



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Minutes 14 November 2012

I. Call to Order at 7:04 pm.

Rescheduled meeting (originally 7 November, cancelled due to inclement weather) with Vice President Safet Beriša presiding, Secretary Erin Eighan recording minutes.

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Special Guest: Associate Dean of the Graduate School Sandra Chafouleas

- a. Graduate education serves as the backbone of the quality of a leading research institution.
- b. Strong graduate programs bring the best graduate students to our university, which facilitates excellence among faculty in those programs as their research agendas are pushed to the next level and beyond.
- c. Excellent programs are fueled by shared passion among students and faculty.
- d. Wants to encourages the best practices of scholarly productivity for graduate students
 - i. The priorities for a graduate school is to make sure that graduate students are extraordinary at their craft.
 - ii. Graduate school can help provide: collaboration, mentoring, and building relationships; strategies to bolster writing productivity and excellence; personal character traits that foster productivity; and, preparation before entering the professoriate.
- e. Current Activities in the Grad School
 - i. Re-design of the Graduate School Website
 - ii. Revision to the Graduate Catalog – first 35 pages
 - iii. Revision of practices/procedures associated with funding programs offered through the Graduate School
 - iv. Increasing connections to available professional development opportunities
 - v. Development/revision of “leave of absence” policy related to a) all graduate students, b) graduate assistants and family leave, and c) postdoctoral scholars
 - vi. Examining issues surrounding benefits for postdoctoral scholars
- f. Discussion
 - i. Senator Sharpsteen: You said that fostering personal traits is very important, but how do you teach this?
 1. Dean Chafouleas: You model it.
 - ii. Senator Gutierrez: What are your thoughts about how to balance the skill sets of research productivity with other skill sets specific to other departments, like clinical skill sets?



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1. Dean Chafouleas: Most of the framework I described here are just a starting framework, and the principles can be adapted to other kinds of skill sets.
- iii. Senator Charrette: One of the things I hear a lot is that we should do a lot of interdisciplinary research. However, we often have competing pressures to publish in discipline-specific journals for the job market. How do you suggest we work with this?
 1. Dean Chafouleas: Keep your discipline-specific standards in mind always. We want to encourage volume in your *vita* too. How can we build off of—spin off—projects? Learn from your professors as they work interdisciplinarily.
- iv. Senator San Pedro: I attended the Professional Development Workshop today, and what struck me is how many students were not vigorously searching out grant funding. Maybe we should encourage that students apply more for grants.
- v. To contact Dean Chafouleas: Sandra.chafouleas@@uconn.edu, www.grad.uconn.edu

IV. Approval of Minutes: 24 October 2012

- a. Approved.

V. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Executive Committee
 - ii. New GSS Meeting Space: Whetten 200
 - iii. CT Rides
 1. Check out their website: ctrides.com. CT Rides is a non-profit, government organization that offers public transportation options. They have a 24-hour hotline to figure out last-minute transportation options.
 2. New Ride is a car-pooling matching service. You can search for people in your area who commute to UConn. There are a number of search controls/preferences you can filter results by, as well. You can also work out an arrangement between participants.
 3. They offer a rewards program: for every mile of “green commuting” you do, you earn points that you can put towards discounts at local businesses.
 4. Also offers van-pooling for a fee.



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5. GSS will be sending out a parking and transportation bulletin to the graduate student listserv.
- iv. Graduate Student Lounge
 1. We are putting together renovation plans that included the possibility for a coffee station, charging station, bulletin board, television, and plenty of options for seating.
 2. We will also have larger signage for the lounge.
 3. The one plan that was rejected was keycard access to the lounge for the reason that it would be too expensive to maintain a database for it.
- v. Graduate School Diversity Strategic Planning Committee
 1. The new Diversity Office, Charmane Thurmand, is trying to put together a Strategic Planning Committee for Diversity at the graduate school. She would like a graduate student representative to join the committee.
- b. Vice President – Safet Beriša
 - i. Student Life Committee
 1. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - ii. GRADS_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L Listserv Usage Guidelines
 1. Please see Addendum for draft.
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 - ii. Information Sessions: Budget Submissions
 1. Two information sessions will be held to help prepare for budget submissions. These are very important because if you don't submit your requests correctly, it could drastically affect your budget.
 - iii. Monthly Financial Report: October 2012
 1. Please see Addendum, "GSS Monthly Financial Report, October 2012" for full report.
 - iv. Graduate Student Activity Fee Increase
 1. Executive Committee voted to propose a \$3 fee increase for Fall 2015. We are spending more than we are taking in every year (because we have a surplus), but that surplus is slowly diminishing.
 2. A petition to consider the fee increase needs 200 signatures.
 3. Senator Gutierrez: Why \$3 and why Fall 2015?
 - a. The fee increase must be requested 3 years prior to the increase
 - b. Rough calculations of the amount we're spending currently and what projections for future expenses might be in the future,



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taking the most conservative numbers, came out to be \$3 as the minimum required to cover those costs.

