

- I. Call to Order** 7:02 pm
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker:** Jim Wohl, Ombudsman
 - a. Jim Wohl came to our meeting and spoke about himself and the role he plays in the University as our Ombudsman. He described his definition of conflict and detailed different conflict styles. Jim gave different ways of approaching conflicts. He upholds confidentiality and is independent of the Graduate School. He only responds to the President and uses an offsite calendar. Ombudsman Wohl is not a mandated reported only in terms of physical harm to oneself or others. At the end of the semester he writes a report to the University (last years can be found on his website).
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 1 October 2014 approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Vice President Election – Vice President Erin Eighan has stepped down from her position for personal reasons. We will be looking for a new VP. Nominations are open until a week before our next GSS Meeting. The following candidates were nominated:
 - i. Talea Cornelius, Ian Gutierrez, Tony Pateulunas, Christopher Marcelli
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
 - a. President – Jason Charrette
 - i. Update- We have submitting our application for the NAGS. It is ongoing and under review right now. I am not sure what we are going to do about the National Conference, but when the time gets closer we can discuss it more.
 - b. Vice President – Erin Eighan
 - i. Student Life Committee – Director Wong will be in charge of the Student Life Committee until a replacement for VP is found.
 - c. Treasurer – Michael Ambroselli
 - i. Budget Info Session – I will give the times it will be scheduled next meeting
 - ii. GSS Financial Statement – Treasurer Ambroselli presented the GSS Financial Statement which can be found at the end of the minutes.
 - d. Communications Director – Danielle Wong

- i. Attendance
- ii. Committee Report Form – We ask for reports from committees that are pertaining to graduate students. The Committee Report Form, however, should be filled out regardless. All forms will be attached at the end of the minutes.
- iii. Navigating the Profession Colloquium – Director Wong proposed an idea to the Senate to set up a Colloquium for women. She will be looking into the costs and make a formal presentation/submit an allocation request.
- iv. Student Welfare Committee and survey – GSS would like to have a professional survey done on issues regarding student welfare, housing, and graduate life. Director Wong volunteered to help compile the survey. Questions were raised about formality but the Senate agreed to have it get done.
- e. Activities Director – Nicole Flaig
 - i. Halloween Party – We will be having our cosponsored Halloween party with SAGE on October 31 from 6-9. We have set up a Facebook event page.
 - ii. Thanksgiving Dinner – We will be using the survey as a requirement to attempt to do crowd control
 - 1. November 19, 11:30-2pm
- f. Parliamentarian – Pat Butler
 - i. President's Pay
 - ii. Treasurer's Pay

VIII. External Committee Reports

- a. University Budget Committee – Michael Ambroselli

IX. Issues Forum

- a. Bus Service – Senator Briggs brought his concern to the Senate regarding the overcrowded and dismal bus service to and from Willimantic. They are overcrowded and often do not take into account night classes. Senator Briggs has been circulating a petition and would like to ask UConn for better bus service. He has been in contact with the Union and is asking the Senate for its support. Supporting a motion was proposed but the timeliness of that happening would be over three weeks. Many in the Senate expressed the desire to find out who is in charge of the bus service. It is unclear who to talk to since

the bus service is run by WRTD and subsidized by UConn. The bus currently is free for graduate students. Moving forward Brandon Benevento, our graduate representative on the Parking and Transportation Committee, will contact his committee to determine who is in charge. President Charrette is also going to bring the issue to the committees he sits on. This issue is something we can also put onto the graduate survey. Senator Lovelace also proposed the idea for the University or Graduate School to set up a rideshare program. The Senate agreed, and multiple senators, brought forth their concerns on this issue.

X. Adjournment

Attendance: Senators			
Department / Tier II Group	Name	Initial	Email
Animal Science	Meera Surendran Nair	MS	meera.nair@uconn.edu
Anthropology	Michelle San Pedro	MS	midhelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu
Communications	Karen Planteck	KP	karen.planteck@uconn.edu
Economics	Xiupeng Wang		
	Jun He	JH	jun.he@uconn.edu
Educational Leadership (UCSAA)	Huong Nguyen		
Educational Leadership (NGSA)	Mike Mudrick		
Educational Psychology	Ashley Wisniewski		
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Michael Hutson		
	Kaitlin Gallagher		
English	Brandon Benevento	BB	bbenevento@gmail.com
	George Moore	GM	George.moore@uconn.edu
Graduate Art Alliance	Claire Coleman	CC	Claire.Coleman@uconn.edu
Graduate Art History Society	Betty Lou Starnes		(next page)
	Hannah Kennedy		
Graduate Students of Color Association	Shanna Graham		
	Dana Miranda	DM	dana.miranda@uconn.edu
Human Development & Family Studies	Carmen Britton	CB	Carmen.Britton@uconn.edu
Iranian Cultural Organization	Reza Amin		
	Sajad Mirzaei		
LANGSA/LCL	Nicole Coleman		
	Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso	RYZA	ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu
Linguistics	Abigail Thornton	AT	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu
Medieval Studies	Megg Goodrich	MG	MEGGGOODRICH@GMAIL.COM
Molecular and Cellular Biology	Anthony Patelas	AP	anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu
Philosophy	Jordan Ochs		
Plastics Engineers	Gregory Treich		

