want them to have to make this decision over our objections

- xiii. Maria Seger: management is smart, they are going to screw the least number possible, going to throw new students over the bus
- xiv. Jeremy Jelliffe: I want to bring this up in the presidents committee and see if they can make a resolution, I doubt they will do anything whatsoever which is a rough spot. The resolution that got worked on is good step good direction, don't make a choice, one is going to be made for us
- xv. Laura Wright: I understand how representative democracy works, if you make a decision, on one of those plans, pushing that a decision be made, hesitant to pick a plan when we don't have all of the information, going to affect people personally who aren't in this room, nice to share this information to multiple people
- xvi. Erin Bartram: I cannot in good conscience tell students that they should come here
- xvii. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: to follow up, so shocked and appalled by both options that draws me into this debate to pick one or the other, part of going on when presenting these false options, pains me to do this in a way, cutting health care support for depends is so outrageous – do think that it is not a choice
- xviii. Senator DuPont: I agree that we can't vote on these options, if we did GSS would be representing two classes of graduate students under different plans
- xix. Senator Amponsah moves to end discussion, motion passes
- xx. Resolution passes

VII. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Jason Charrette
 - i. GSS Graduate Assistant Job Opening – 4000-4500 dollars per year, a job announcement will be coming shortly
 - 1. Treasurer Berisa: I am waiting for approval and will post it tomorrow, I have printed out the details here so if you or you know someone who is interested please contact me
 - ii. Update – has become increasingly less transparent, the only thing we can do is call the administration out, no one has admitted to this, and most of the

information is siloed, how come does Kent not know any of this, this has become the strategy, deliberate and intentional strategy and the faculty are unaware of it, narrative, why is there no floor to the cuts, why are we a constant state of crisis, going to craft narrative and send to the graduate students, want to make sure graduate students are understanding of the issues at hand

- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
 - i. Upcoming GSS Dates
 - 1. February 19
 - 2. March 12
 - 3. April 2
 - 4. April 23
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
 - i. Budgets due Friday (31) 11:59pm, if any of your groups want money please submit budget, so far we have only received 5
 - ii. GSS Graduate Loans - we still give them out, only point of note for your information we have a bunch of people delinquent on their loans \$28,900 dollars total stretching back to 1985
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
 - i. Attendance
 - ii. PR Committee – we met today and decided on ordering pens and note pads
 - iii. Committee Report Forms – I have not been receiving them, please make sure if you are going to your committees that you send me the committee report forms
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Ted’s Social Night Recap
 - ii. Mohegan Sun Bus Trip, Friday, January 31, depart Gampel Pavillion 6pm, depart Mohegan 12am
 - iii. Union Nathan Hale Happy Hour, Friday, January 31, Time TBA
 - iv. Grad Prom, Friday, February 21, Rome Ballroom, dinner 7pm, dessert and dancing, 8:30pm-11:30pm
 - v. Activities Committee

- f. Parliamentarian – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Senator at Large Elections – 6 seats in GSS, at large senators represent graduate student body as a whole
 - ii. Graduate Trustee Elections – 21 members, 2 students, 1 graduate student. We would like this person be from the Storrs campus. It is a two year commitment due to changes for state law, must be enrolled entirely for those two years. Feb 7 need to have declaration of intent to run , Feb 21 need to submit application, voting happens March 5-10, happens online through vote.uconn.edu, if want to be grad student trustee need to collect signatures can be signatures from undergraduate students
 - iii. Constitution and Bylaws – procedures committee discussed proposed changes to constitution and bylaws – need to be first presented at one meeting and then voted on at the next meeting will present changes in Feb. and change in March
 - iv. Presidential Pay

VIII. External Committee Reports

- a. Graduate Service Employee for Center for Career Services – Steven Mollmann – search committee for Assistant Director for Graduate Student Career Services – when details arise I will send announcement out, encourage to attend
- b. Faculty Standards – Danielle Wong - Make sure that you are giving syllabi in your courses, has been an issue of faculty not handing them out, also SET will be holding a town hall meeting for the opportunity to ask questions if you would like, I will send more information when it comes
- c. Smoking Policy Task Force – Michael Ambroselli – committee formed at end of last year, did what it was charged with, now disbanded, charged with reviewing current smoking policy at the university, based on peer institutions, university senate and student welfare committee suggested there needs to be changes, want to include ban on e-cigs. – want to make that possible, public campaign to notify every one of these changes
- d. SASFAC – Safet Beriša- student activity and service fee advisory committee – public hearing – like to have voice heard, Monday Feb 3 open forum can complain about fees, attendance not required but encouraged

