



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Minutes

24 October 2012

- I. **Call to Order at 7:02 pm.**
- II. **Recognition of Senators**
- III. **Special Guest: Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer Richard Gray**
 - a. Anything other than direct reports to the President and Provost report to Mr. Gray. Mr. Gray deals with parking issues, tuition, building projects, environmental health and safety.
 - b. Good relationship with Unions on campus. Recently hired an administrator who deals specifically with unions.
 - c. How does Mr. Gray interface with graduate students on a daily basis? Anything that is non-academic in the University goes through Mr. Gray.
 - d. Because we are located in a rural setting, we have a complete fire safety and rescue unit dedicated to UConn.
 - e. Contact: richard.gray@uconn.edu. Mr. Gray is very interested in listening to problems and issues that arise
 - f. Questions?
 - i. Senator Kilroy: One of my constituents has had issues with the reimbursement process. How can graduate students deal with large reimbursements that are processed slowly? Sometimes they can amount to thousands of dollars, which is more than a few pay checks.
 1. Mr. Gray: Can email Rich Gray directly.
 - ii. Activities Director Kurian: It took me two months to get a reimbursement through my Tier-II organization, but GSS can be reimbursed in roughly a week's time. Why is there a disparity?
 1. Mr Gray: The reason it has slowed down is because of the new accounts payable system, **Kuali**. I've authorized overtime and backlog time to make this process run smoother.
 - iii. Senator Wong: ICPSR is a database crucial to those in the social sciences. UConn recently revoked their subscription to this database. The University of Connecticut doesn't offer as much advanced methodological training. It's not just that we have to go outside of the University to get this training (at a much higher cost), it's also the access to datasets.
 1. Mr Gray: I don't know who made the decision to do that, but I will take a look at it. I will send responses through to President Messier.
 - iv. Senator Gordon: I'm in Physical Therapy and we just finished clinical rotation and there was no parking available except in C Lot. Nursing students might be



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having a similar issue. Parking Services reacted as if this was something that they've never heard of this issue. We are looking for a single-semester option, but we have to buy our pass in August for the whole year.

1. Mr. Gray: South Lot is supposed to have permits for students with special requirements. This sounds like your group may fall under this category.
- v. If you have any further issues, please contact Mr. Gray directly.

IV. Approval of Minutes: 10 October 2012

- a. Summary of Amendments
 - i. Passed.

V. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Executive Committee
 - ii. Updated GSS Description in Graduate Catalogue
 1. The Graduate School approached us to update our description in the graduate catalogue. We drafted a new version and Exec approved the draft. The new graduate catalogue will have an updated version of our description.
 2. There is also a new Graduate School website.
 - iii. Breakfast with the President
 1. Tomorrow, Thursday October 25 @ 9:30-10:30 am.
 2. One more spot is available, so please sign up at the meeting.
 - iv. Carpooling
 1. We've set up a meeting with CT Rides that offers a free carpooling and vanpooling service. This is a good option for those struggling with transportation and parking. President Messier will meet with CT Rides next week. If you have any input, please let President Messier know.
 - v. Graduate Program Handbooks
 1. A lot of graduate programs don't have an official handbook. Some programs have unofficial versions; other programs just refer to more advanced graduate students. President Messier emailed Kent Holsinger explaining all of the issues surrounding this, suggesting that the Graduate School needs to make a graduate handbook a requirement. It's an issue Kent Holsinger is aware of and has been brought up to the Graduate Faculty Council before. For the November Graduate Faculty Council, President Messier would like to compile a comprehensive list of



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issues related to the lack of official handbooks in graduate programs. She would like to be able to present this formally to the Graduate Faculty Council.

- b. Vice President – Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Committee
 - 1. We will be meeting with CT Rides.
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 - ii. Information Sessions: 10/26 @ 2-3 pm (Rainbow Center Conference Room), 10/30 @ 1-2 pm (Student Union 322)
 - 1. Will focus on submitting reimbursements and how to prepare them for quick and efficient processing. Will also address Special Allocations requests.
 - iii. Short-term Loan Criteria Adjustment
 - 1. With the passing of the most recent Bylaws, Treasurer Yue has updated the criteria available online. The revised criteria is also posted on the GSS office door.
- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 - 1. At our next meeting, we will be consulting a graduate student who used to work in the marketing/advertising industry to help formulate a branding plan for GSS.
 - 2. We will soon be contacting the Graphic Design program in the Business School to inquire about the possibility of teaming up with a professor to create a class project—typically called a “charrette”—around re-designing the GSS logo and formal insignia.
 - ii. *The Commons*: gssuconn.wordpress.com
 - 1. *The Commons* was officially announced via the GRAD-ANNOUNCE Listserv. We are looking for proposals for regular columns or single contributions related to any aspect of graduate student or UConn life. Please see the email announcement for more information or visit gssuconn.wordpress.com/about. If you or anyone in your constituency currently writes a blog about their research or professional development, encourage them to contact us. We would be happy to re-post, host, follow, and/or link to their blog to expand their audience.