Attendance: Senators

Department / Tier II Group	Name	Initial	Email
Psychology	Ian Gutierrez	IG	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu
	Talea Cornelius	TC	talea.cornelius@uconn.edu
	Andy Tucker	AT	Andrew.tucker@uconn.edu
Senator at Large	Anees Ahmed		
Sociology	Heidi Obach	HO	heidi.obach@uconn.edu
Physics	Condost ARKAYA	CA	condost.arkaya@uconn.edu
Physics	Phillip Price	PP	phillip.price@uconn.edu
CEE	ASIF REHAN	AR	asif.rehan@uconn.edu
GAHS	Betty Lou Starnes	BLS	betty.starnes@uconn.edu
not a Senator	Sebastian Barraca	SB	sebastian.barraca@uconn.edu
Political Science / Senator	Vanessa Lovelace	VLL	vanessa.lovelace@uconn.edu
Political Science / ^{not a} senator	Ross Dardani	RAD	ross.dardani@uconn.edu
At-Large / SAGE	Morad Behandish	MB	m.behandish@uconn.edu
Educational Leadership ^(acting as for senator system)	Ryan Baldassario	RB	ryan.baldassario@uconn.edu
Agricultural & Forestry Economics	Kobby Amponsah	KA	Kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu
TARANG	Sriram Vijayan	S-V	Sriram.vijayan@uconn.edu
Senator at large	Anees Ahmed	AA	anees.ahmed@uconn.edu

**University of Connecticut
Graduate Student Senate
Financial Statement FY15
October 31, 2014**

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	0.29
532	Prior Year Income	-
533	Change Fund Returns	-
540	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
546	Interest (Univ.)	-
547	Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	49,595.03

Total Income:

\$ 49,595.32

Expense:

601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	-
604	Photocopying	41.00
605	Postage	-
606	Printing	93.30
607	Promotional Items	520.38
608	Refreshments -- Organization	620.00
609	Subscriptions	-

610	Supplies -- Organization	-	
611	Telephone	132.09	
612	Advertising	-	
613	Awards and Prizes	-	
615	Contractual Services	3,466.98	
616	Co-Sponsorships	-	
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-	
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-	
619	Participation Fees	-	
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	11,666.31	
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	241.15	
622	Registration Fees	-	
623	Rental	213.75	
624	Travel	622.70	
625	Equipment	136.05	
626	Equipment -- Capital	-	
627	Insurance	-	
628	Repairs and Maintenance	-	
629	Utilities	-	
630	Penalties and Fees	-	
631	Miscellaneous	-	
632	Prior Year Expenses	-	
633	Change Funds	-	
640	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-	
641	Employee Benefits (Tier III)	-	
642	Wages -- Student (Tier III)	5,744.00	
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-	
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	52.25	
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-	
	Total Expenses:	<u><u>\$ 23,549.96</u></u>	
	Net Profit (Loss)		<u><u>\$ 26,045.36</u></u>
	Beginning Balance as of 7/01/14		20,601.17
	Plus Net Profit (Loss)		26,045.36
	Current Balance		<u><u>\$ 46,646.53</u></u>

Student Welfare Committee
10/16/2014

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

Representative: Nancy Wong
EDLR

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?

- Lactation Policy
- These Hands Won't Harm Collaborations
- Student Evaluation of Teaching
- Text Books & Open Sourcing

Detailed Report

Lactation Policy

We are in the process of drafting ways to offer places for individuals who are lactating and need a private space to do so. We are also considering revamping the work policies for discussing time off to use the pump. This topic is more relevant for graduate students and faculty/staff.