- c. How much are you expecting to raise per semester?
 - i. With the \$3 increase, the total we would be taking in would be roughly \$105,000 which is a little under what we are currently spending.
- d. Senator Charrette: Why do we need to collect signatures?
 - i. The 200 signatures puts it on a vote for the Student Fee Advisory Committee for the Spring semester, but the vote is certainly not binding.
- e. Senator Wong: Have you considered just cutting the budget? Or re-allocating funds from parts of the budget that are over-spending or under-spending?
 - i. President Messier: For some context, the raise in activity fee will also be accompanied by cuts in our budget.
 - ii. Treasurer Yue: One of the goals for the additional funds is to increase funding for graduate student events and Tier-II funds.
- f. Senator Shabtay: Has anyone sat down to look at where our fees are going in the University? Is it possible to move money from other fees so that we don't have to raise our fees by \$3?
 - i. Treasurer Yue: The Graduate Student Activity Fee goes directly to GSS. All of your fees go through the Student Fee Advisory Committee. All of the different University organizations that assess fees must go through this committee and request a specific fee. The only fee that GSS has any control over is the Graduate Student Activity Fee. There would be no way of reallocating fees among organizations without convincing the other organizations to give up money for us.
- g. Senator Charrette: If you look at peer institutions, this is by far and away the highest student fee. What's the conversation that goes on in the Student Fee Advisory Committee?
 - i. Treasurer Yue: The Student Fee Advisory Committee has not met yet this semester, so I don't have an answer yet. It would help me to hear from those of you



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who have complaints about the fees. What are the fees you want me to fight? It would be best to get information from you.

- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 - ii. External Committee Report Forms
 - 1. There is now an official committee report form that all external committee representatives and internal committee chairs should fill out for their report of each meeting. Directions are included on the worksheet. The worksheet will be distributed via email once and will be permanently available on the GSS Website under “Meeting Documents.” Please use this from now on.
 - iii. GSS Meeting Schedule: 12/5
 - iv. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
 - v. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Thanksgiving Dinner: Wednesday, November 14 @ 11:30 am – 2 pm (Student Union Ballroom)
 - 1. Over 650 attendees
 - i. Movie Night: Tuesday, November 27 @ 6-8 pm (Student Union Theater)
 - 1. *Naturally Obsessed*
 - ii. Movie Night #2 (Co-sponsored by the Grad School and Provost’s Office)
 - 1. This may not happen for a number of reasons. Provost Choi wanted to show a holiday movie but the schedule might be too tight at the end of the semester.
 - iii. Ted’s Social Night: Tuesday, December 4 @ 6-8 pm
 - 1. Senator Washat: Most of the people that attended the previous Ted’s Social Night, grabbed food and left. Is there a way to create a more social environment that would encourage socialization?
 - 2. Director Kurian: We talked about maybe running this at the Nathan Hale, but budgetary restrictions may prohibit that change. If anyone has any suggestions to encourage socialization, let me know.
 - 3. Senator Shabtay: I thought the social hour at Nathan Hale after the Speed Dating was actually really successful. What if we could do a little bit less food or a drink special?



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4. Director Kurian: The issue is that renting out the space in the Nathan Hale is very expensive. When I asked them about having specials previously, they thought it was against University policy providing specials to University-specific groups/events. But I can try to talk to them again and see what they say. I do think that event after Speed Dating was successful.
 5. Senator Washat: I think it goes toward what we're aiming for at the event. Was the goal of the event to provide food or a social experience? If you don't provide food, you may get less people in attendance but the people that would attend want to socialize more.
 6. Director Kurian: We could probably get a better social experience without as much expense on food, and this is something we should consider for future semesters.
- iv. Grad Prom: Friday, March 1
- f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- i. Procedures Committee
 1. It's the end of the month. If this meeting goes by without motioning not to pay Chantelle, Chantelle will get paid the President's stipend.
 2. The Kinesiology Department has petitioned to be considered separately from NGSA and the Procedures Committee is considering this petition currently.
 - ii. At-Large Senator Elections will be held today

VI. External Committee Reports

- a. University Senate – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- b. University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- c. Graduate Faculty Council – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- d. SUBOG SU Policy Council – Safet Beriša
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- e. Student Union Partners – Safet Beriša
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- f. President's Honors and Awards Committee – Micah Cash



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- i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- g. Mansfield Downtown Partnership – Ryan Tomchek
 - i. What would you like to see in the new downtown? Please send your suggestions to Ryan.
 - ii. Please see Addendum for full report.
- h. Scholastic Standards Committee – Aidalí Aponte-Avilés
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- i. Faculty Standards Committee – Danielle Wong
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.