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- iii. External Committee Report Forms
 - 1. A formal worksheet is still under construction. If you have any specific needs in the structure of your report that haven't been addressed yet, please contact Erin.
- iv. GSS Meeting Schedule: 11/7, 12/5
- v. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
- vi. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Speed Dating
 - 1. 80 people attended the Speed Dating portion of the event; over 300 grads showed up at the Grad Student Mixer (including the Speed Daters) from across campuses and programs.
 - 2. Have requests to hold another event.
 - iii. Thanksgiving Dinner
 - 1. Wednesday, November 14 @ 12-2 pm (tentatively, but may start a half hour early) in the Student Union Ballroom
 - i. Event Co-sponsored by the Grad School: Movie Night
 - 1. Tuesday, November 27 @ 6-8 pm
 - 2. If we don't have the license to show the original movie, we will choose another movie. These details are being worked out with the graduate school.
 - ii. Event Co-sponsored by the Provost's Office
 - 1. Sent Provost Choi two ideas for co-sponsoring an event: a larger scale graduate student "study hall," similar to the Writing Retreat that the Writing Center held recently; a graduate student social hour at the Nathan Hale.
 - iii. Grad Prom
 - 1. Friday, March 1
- f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Procedures Committee
- VI. External Committee Reports**
 - a. University Senate Executive Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see the full report in the "Addendum: Committee Reports."
 - b. SUBOG SU Policy Council – Safet Berisa



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- i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
- c. Provost’s Library Advisory Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
- d. University Budget Committee – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
- e. Committee on Leave Policies for Graduate Students/Post Docs – Erika Del Villar
 - i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
 - ii. Senator Talia: Are those on leave actually required by law not to work?
 - 1. Can email the committee directly for clarification.
- f. Senate Diversity Committee – Michelle San Pedro
 - i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
- g. Student Welfare Committee – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Please see the full report in the “Addendum: Committee Reports.”
 - ii. Senator Njuki: Do rescheduled finals have to be conducted during finals week?
 - 1. No. I will follow up on this and find the documentation on the website.
 - iii. Parliamentarian Aldridge: Regarding the Working Alone Policy, the policy was originally pretty vague. Was that clarified at all?
 - iv. Senator Kilroy: We were also concerned about the vagueness of the policy. Is travelling outdoors included in this policy?
 - 1. This issue was brought up, but it wasn’t conclusively decided yet. Student Advocacy eventually said that fieldwork was not covered in this policy. That begs the question about whether or not there is a policy about fieldwork.
 - v. Senator Hutson: Are there details about the ramifications of not following this policy?
 - 1. No. There are details about the responsibilities that need to be upheld. I can ask if they will specify.
 - vi. Senator Njuki: I think this is a legal issue to protect the University of Connecticut.

VII. Issues Forum

- a. Graduate Student Orientation – Chantelle Messier
 - i. As a follow-up from our meeting with Provost Choi, we would like to hear your thoughts about a graduate-wide orientation.



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- ii. Senator Kilroy: Would it take place once a year? What about students who begin in January?
- iii. Senator Tomchek: How is this different from GAIN?
 - 1. President Messier: Gain is an information fair. An orientation would be geared towards training.
 - 2. Treasurer Yue: One thing to be aware of: on-campus housing only opens at a certain time.
 - 3. Treasurer Washat: Residential Life can actually give you early access to on-campus residences.
- b. UConn's Revoking of ICPSR Membership – Danielle Wong
 - i. Senator Wong: Access to these datasets available through ICPSR is crucial to research in the social sciences. Our department is trying to raise awareness of this issue because it applies to departments across the University. We are the only R1 University to not have access to this database. I will forward a form letter to GSS to send out to our Senators and Friends internal listserv. There is a petition attached.
- c. UConntact SABO Requirement – Hayley Kilroy
 - i. Senator Kilroy: Tier-II organizations are now required to maintain a roster of members on UConntact. I don't think this is something that graduate student organizations should be subject to. You must have a minimum of 8 members or your SABO account is frozen
 - ii. Senator Washat: There is a good reason that that is there. Officers need to go through training and this is a record of that.
 - iii. VP Berisa: SABO could maintain that prior to UConntact.
 - iv. Senator Kilroy: I don't have a problem with registering the officers on UConntact because those reasons make sense to me. But in addition to that, there is a requirement that the organization have 5 additional members sign up on UConntact.
 - v. Senator Shabtay: My department doesn't even have 8 people in it, so we would never be able to fulfill that requirement.
 - vi. Treasurer Yue: You would have to contact the Student Activities Involvement Office.
 - vii. President Messier: Would an acceptable alternative be to present a different form of a roster?
 - viii. Senator Kilroy: That would be okay for me, but that still leaves open the issue of the minimum number of members.



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d. Other Issues – Open Forum

- i. Senator Kilroy: I recently went to the SOC to make copies and was initially denied because I was representing a graduate student organization. I went to the Student Activities Office and they know that this is an issue. They let me make copies there.
- ii. Senator Washat: Send out a reminder email about At-Large Senators.

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- a. GSS 12/13-08: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$825.00 for Languages Graduate Student Association's "Open Humanities: Multifaceted Approaches for the 21st Century" event.
 - i. Motion: Senator Tomchek. Seconded.
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES.**
- b. GSS 12/13-09: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$70.00 for Green Grads' Movie & Popcorn: Queen of the Sun" event.
 - i. Motion: Senator Johnson. Seconded.
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES.**
- c. GSS 12/13-10: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$120.00 for Green Grads' "Critical Mass Bike Ride" event.
 - i. Motion: Senator Johnson. Seconded.
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES.**
- d. At-Large Senator Elections
 - i. No nominees.