Safety Begins with Us & These Hands Won't Warm

USG and the executive team from Student Affairs will be meeting on October 30th to have a discussion about the university methods of responding to safety issues and situations. USG is planning a 'These Hands Won't Warm' event to raise the awareness of sexual violence issues, and I have suggested a possible collaboration between GSS and USG on these topics. We will need volunteers for the project.

Student Evaluation of Teaching

The SET surveys are extremely important to graduate students and faculty; however, the undergraduate population tends to largely ignore these surveys. We brainstormed several ways to re-structure the current SET system. There were some suggestions to make the SET mandatory in order for students to receive their schools while another suggestion was to have SET pop-up on the grade page of the website.

Text Books & Open Sourcing

An issue of concern has been the rising cost of textbooks for the student population. We discussed that problem with textbook cost is not simply associated with just the faculty. Many times, faculty cannot change the price of the book or need the necessary items for the course, but their hands are tied because of

the price that the publishers are charging. The committee has decided that the textbook issue will be a concern that we will be focusing on for the fall semester.

University Budget Committee
10/20/14

Chair: Thomas Bontly
Philosophy
thomas.bontly@uconn.edu
Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/budget.html>

Representative: Michael Ambroselli
Physics / GSS Treasurer

Committee Type: University Senate

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No
Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Tuition on Grants

Detailed Report

UBC is investigating the details of the Tuition on Grants (ToG) policy, in particular asking questions such as what were the original goals to be achieved with the money collected through ToG, and what is the money actually used for. A report on this issue to the University Senate is to be produced and due in the Spring of 2015. Kent Holsinger (Dean of the Graduate School) was invited to and attended this meeting to answer questions.

Provost Nicholls' announcement memo of the charge states "The money collected will be used entirely for support of research programming at the University". The Graduate School currently uses these funds to cover the tuition and health benefits portions for (106) students on certain (prestigious) fellowships that is not covered by the institutional allowances. Most of these students (92) are on various training grants, which are not considered research grants.

Furthermore, while this was formerly not the case, these funds now also pay for the pre-doctoral fellowships (\$500K / year), as well as for doctoral student travel support (\$200K / year). These were previously funded by the VP of Research's office, which stopped funding them some time after the introduction of the ToG policy. \$700K of this money was removed from this account in FY 15 to be used in relation to the deficit (from what I understand).

Kent suggested that UConn was in the minority among our peer institutions when not charging tuition on grants. He did not know how the unionization effort will impact this policy. However, he suggested that the fringe rate for GAs would double should they be reclassified as employees with respect to employment. ToG has never been waived when it was not prohibited by the sponsor of the grant.

UBC is trying to get the actual number of GAs, post docs etc. from each department – currently these numbers are not known in detail. For our next meeting, we will likely invite Provost Choi to answer questions related to this and other issues.

Action Items for Senate

- Contribute questions.

Official Committee Name: Parking Advisory Committee

Date: 21 Oct 2014

Chair: Mark Westa
Faculty, Plant Science
Mark.Westa@Uconn.edu
Jbbenevento@Uconn.edu

Representative: Brandon Benevento
English TA

Website: URL Address

Committee Type:

External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? NO

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Not really

The meeting was a brainstorming session for ways the committee might address the UConn Master Plan and campus development, which seems to have forgotten about parking and access.

Faculty Standards Committee

10/20/2014

Chair: Allison MacKay
Associate Professor
mackaya@engr.uconn.edu
m.behandish@engr.uconn.edu

Representative: Morad Behandish
Ph.D. Student

Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/faculty.html>

Committee Type: GSS External

Overview of Report

The main subject of discussion was the possibility of a Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment (PTR) framework that provides greater harmonization and transparency across the university, while remaining cognizant of the unique characteristics of excellence standards within individual schools/colleges/departments.

Detailed Report

UPDATED PTR POLICIES

Sally Reis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, provided an update on the progress toward School/College policy development for PTR. She mentioned that the Deans and Department Heads are (or will be) notified by the committee to update their school and department policies for PTR by spring 2015. She also explained that the Provost's office currently has only a chronology and step-by-step procedure, but no policy documents on PTR. She provided the committee with a draft of "Provost's Policy on Tenure and Promotion Procedures" that would be approved by the Faculty Standards Committee before being posted on the Provost's website. This very general framework applies across the University, and provides the qualitative basis/guidelines for the Schools and Departments to update their more specific requirements within their own scopes. The most significant policy changes are the following:

1. The first review of the tenure-track faculty will take place at the END of their 3rd year, rather than at the beginning (current practice). Sally Reis mentioned that this change was motivated based on the policies that peers use in similar universities, and will be advantageous to faculty, hence will be supported by AAUP. This change makes sense, since it provides more time for faculty from different disciplines (e.g., in STEM fields where they typically need more time for lab setup, or in humanities and social sciences where they spend the first year turning their dissertations into books, etc.).