- i. Vice President Mollmann – If you want to talk about onecard fee do you come during that time or wait for the questions comment period at 6?
- ii. Treasurer Beriša – I believe you have to wait for the questions period, but you should watch the presentation to ask questions

IX. Issues Forum

a. Smoking Task Force

- i. Leland Aldridge: ECigs why are we trying to have it be a public health concern? I thought it only releases nicotine to the smoker
- ii. Senator Coleman: Some studies have shown that it releases nicotine in the air
- iii. Vice President Mollmann: It is inconclusive whether or not they do

b. Board of Trustees

- i. President Charrette: For the BOT we want to win and want to make sure they have Storrs interest, the GSS can't officially endorse anyone, but we want to ensure that we have a single candidate that doesn't split the vote. I suggest that if you're interested to introduce yourself in GSS
- ii. Jeremy Jelliffe: I am Jeremy, I ran a couple of years ago when the vote was split. I was on the COOP Board of Directors and I also want to point out that you can also run for that. I have been at UConn for 10 years now and I would be interested in being the BOT representative for graduate students. I do only have 1.5 years left so I am not sure if I can be the representative, I will have to work that out
- iii. Erin Eighan: I would also be interested in being the voice of graduate students. I would actually like very much so to be that person. I was on GSS the previous year as Secretary and organized the information about fees and also helped with movement behind fighting the rec center fee increase. I do have two years left and if you have any questions I would be happy to answer them. I would love to represent the graduate student voice.

X. Adjournment 9:05pm.

Name	Email	Department	Senator
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	President
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Vice President
Safet Berisa	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Treasurer
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Secretary
Anish Kurian	anish.kurian@uconn.edu	Psychology	Activities Director
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Parliamentarian
Abby Fagan	abigail.2.fagan@uconn.edu	English	No
Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Yes
Ajith Pattammattel	ajith.pattammattel@uconn.edu	Tarang	No
Anna Sjodin	anna.sjodin@uconn.edu	EEB	No
Asif Rehan	asif.rehan@uconn.edu	CEE	Yes
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Cara Cordeaux	cara.cordeaux@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
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Cera Fisher	cera.fisher@uconn.edu	EEB	Yes
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Dawn Savage	dawn.savage@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
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Dickens Molo	dickens.molo@uconn.edu	ARE	Yes
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Erin Eighan	eeigan@gmail.com	English	No
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George Moore	george.p.moore@uconn.edu	Engineering	No
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Leland Aldridge	aldridge@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	No
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Vanessa Lovelace	vanessa.lovelace@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Veronica Bueno	veronica.m.bueno@uconn.edu	EEB	No
Will DuPont	william.dupont@uconn.edu	Kinesiology	Yes

GSS Resolution 13/14-11

ON THE MATTER OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO GRADUATE ASSISTANT BENEFITS

WHEREAS, graduate assistants provide critical work to the University of Connecticut through excellent teaching of thousands of undergraduate students and innovative research that helps to win more than \$150 million per year in grants and contracts;

WHEREAS, the ability of the University of Connecticut to recruit and retain the best and brightest graduate assistants depends on the ability to maintain competitive and stable funding and benefits; and

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut made significant cuts to graduate assistant health benefits in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut increased the cost of student fees not covered by graduate assistant tuition waivers in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the graduate assistants are subject to the 10th highest mandatory fees among peer and peer-aspirant institutions nationwide; and

WHEREAS, excessive University fees reduce graduate assistants' income to below the cost of living; and

WHEREAS, the university administration is again considering reducing funding for graduate assistant healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the University of Connecticut has asked this body to choose among a number of unacceptable healthcare options, each of which reduces funding for graduate assistant healthcare by more than 2 million dollars and would disproportionately affect women, families, international graduate assistants, and others; and

WHEREAS, University administrators received in excess of \$1.3 million in compensation increases in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate, not having the authority to collectively bargain on behalf of graduate assistants with the administration of the University of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, this body has previously expressed its support for the organization of a graduate student union at the University of Connecticut with the passage of GSS 13/14-8 on November 13th, 2013; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Senate requests that the University of Connecticut make no further cuts to graduate assistant benefits; and

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Senate opposes the implementation of all proposals to reduce financial support for graduate assistant healthcare; and

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Senate encourages the administration to seek cost-cutting measures elsewhere; and

RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Senate finds the recognition by the University administration of the right of graduate assistants to collectively bargain with the University as the only viable recourse for negotiating the terms of graduate assistants' employment and for ensuring the well-being of graduate assistants, the Graduate School, and the University of Connecticut.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Minutes
29 January 2014

Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee
Public Hearing Schedule – As of December 12, 2013

Monday, February 3, 2014, Student Union, Room 304B

2:30-3:30 p.m. Open Forum

Tuesday, February 11, 2014, Student Union, Room 331, Storrs Campus

11:00-11:30 a.m. SFAC Pre Meeting
11:30-12:00 p.m. Storrs Summer Session Fee
12:00-12:30 p.m. SUBOG
12:30-1:00 p.m. USG
1:00-1:30 p.m. WHUS
1:30-2:00 p.m. UCTV
2:00-2:30 p.m. Daily Campus
2:30-3:00 p.m. Nutmeg Yearbook
3:00-3:30 p.m. GSS
3:30-4:00 p.m. UConn Storrs PIRG
4:00-4:30 p.m. Opportunity for Public Comment

Friday, February 14, 2014, Rowe 318 and 331E, Storrs

1:00-1:30 p.m. Greater Hartford ASG – Rowe 318
1:40-2:00 p.m. Greater Hartford UConnPIRG Fee Videoconference, Hartford UG306
2:00-2:20 p.m. School of Social Work Activity Fee Videoconference, Hartford UG306
2:20-2:40 p.m. Law School Bar Association Videoconference, Hartford UG306
2:40-3:00 p.m. Waterbury Student Government Fee Videoconference, Waterbury 324
3:00-3:20 p.m. Avery Point Student Government Fee Videoconference, ACD 309
3:20-3:40 p.m. Stamford Student Government Fee Videoconference, Stamford 312
3:40-4:00 p.m. Torrington Student Government Fee Videoconference, Torrington 129
4:00-4:30 p.m. Opportunity for Public Comment

Thursday, March 6, 2014, Student Union, Room 331, Storrs Campus

11:45-12:00 p.m. SFAC Pre Meeting
12:00-12:30 p.m. Jorgensen
12:30-1:00 p.m. Transportation Services
1:00-1:30 p.m. Athletics
1:30-2:00 p.m. UConn Marching Band
2:00-2:30 p.m. Student Activities
2:30-3:00 p.m. Student Union
3:00-3:30 p.m. One Card
3:30-4:00 p.m. Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Minutes
29 January 2014

4:00-4:30 p.m.	Off Campus Student Services
4:30-5:00 p.m.	Career Services
5:00-5:30 p.m.	Student Health Services
5:30-6:00 p.m.	Wellness & Prevention Services
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Opportunity for Public Comment

Committee Report Form

Smoking Policy Task Force

Chair: Michael Kurland

Director of Student Health Services

Michael.kurland@uconn.edu

Website: /

Representative: Michael Ambroselli

Senator, Physics

ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu

Committee Type: University

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential?

No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

Yes

- endorsed initial recommendations of the University Senate Student Welfare Committee, plus additional policy recommendations
- GSS / graduate student input wanted

Detailed Report

The Smoking Policy Task Force endorses the initial recommendations made by the University Senate Student Welfare Committee. Additionally, the task force recommends increased enforcement of the policy, the inclusion of e-cigarettes in the policy, as well as a publicity campaign to notify all constituents about the policy changes. The recommendations will be submitted to provost Mun Choi within the next week or so, if no concerns are raised by any of the constituencies.

Action Items for the Senate

- Does the GSS have any feedback regarding the proposed changes?

Faculty Standards

Chair: Mark Boyer

Political Science

Mark.boyer@uconn.edu

Website: /

Representative: Danielle Wong

GSS Secretary, Political Science

Danielle.wong@uconn.edu

Committee Type: University

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential?

No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

Yes

- Syllabi Requirement
- SET town hall meeting TBA

Detailed Report

There have been issues of instructors not providing students with syllabi. Faculty standards passed a change in wording to the rules to require syllabi in all courses (including independent study). Also the university has transferred to electronic evaluations. Those in charge of SET will be hosting an open forum to address questions; will notify graduate students of time in place when it is announced.

Action Items for the Senate

- None

DEAN HOLSINGER'S RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS

Q: Under either of these options when you reduce the premiums for dependents, are adult and children dependents considered to be the same?

A: The coverage is for a GA plus a dependent (age unspecified) or a Family. As far as I know, the age of the dependent does not affect the premiums now nor would it in the future.

Q: Is there a way we can notify the state that if this happens more graduate students will be on the exchange which will cost them more money? Maybe the state would be willing to pay the deficit.

A: Although the State manages the exchange, most of the subsidies for policies purchased through the exchange comes from the federal government. It would literally take an act of Congress for the university to receive any funds in return for not referring graduate students to the state health exchange.