X. Adjournment at 8:41 pm.



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Addendum: Attendance

24 October 2012

Name	Email	Constituency	Role
Chantelle Messier	chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	President
Safet Berisa	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee	Vice President
Ian Yue	ian.yue@uconn.edu	Exec. Committee	Treasurer
Erin Eighan	eeighan@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Secretary
Leland Aldridge	laldridge@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Parliamentarian
Anish Kurian	anish.m.kurian@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	Activities Director
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Senator
Shawn Washart	shawn.washart@uconn.edu	HESA	Senator
Abby Gordon	abby.gordon@uconn.edu	Physical Therapy	Representative
Lauren Van Derzee	lauren.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Sociology	Senator
Indu Upadhyaya	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Senator
Michelle SanPedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Senator
Alexandra Merceron	alexandra.merceron@uconn.edu	GSCA	Senator
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Austin Johnson	austinj@gmail.com	Education	Senator
Niko Tracksdorf	niko@tracksdorf.com	LANGSA	Representative
Eleonora Boscolo	eleonora.boscolo@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Representative
Nicole White	nicole.2.white@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Representative
Troy Messick	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Senator
Micah Cash	micahcash@gmail.com	Studio Art	Senator
Anita Virga	anita.virga@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Senator
Talia Shabtay	talia.shabtay@uconn.edu	Art History	Senator
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Senator



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Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Hayley Kilroy	hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu	EEB / Green Grads	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Lyn Tieu	lyn.tieu@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Photographer
Ryan Tomchek	rtomchek@gmail.com	Mathematics	Senator



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Addendum: Committee Reports

24 October 2012

University Senate, 10/15/12

In attendance and reporting: Safet Beriša

Report of the President:

- The US Senate debate the University hosted was a success.
- CT Governor Malloy toured the campus during the previous week, among other locations he was shown around Torry and Gant and agreed that they need improvement.
- GE's 7.5 mil initiative (5 year investment) in electrical protective technologies is to include:
 - o a GE professorship (in electrical engineering)
 - o some GE graduate fellowships
 - o GE research project funding
- The permanent Provost search is moving very well
- The VP for communication search yielded great candidates as did the master planner search
- Two new departments were approved by the Board of Trustees: the Biomedical Engineering department (Storrs/Farmington) and the Digital Media and Design department
- The plan for the Stamford campus includes getting more funds to boost both the number of students and the number of professors and for it to become a hub for business and digital media. The goal is to attract about 300 students over 3-4 years with funding to match an increase in faculty numbers; UConn will fund graduate programs and is looking for state assistance in funding the undergraduate programs.

The Consent Agenda was accepted as posted:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20121015.cc.pdf>

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20121015.nom.pdf>

Overview of undergraduate education initiatives:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20121015.UEliss.pdf>

Capital Projects Planning Committee and Building & Grounds Committee annual report:

- demolition of old central warehouse planned
- repairs to water tower made
- new engineering & science building about to enter schematic design
- basketball development facility will be entirely privately funded
- landscape improvement target: the Library quad
- technology park planning underway
 - innovation partnership building



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- acquisition of significant technical & scientific equipment
- utilities/infrastructure/road improvement
- environmental permits being obtained
- in construction:
 - Beach Hall repairs
 - Manchester Hall window replacement
 - Young building
 - Avery Point Communication building
 - Bousfield addition & renovation
 - pedestrian improvements along Hillside Rd
 - reclaimed water facility (tertiary waste water treatment)

Report of the Vice President & Chief Financial Officer on the University's Budget

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20121015.budget.pdf>

Report of the Nominating Committee

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20121015.nom.motion.pdf>



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SUBOG SU Policy Council, 10/18/12

In attendance and reporting: Safet Beriša

Associate Director for Operations Chuck Morrell is asking for suggestions on what Union enhancements could be acquired through the Student Union Enhancement Fund.

The Space Allocation Committee has been assembled (chair: Safet Beriša) and will begin work on a procedure for implementing the recently approved Space Allocation Policy.

Several philosophy graduate students (and others) will be doing a live airing of a UConn-adapted rendition of the War of the Worlds on WHUS on October 30 around 7 pm (they will interrupt a regularly scheduled program).

Also on October 30, the Commuter student organization will be holding a “Build your own car kit” event in SU 312 from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm.



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Provost's Library Advisory Committee, 10/24/12

In attendance and reporting: Safet Beriša

The meeting was mainly organizational in nature.

Vice Provost Brinley Franklin informed us of the following:

The FY 2013 budget for UConn Libraries has been cut by 3% (\$579,857.00). This includes a \$227,500.00 cut in the collections budget.