2. All Schools and Departments are asked to update their PTR regulations every 7 years. Also, annual communication between the Department Heads and tenure-track faculty members are encouraged, to ensure constant and frequent checks on the progress, and guarantee that the tenure-track faculty know what is expected from them in time.

Action Items for Senate

The matter is still under discussion by the Faculty Standards, and there is nothing of immediate direct concern to graduate students at this point.

Attachments*

The drafts for the new “Provost’s Policy on Tenure and Promotion Procedures” and “Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment Form” that were circulated in the meeting were confidential, since they’re not approved/finalized yet,, and I cannot disclose them as attachment in this report. However, an example policy from the School of Education (finalized, not confidential) was provided, attached to this document.

Activities Committee

<i>Chair:</i>	Nicole Flaig	<i>Representative:</i>	Name
	Activities Director		UConn Affiliation
	Nicole.flaig@uconn.edu		Email Address
<i>Website:</i>	URL Address	<i>Committee Type:</i>	GSS Internal/Standing

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Halloween party planning

Detailed Report

HALLOWEEN PARTY PLANNING WITH SAGE, YO

We will be hosting the party in the same location as it was last year, in the Biophysics building (BPB). It event will be from 6-9pm on Halloween, with an hour for set up and 2 hours for take down (just in case).

Talea has volunteered to call around for food prices. The idea is pizza, wings, cookies. Michael suggested veggie platters. Anything else?

Kam has sent around a flyer which I passed on to the rest of you, I received a few comments (mention the live bands, make it more colorful, not as much dead space). Any more comments before its official?

We will have live music for at least a short while. If you know of a band that wants face time with grad students and will play for free, invite them and let me know.

Unless someone else has a strong inclination towards finding the decorations, I will be ordering some cobwebs, cuts outs, streamers, etc.. Speak up now or it'll be done before you can.

We will host games, some of which will include prizes: donut eating (like reverse apple bobbing), costume contest, group or individual crafts (to be provided by Grad School) for making masks, Halloween trivia, pumpkin passing...

NEEDING VOLUNTEERS

- buying supplies (I will have a list soon, both for online supplies and stuff to get locally). I have \$\$ for you to purchase them with or you can be reimbursed.
- obtaining gift cards. first try the donation route, if that fails, I have \$\$ for you to purchase them with or you can be reimbursed. Try starbucks, price chopper.
- Notifying your constituencies. I will be passing along a blurb and rsvp for you to continue to pass.
- gathering volunteers. These are the **jobs on the day of:**
 - picking up ordered food (1 person), might have a second trip depending on how we space food during the event
 - setup: includes decorating, moving/arranging furniture, setting up food, setting up games, (at least 6 people)
 - during: rotating ID checker at front, monitoring games, serving food (so its not a grab-all and we run out in the first hour), help the band(s), run the music (at least 6 people)
 - take down: collect garbage, take down decorations to be used again, put furniture back, general cleaning (the more people we have, the faster it gets done).

Action Items for Senate

- Need volunteers
- here is the RSVP form:
- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1OYWRSjMd8IM1tMEZiaiJtHd7-EubdwVoD48IbUm6GIE/viewform>

Vice President Resignation Letter

Hi Jason and other members of Exec,

In our last Executive Committee meeting, I alluded to some recent personal difficulties I've had that, in turn, have redirected my attention away from the duties of the Vice President and the goals I had for this term. Without offering more detail than necessary, some recent circumstances have triggered a reevaluation of my time and priorities. For personal and professional reasons, it would be most prudent to submit my resignation effective immediately.

Procedurally, there doesn't seem to be a "chain of replacement" for this position. That is to say, the GSS Constitution and Bylaws don't indicate that someone from the current Executive Committee must move in to fill my seat. As far as I'm aware, this position would be open to standard election procedures. The only real logistical problem for Exec otherwise would be finding someone to run the Senate meetings. Patrick, as Parliamentarian, would be able to do that during the transition time very easily. As for the VP's stipend, I will surrender it in its entirety to GSS and the new VP. If you'd like me to meet with the new VP to transition him/her into the position, I would be happy to do so.

I apologize that I can't devote my time and energy to the goals of GSS more fully, but I do want to thank you all sincerely for your dedicated service to the graduate student community.

All the best,
Erin