Q: Is it possible to have a town hall meeting where graduate students can voice their concerns?

A: My understanding is that Provost Choi will meet with the Executive Committee of GSS. I do not believe that a town hall meeting is likely.

Q: Why is there such a rush for this to happen? Is it possible for you and the graduate students to both get full information before making this decision?

A: The University faces severe financial challenges in the next academic year and some changes must be in place by the time it starts. No changes in coverage are contemplated, other than the possible increase in the individual deductible in Scenario 2, but because the subsidies available to those electing GA+1 and Family will be affected under either scenario and because we want to make sure that those applying for fall admission have complete information about coverage and costs *before* they make a decision on whether to accept an offer of admission, it is very important that we make a final decision within a few weeks.

Graduate Employee Premium Coverage by Percentage and University

Note: All of the universities listed have graduate employee unions. Premium coverage is protected by their collective bargaining agreements.

1. University of Massachusetts, Amherst

http://www.geouaw.org/?page_id=1000#Costs

GA Coverage: 95%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: 90%

2. University of Michigan

<http://www.geo3550.org/2009/08/03/article-11-benefits/>

GA Coverage: 95%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: 85%

3. University of California

<http://www.uaw2865.org/about/current-uaw-contract/#article14>

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: Unclear

4. University of Rhode Island

<http://web.uri.edu/gau/contract/>

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: Unclear

5. University of Oregon

http://gtff3544.net/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/GTFF-Contract-2012-14-FINAL_0.html#LinkTarget_758

GA Coverage: 95%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: Unclear

6. Wayne State University

http://www.gradunionwsu.org/images/GEOC_Contract_2012-2015.pdf

Percentages vary by plan (there are many options), but graduate employees get the same options and same percentage of premium coverage as faculty who are protected by the AAUP.

7. Michigan State University

<http://www.hr.msu.edu/documents/contracts/GEU2011-2015.pdf>

GA Coverage: 100%

Dependent Coverage: 70%

8. Temple University

http://develop.temple.edu/hr/tugsa/documents/TUGSA_100_Rates.pdf

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse or One Dependent Coverage: 80%

Spouse and One Dependent or More than One Dependent Coverage: 60%

9. University of Washington

<http://www.washington.edu/admin/hr/benefits/insure/gaip/premiums.html>

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and Dependent Coverage: 65% (?)

10. Florida A&M University

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and/or Dependent Coverage: Unclear

11. University of Florida

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and/or Dependent Coverage: Unclear

12. University of South Florida

GA Coverage: 100%

Spouse and/or Dependent Coverage: Unclear

13. State University of New York

<http://www.stonybrook.edu/hr/benefits/state/student.shtml>

GA Coverage: 90%

Spouse and/or Dependent Coverage: 75%

14. University of Iowa

<http://cogs.org/current-contract#Article10>

GA Coverage: 90%

Spouse and/or Dependent Coverage: 70%



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut

Minutes
29 January 2014



UCONN |

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate Assistant Health Insurance

Graduate Student Senate

29 January 2014

Stipend comparisons

Institution	Stipend (net of fees)	Stipend net of insurance)	Stipend (COL adjustment)
Rutgers (New Brunswick)	25,460	25,086	20,297
University of Connecticut	17,299	17,119	16,816
University of Delaware	15,618	15,335	14,918
University of Rhode Island	14,217	14,217	14,627
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	14,888	14,751	13,520
University of Vermont	14,496	13,811	13,280
SUNY at Buffalo	12,745	12,594	12,665
University of Maine	12,992	11,650	12,010
University of New Hampshire	13,278	13,278	10,830

Current costs

	Number enrolled	Student portion	University portion	% University portion
GA	1,426	200	3,788	95%
GA+1	141	1,440	8,328	85%
Family	88	1,822	10,534	85%

Scenarios

- Scenario 1
 - Same dollar subsidy to all students regardless of plan chosen
 - Would apply **only** to students who first enroll in Fall 2014
- Scenario 2
 - Reduce dollar subsidy to GA+1 and Family by 5% per year starting in Fall 2014
 - Increase individual deductible to \$500

Impacts

	Current	Scenario 1 (new)
GA	200	200
GA+1	1,440	5,980
Family	1,822	8,568

Impacts

	Current	Scenario 2 (yr 1)	Scenario 2 (yr 2)	Scenario 2 (yr 3)
GA	200	200	200	200
GA+1	1,440	1,856	2,320	2,784
Family	1,822	2,348	2,935	3,521