- The Libraries did not receive a 5% inflationary increase this year.
- The Libraries are using a one-time lump sum of \$350,000.00 in an attempt to offset this and are relying on patron-driven acquisitions.
- The Libraries received \$295,000.00 from the new student technology fee that will be used to renovate a video theater; upgrade the DLC's multimedia studio; add 200 electrical outlets on Levels 2, 3, and 4; replace 100 public computers and monitors; purchase 2 color scanners for regional campus libraries; add data jacks in HBL, the Music Library, and Greater Hartford; and increase the number of portable devices available to students.
- ILLiad enhancements were made; these include next day book chapter borrowing and lending delivery was initiated.
- Work continues on the development of a digital repository to make accessible, house, and preserve the University's digital objects.

Proposed topics for the future meetings include:

- Instruction and learning spaces
 - HBL space proposal
 - Virtual PC
 - CT State Data Center
- Library research services
 - e-Science and data management
 - COS – Pivot
 - Meetings with Deans
- Collections
 - Digital repository update
 - Collections strategies update



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Another topic, reached at the meeting, is discussing the publication of BA, MA, and PhD theses in the Digital Commons.

If you have any questions/issues to raise concerning any of the above/anything related to the libraries, please don't hesitate to contact me at safet.berisa@uconn.edu



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University Budget Committee, Monday, October 22, 2012

Context

(The information in this section was not shared at the UBC meeting; it is given here simply to provide the reader with a foundational understanding of what was presented at the meeting)

The tuition on grants policy went into effect on July 1, 2009, for all new research grants submitted on or after that date. The University Senate charged the UBC to monitor the effects of this program for three fiscal years and to present a report to the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) on the outcomes of the policy in the following fiscal year. UBC often partners with the University administration to carry out monitoring initiatives; this was the case for the tuition on grants policy. UBC initially partnered with the Research Advisory Council (RAC) and the Vice President for Research (Dr. Suman Singha) to carry out the monitoring. In the summer or fall of 2012, it was anticipated that the RAC would complete a comprehensive review of the tuition on grants policy, but as of the October 22, 2012 UBC meeting, the review had not been conducted. This may be because the responsibility of monitoring the policy was transferred from the RAC and Dr. Singha to the Graduate School and the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Kent Holsinger, in the summer of 2012. UBC is now partnered with the latter for monitoring purposes.

Tuition on Grants Policy

- Dean Holsinger gave an update on the policy's outcomes, inclusive of revenues raised, expenditures made, and graduate students enrolled
- Overview document handed out by Dean Holsinger to UBC members is attached
- The requirement for the tuition on grants policy is that any grant request that provides support for a graduate assistant must account for 60% of the in-state tuition for that graduate student's enrollment at the University of Connecticut. This 60% of in-state tuition amount is required unless the granting agency specifically disallows it (e.g. some non-profits and some private foundations)
- So far, the revenues taken in by the tuition on grants policy has been strictly used to cover the tuition and health insurance of graduate students on competitive federal fellowships and NSF IGERT traineeships. The exact amount of coverage depends on the tuition support provided by each fellowship but is approximately \$60,000 per year per fellow. Prior to this policy being put into effect, the University did not provide fellows with tuition or health insurance coverage. Dean Holsinger mentioned that there are currently about 65 graduate student fellows enrolled at the University — compared to four or five a couple of years ago — and thus, the financial support for these fellows has likely helped the University be more competitive in obtaining graduate students for enrollment.
- Revenues from grants are placed in a separate account for monitoring purposes and for strict use for graduate students. The central University budget cannot take this money.



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- The surplus difference between the funds received and the expenditures made may be used in a variety of ways but the Graduate School has not yet determined how. One option under consideration is to create a University-wide fellowship that covers tuition and health insurance for highly competitive graduate students for at least one year.
- On the overview document, “eligible for grad tuition” means that the granting agency that awarded the grant allows for tuition on grants to be included on a grant proposal. “Grad tuition budgeted” indicates grants with tuition actually budgeted in the grant awarded.
- UBC members brought up various concerns that have not yet been addressed. UBC concerns are noted in *italics* below with responses to the concerns given in regular type:
 - *At the time the policy was put forward, the University administration assumed that the number of grants being taken in by the University would stay the same, and thus the revenue would increase as a whole. Is this the case? Is the total grant revenue coming into the University increasing, as a result of requiring that tuition be included on grant proposals?* Information on this is not yet available.
 - *Is the annual revenue raised from tuition included grant proposals expected to stabilize “asymptotically”? If so, at what approximate amount?* At the time the policy was put forward, the University administration assumed the policy would bring in an approximate additional \$6 million to the University. Based on the values from the last few years, the stabilized value seems to be between \$1-2 million, which is close to the estimates provided by the UBC.
 - *There are little-to-no trends in the number of RAs, TAs, and enrolled graduate students from fiscal year 2009 to today, but these values are not standardized for only the graduate students eligible for RAs and TAs (i.e. exclusive of professional students). Of particular interest would be to get values for how the average number of graduate students per grant has changed since the policy was implemented. Another helpful measure would be to look at the changes in average number of “eligible” students per grant dollar.* It is very difficult to pull this information out, as it requires looking into three University systems: (1) the Student Administration System to determine a graduate student’s academic home, (2) the Genesis System to determine whether the student is on a graduate assistantship (either RA or TA), (3) the Accounting System to determine whether the graduate student’s funding comes from a grant and, if so, which grant account. The easiest/quickest measure is just to standardized enrollment values by controlling for Ph.D. students; more granular data would require more time.
 - *How has this policy affected the amount of summer support given to faculty and graduate assistants on grants?* Information on this is not yet available.
 - *Is there information on whether the percentage of research funds taken from a specific department via grants are being re-allocated in the same proportion to that department in the form of fellowship support? Many departments may not feel it to be equitable that they are supplementing other departments or a University-wide fellowship.* Information on this is not yet available.
 - *Given the surplus between revenues taken in as the result of this policy and the expenditures actually made, can the University lower the 60% of in-state tuition on*



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grants requirement? The answer to this will require more discussion with the University administration. One potential worry about lowering the amount is if the number of graduate student fellows enrolled in the University increases in the future, it would be problematic if not all fellows were able to be financially supported by the University.

- UBC unanimously passed a motion to inform SEC that UBC does not have enough information on the outcomes of the tuition on grants policy to make an assessment.

Future Meetings

- November 26, 2012
 - With special guest Charlie Eaton (University Controller)
 - To discuss Quali Financial System rollout – project budget and status

Official UBC meeting minutes are to be posted at <http://senate.uconn.edu/budget.htm>.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Yue

GSS Treasurer



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Meeting with University Senate Budget Committee 22 October 2012 – Tuition from grants

How much revenue has been collected? How has it been spent?

	Funds received	Expenditures
FY 2011	\$ 424,689	\$ 146,033
FY 2012	\$ 1,125,983	\$ 168,385
FY 2013 (est.)	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 500,000

Funds have been used to supplement tuition and health benefit coverage for students covered by the policies on competitive federal fellowships and prestigious non-federal fellowships.

How many grants have been awarded with grad tuition charged to the grant and from what agencies?

932 grant accounts have been set up as eligible for grad tuition. There are 475 accounts with grad tuition budgeted. There are federal, state, non-profit, and corporate sponsors. Federal sponsors include USDA, DOC, DOD, Education, Energy, DHS, DOS, DOI, DOT, VA, EPA, NSF, NAS, HRSA, NIH, and others.

How many grants have been awarded from agencies that do not allow tuition charges?

There are about 20 accounts with new awards in FY 2012 that do not allow tuition. They are primarily from non-profit groups, but there are a couple with federal funds.

Has the balance of funding agencies changed significantly?

No.

Has the policy been waived for some grants/applications? What are the criteria for waiving the policy?

Tuition is waived if the sponsor does not allow tuition charges. This is true of many USDA programs, state agencies, and some non-profits.

Do grant applications that do not include charges have a higher success rate?

It is not possible to give a meaningful answer to this question. The presence or absence of tuition charges is completely confounded with the program to which applications are made.

How many graduate students are currently supported on grants? Has the use of graduate student RAs on grant-funded research been replaced by other kinds of labor? How has support for graduate students changed since the policy went into effect?

See the following table.



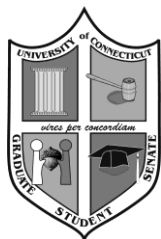
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	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Research Assistants	1258	1237	1204	1216	1258	1147	1189	1166	1172
Teaching Assistants	898	908	961	1012	1009	959	904	933	954
Split	214	229	223	252	234	295	298	310	297
Total Graduate Students	6096	6224	6363	6483	6656	6707	6860	6783	6759
Post-Docs		79	110	106	96	98	115	129	139
AGNR									
Research assistants	123	120	113	122	103	89	93	81	75
Teaching assistants	13	13	16	16	24	19	14	13	14
BUSN									
Research assistants	68	84	95	108	103	36	33	21	33
Teaching assistants	4	3	5	5	3	47	32	29	19
CLAS									
Research assistants	392	391	354	369	391	316	346	352	345
Teaching assistants	795	801	835	863	843	771	733	760	793
EDUC									
Research assistants	166	152	167	170	179	167	159	159	158
Teaching assistants	9	11	14	23	27	22	33	29	26
ENGR									
Research assistants	301	269	244	236	276	332	344	327	339
Teaching assistants	31	35	41	46	44	41	36	47	44
FNAR									
Research assistants	22	36	32	25	27	36	37	40	32
Teaching assistants	26	24	23	32	33	27	28	20	27
NURS									
Research assistants	3	5	11	13	9	8	8	4	7
Teaching assistants	10	12	12	17	23	12	10	11	11
PHAR									
Research assistants	25	24	26	28	27	25	24	30	25
Teaching assistants	8	8	9	9	8	15	12	14	11
SSWK									
Research assistants	6	7	5	7	9	5	5	5	9
Teaching assistants	0	0	6	0	3	4	4	9	6
UChC									
Research assistants	152	149	157	138	134	133	140	147	149
Teaching assistants	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	1	2



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Addendum: Committee Reports

24 October 2012

Committee on Leave Policies Associated with Graduate Student and Postdocs

Reporting: Erika Lorenzana Del Villar

Subject: First Meeting of the Committee on Leave Policies Associated with
Graduate Students and Postdocs

Meeting Date/Time: October 12, 2012, 1:30-3:00 P.M.

Venue: Giolas Conference Room, Graduate Student Center

Committee Members (All in attendance):

Sandra M. Chafouleas, Chair	Associate Dean of the Graduate School Professor, Department of Educational Psychology
Richard Bass	Professor, Department of Music
Erika Lorenzana Del Villar	Graduate Student in Sociology
Jean Marsden	Professor, Department of English
Rachel O'Neill	Professor, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology
Thomas B. Peters	Director, Graduate School Programs

Charge of the Committee:

1) To examine issues associated with:

- a. revision to the current leave policy for all graduate students as documented within the Graduate Catalog;
- b. examination of a leave policy (medical, personal) pertaining to graduate assistants; and
- c. examination of a leave policy pertaining to post-doctorates.

2) To review current policies and procedures, identify problems, and generate possible solutions to provide to Dr. Holsinger.

Important starting points:

- This committee will consider both graduate students AND postdocs in discussions.



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- There are currently no policies (on leave or benefits) associated with postdocs; There is nothing in the graduate school catalog associated with a leave policy for graduate students (regardless of whether these graduate students are GA/TAs) – these should be the focus of the committee

Discussion Points/Next Steps:

1. Graduate Assistant Maternity Leave Issue

- The current policy (attached) was last reviewed in 2008. It was pointed out that the policy as it stands does not seem to be 'progressive' in the way that it is worded, especially since there is also no mention of a corresponding paternity leave policy.
- According to Tom and Jean (who were both on the policy committee in 2008), the main objective/concern at the time the policy was drafted was to make sure that the GA is able to keep her benefits throughout the leave and that it was not punitive; paternity leave was also not included then since the university at that time still did not have paternity leave either for faculty/staff (now it does).
- Important to note that GAs are not employees (some postdocs are employees, some are not). But what makes this nebulous is that there is a question of whether GAs are also contemplated by the FMLA since the university gives them benefits.

Action/Next Steps: Sandy will check with HR benefits on this and also consult UConn's Human Resources lawyers on FMLA applicability to GAs

- The policy is also left to the departments to implement, leading to no standards in implementation, especially given that departments do not have the money or choose not to allocate some of their budget for the implementation of this policy.

Action/Next Steps: Compliance by departments should not be a "choice." Support should come from the university level. There should be a "pot of money" or "pool" of financial resources which departments can use for policy implementation. This will be a recommendation submitted to Dean Holsinger.

- For female GAs, there is also stigma (prevalent within the academe, especially in the sciences) associated with having children, getting pregnant or taking a maternity leave while in graduate school (a culture that does not support graduate students who choose to have children while in school; that 'this is not the place for you'). They also face the threat that their benefits will be taken away from them because of taking this leave even if they are technically allowed to take 6 weeks (8 weeks for C-section births). The



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latter is particularly concerning for those who are funded by grants – the PI can choose to replace the graduate assistant on leave for the long-term, which threatens the loss of the GA's benefits upon return.

Action/Next Steps:

- a. Language and structure of the policy should be parallel to maternity/paternity leave policy for faculty/staff.
- b. Revise/Reword the "Flexibility of Work Hours" (pay it forward clause) of the policy, which currently suggests the 'best practice' that a GA can arrange to work more hours early in her pregnancy in expectation of her leave (which technically implies that the GA is covering/making up for hours which should be given to her as leave). The issue here is to have a policy that does not allow the power structure between supervisors and subordinates to dictate the implementation of a policy, i.e. taking maternity leave should not run the risk of the GA losing benefits because of decision/arrangement that is not based on a standard. The wording should have a more "collaborative" tone, where the GA does not feel vulnerable or victimized. This process of choosing who will cover for the GA, if there should be a written 'leave plan' to cover work, etc. must be explicit. Sandy will review this section and come up with a suggested draft that she will circulate to the group.
- c. Maternity leave benefits should also be clearly stated in the policy (length of time, possible extensions, etc.)
- d. Paternity leave will also be considered and included in the policy, parallel to faculty/staff policy.
- e. Adoption or care for a dependent should also be considered in the policy.
- f. Title IX (Equal Opportunity in Education Act) also prohibits discrimination on the basis of pregnancy. This principle must be integrated into the policy (along with FMLA benefits, when applicable).

2. Medical/Personal Leave for Graduate Students (for inclusion in Graduate School catalog)

- There is currently no leave policy for graduate students, so there is a need to create one. These medical/personal leaves do not deal with funding issues, but only deal with academic *status* i.e., stopping time toward degree.
- A draft has been created (attached) and was initially taken up by an ad-hoc task force within the Graduate School that met for more than a year to review the Grad School catalog. However, no agreement was made as to the policy. Target: This policy should be in the books at the same time that the maternity leave policy goes into implementation.

Action/Next Steps: Sandy will revise the current draft based on the following suggestions (and circulate it when done):



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- a. There should be clear definitions of “graduate student,” “graduate assistant” in the policy.
- b. For the personal leave, this could include, but is not limited to, family leave, financial exigency. The section on personal leave should include examples or illustrations but not be restrictive (given that what is ‘compelling’ may be subjective).
- c. Documentation is always required for medical leave.
- d. Medical/personal leave can be for a continuous 12-month period (calendar year). Student has two options to extend, but must reapply.
- e. A ‘leave of absence’ application needs to be created. This should include a certification/acknowledgement (with signature) of the major advisor and dept./program head, and approval of Dean or authorized designee.
- f. Documentation of permission to return could be required for some cases (e.g. safety situations, mental illness among other medical conditions, environmental considerations/health and safety in sciences).

3. Post-Doc Policies

- These will be patterned after grad student policies. The tricky part is that post-docs are considered as either trainees, employees and fellows depending on their funding source.

Action/Next Steps: Sandy will come up with a proposed draft of leave policies based on the suggestions for graduate student policies, and in consultation with HR and guidelines from the National Post-Doctoral Association.

Proposed drafts will be circulated to committee members for review when Sandy completes them. The next meeting has yet to be scheduled.



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SUGGESTED DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR ALL GRADUATE STUDENTS IN CATALOG

Policies and Procedures Task Force Led by Lee Aggison

A graduate student for compelling personal or medical reasons may request a leave of absence from his or her graduate program of up to one calendar year. The request for a leave of absence must be made in writing using the Leave of Absence Application Form. The completed application form must bear the signatures of the student, the student's Major Advisor, and the Department or Program Head. The completed application form is to be submitted to the Graduate School for review and approval at least 30 days before the leave of absence is to commence.

The terminal date (the date determined by the Graduate School by which it is expected that all degree requirements will be completed) of any student granted a leave of absence will be extended by a period of time equivalent to the duration of the approved leave of absence. The period of the leave of absence will not be counted as time that the student is doing work toward the completion of the degree.

Information provided in applications for personal leaves of absence must address the specific reason(s) prompting the request.

Applications for medical leaves of absence require documentation from an appropriate health care provider. This documentation must be submitted with the Leave of Absence Application Form. In certain cases, the Dean of the Graduate School may request that a student provide documentation from an appropriate health care provider which certifies that the student has medical clearance to resume study at the conclusion of an approved leave of absence.

By written request to the Graduate School, leaves of absence can be extended in increments of six months up to a maximum of one additional calendar year. Requests to extend medical leaves of absence must be accompanied by supplementary documentation from an appropriate health care provider. An extended leave of absence cannot exceed two full calendar years in duration. Students away from their studies for more than two years must reapply for admission to the Graduate School with no assurance of acceptance.

Students returning to studies after a leave of absence must work with appropriate faculty advisors and program personnel to resume their degree programs.



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<http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=693>

Title:	Graduate Assistant Maternity Benefits, Policy Statement Concerning
Author:	Graduate Faculty Council
Effective Date:	September 19, 2007
Applies To:	Students
Last Reviewed:	May 6, 2008
Description:	Graduate Assistant Maternity Benefits
Contact for More Information:	The Graduate School
Contact Telephone:	(860) 486-3615
Official Website:	http://grad.uconn.edu/

Graduate Assistant Maternity Benefits, Policy Statement Concerning

Period of Leave

Any female graduate assistant who needs maternity leave will be granted a period equivalent to that afforded to faculty. During this leave she will continue to receive her assistantship stipend at the same appointment level. Currently the leave period is 6 weeks following natural childbirth and 8 weeks following childbirth by caesarian section. Further, her stipend support will be maintained during medically necessary leave prior to delivery upon receipt of a written order from her physician.

Additional Leave

Following this period of time, the student will have to return to her duties or take unpaid personal leave. Note: while faculty and staff have the option of using accrued vacation or leave time through the FMLA, graduate assistants do not, since they do not accrue vacation time and are not eligible for FMLA-based leave.

Adjustment of Workload

If the student wishes to reduce her hours of appointment and her stipend following the maternity leave period to spend more time with her child, that outcome will be negotiated in good faith between her supervisor and herself. For example, a unit may be willing to reduce a 20 hour GA to 10 hours (the minimum to maintain health coverage) or to change her duties to provide further accommodation once the maternity leave period has been completed.

Flexibility of Work Hours



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Another suggested best practice that can be followed under the right circumstances is that of banking extra hours in anticipation of extended leave. Under this scenario, a student may arrange to work more hours early in her pregnancy so that she may be able to have more time following the permitted medical leave period with no reduction in her stipend. This will be worked out with her supervisor and a memorandum of understanding filed with the appropriate offices. If the graduate student's duties involve teaching, another appropriate arrangement is to share teaching duties with one or more other teaching assistants. Under this scenario the pregnant student would teach extra hours for those other students early in her pregnancy. The other students would then cover the pregnant student's duties following her delivery and permitted maternity leave. In this way a student could be given additional leave time at no reduction in stipend level. Any such arrangement as mentioned in this paragraph is subject to approval of the unit head or his/her designee.



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Diversity Committee, October 12, 2012

The Senate Diversity Committee (SDC) met on 10/12/2012. We will meet on a monthly basis. The schedule for fall semester was finalized, with spring semester tentatively planned.

-Vice Provost of Diversity, Jeff Ogbard, and the new Vice-Provost for Global Affairs, Daniel Weiner will be invited to future meetings.

-The SDC hopes to provide input on final candidates for new Provost once they are identified and interviewed in spring semester 2013.

-SDC will speak to the Director of Institutional Research, Pam Roelfs, to consider including institutional data such as time in rank to promotion or individuals who leave the university before tenure. Such issues were an identified weakness on proposals of women in STEM fields submitted to the National Science Foundation.

Thanks,

Michelle San Pedro, R.N.

Ph.D. student in Medical Anthropology

University of Connecticut



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Student Welfare Committee, Friday, October 12th

Working Alone Policy

In accordance with new policy from Environmental Health and Safety, "No student is permitted to work alone in an immediately hazardous environment." This policy has been enacted in response to a few incidents across the country in which students were harmed or lost their lives while conducting research unattended. The policy can be read in full at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2494>.

Final Assessment and Bunched Finals Policy

The current University Senate policy holds that all IORs must administer a final assessment in their course. This assessment need not be a final exam. Revisions to this policy currently being considered by the University Senate would have the entire requirement for a final assessment of any type removed.

The bunched finals policy states that students who have 3 exams in one day, 4 exams in two days, or 3 exams in consecutive time blocks over two days, may petition to have an exam rescheduled. Revisions to this policy currently being considered by the University Senate would have the consecutive time block policy removed.

A number of GSS senators raised concerns that rescheduled exams were disproportionately falling to certain departments and burdening those departments' graduate TAs as a result. I raised this concern during the committee meeting. Karen Bresciano of the Office of Student Services and Advocacy informed me that, in the case of bunched finals, the student's middle exam was the one that the department typically reschedules. She likewise reassured me that the rescheduling of exams was equitable across departments within the University.

Current University Senate policies and procedures on final assessment and bunched finals can be found under Item II-E-12 (page 28) of the University Senate By-Laws: <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=304>.

Student Recreational Facility

Senators who are interested in working with me to develop surveys and/or suggestions for the Student Welfare Committee for the development of graduate recreational facilities should contact me at ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu.

Senator Ian Gutierrez

Psychology Department



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Addendum: Special Allocation Requests

24 October 2012

GSS 12/13-08: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$825.00 for the Languages Graduate Student Association's "Open Humanities: Multifaceted Approaches for the 21st Century" event.

Basics

<i>Tier II Organization:</i> (LANGSA)	Languages Graduate Student Association
<i>Event Name:</i> for the 21 st Century	Open Humanities: Multifaceted Approaches
<i>Event Date:</i>	February 23, 2013
<i>Event Location:</i>	TBD, UConn Storrs Campus
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Total):</i>	40 people
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):</i> universities)	35 students (30 from UConn, 5 from other

Proposed Budget

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
606	Printing	\$100.00
	Advertising	\$300.00
615	Contractual Services	\$750.00
	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$450.00
624	Travel	\$275.00

Sub-Total: \$1,875.00

Revenues from Outside Funding

Expense Code	Expense Category	Revenue
	Advertising	\$300.00
615	Contractual Services	\$750.00



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Sub-Total:	\$1,050.00
TOTAL:	\$1,875.00 – \$1,050.00 = \$825.00

Executive Committee Recommendation

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of approving LANGSA's full requested amount of \$825.00 for the "Open Humanities: Multifaceted Approaches for the 21st Century" event. The consensus among the Executive Committee members is that this event encourages graduate student interaction and contribution from a wide variety of disciplines, which the Executive Committee believes will positively contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and professional capital of the graduate student body. Furthermore, outside contributions of over 50% of the requested budget were looked upon favorably by the Executive Committee.



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Addendum: Special Allocation Requests

24 October 2012

GSS 12/13-09: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$70.00 for the Green Grads' "Movie & Popcorn: Queen of the Sun" event.

Basics

<i>Tier II Organization:</i>	Green Grads
<i>Event Name:</i>	Movie & Popcorn: Queen of the Sun
<i>Event Date:</i>	October 25, 2012
<i>Event Location:</i> Campus	Babbidge Library, Theater 2, UConn Storrs
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Total):</i>	25 people
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):</i>	15 students

Proposed Budget

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
620	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$50.00
621	Supplies – Events/Programs	\$20.00

TOTAL: **\$70.00**

Executive Committee Recommendation

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of approving Green Grad's full requested amount of \$70.00 for the "Movie & Popcorn: Queen of the Sun" event. The consensus among the Executive Committee members is that while all of this event's funding may come from graduate student funds and the event is open to undergraduates, the undergraduate-funded EcoHouse has already contributed to the licensing of this film, which accounts for the outside funding that the Executive Committee would typically request.



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Addendum: Special Allocation Requests

24 October 2012

GSS 12/13-10: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$120.00 for the Green Grads' "Critical Mass Bike Ride" event.

Basics

<i>Tier II Organization:</i>	Green Grads
<i>Event Name:</i>	Critical Mass Bike Ride
<i>Event Date:</i>	October 26, 2012
<i>Event Location:</i>	Outdoors, around the UConn Storrs Campus
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Total):</i>	50 people
<i>Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):</i>	20 students

Proposed Budget

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
620	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$100.00
621	Supplies – Events/Programs	\$20.00

TOTAL: **\$120.00**

Executive Committee Recommendation

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of approving Green Grad's full requested amount of \$120.00 for the "Critical Mass Bike Ride" event. The consensus among the Executive Committee members is that while much of this event's funding may come from graduate student funds and the event is open to undergraduates, the contribution of resources and labor from UConn Outdoors (and potentially also EcoHouse) accounts for the outside funding that the Executive Committee would typically request.