VII. Issues Forum

- a. Professional Development Symposium: Alumni Connections – Chantelle Messier
 - i. The Professional Development Symposium, scheduled for Feb. 28, is about non-traditional career options for graduate students. Chantelle is looking to put together panels with UConn graduate alumni who are working in non-traditional career paths. Please put Chantelle in contact with alumni in your department. There are funds for honoraria and travel expenses.
- b. Other Issues – Open Forum
 - i. Vice President Berisa: The last Student Union Policy Committee meeting is the Thursday, November 29 @ 5-6 pm. I cannot make the meeting, but would like to send a representative in my place. Is anyone willing to make this meeting?
 - 1. Senator Washat: I will go.
 - ii. Senator Sharpsteen: There is a GEOC meeting tomorrow at 11:30 am. Can anyone make this meeting in my place?

VIII. Unfinished Business

IX. New Business

- a. GSS 12/13-11: Graduate Student Senate Resolution on Graduate Program Handbooks
 - Whereas** there is currently no requirement that every University of Connecticut graduate program have an official graduate handbook; and
 - Whereas** many graduate departments do not currently offer their graduate students official policies on essentials of the graduate program including the structure of exams, timelines of degree completion, funding, teaching opportunities, training, course requirements, and advising; and



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Whereas the informal or “word-of-mouth” information that graduate students receive about crucial elements of their program is often inconsistent or contradictory; and

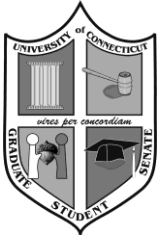
Whereas the lack of formally stated graduate program policies have historically led to conflict between advisors and advisees, anxiety and confusion for graduate students preparing for examinations or creating a plan of study, and disparities in the workloads and expectations of different graduate students within the same program; and

Whereas the above conditions impede the intellectual progress, professional development, and social well-being of a graduate department; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Senate strongly advocates for a Graduate School policy that would require each department to create and distribute an official graduate program handbook that states the current academic requirements, policies, and expectations of each degree and non-degree program offered, including: structure and criteria of examinations; workload; funding; teaching; and documentation of sources.

Resolved, that the Graduate Student Senate suggests that in creating, distributing and maintaining a graduate program handbook, programs should consult with the graduate student organization affiliated with the program.

- i. Motioned: Senator Messick. Seconded.
 - ii. Senator Charrette: Is this a common problem? If all departments adopt a handbook, how could it be guaranteed that a program follows it?
 - iii. Parliamentarian Aldridge: This was discussed pretty vigorously at the Graduate Faculty Council meeting. Many of the representatives at the meeting admitting that their programs did not have a handbook. There is wide-ranging confusion about what is expected of graduate programs that could be alleviated by official documentation.
 - iv. Senator Wong: How would the quality be implemented?
 - v. Parliamentarian: We won't be able to implement or enforce it. This is just a recommendation to the Graduate School. They will take action from there.
 - vi. **MOTION PASSES.**
- b. At-Large Senator Elections
- i. Salman Alzayani, nominated by Senator Merceron
 - ii. George Omolloh, nominated by Senator Tomchek
 - iii. Yevhen Rutovytsky, nominated by Senator Ambroselli



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- iv. **VOTE: Salman Alzayani, George Omolloh, and Yevhen Rutovytsky have been elected to 3 open At-Large Senator seats unanimously.**
- c. External Committee Appointments
 - i. Senator Shawn Washart appointed to the Graduate School Diversity Strategic Planning Committee
 - 1. **MOTION PASSES**
- X. **Adjournment at 9:04 pm.**



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Addendum: Attendance

14 November 2012

Name	Email	Constituency	Role
Chantelle Messier	chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Exec. Committee	President
Safet Beriša	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
Salman Alzayani	salmanalzayani@yahoo.com	Public Health	Visitor
Yevhen Rutovytsky	rutovytsky@yahoo.com	ECE	Visitor
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
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Senator
Noah Sharpsteen	noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Senator
Matthew Ross	matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu	Economics	Senator
Bing Xu	bing.xu@uconn.edu	GSS	Office Assistant
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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Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Ryan Tomchek	rtomchek@gmail.com	Mathematics	Senator



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Addendum: GRADS_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L Listserv Usage Guidelines (Draft)

14 November 2012

PREAMBLE

The GRADS_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L listserv is intended for communicating messages relevant to the Graduate Students of the University of Connecticut.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Only people affiliated with the University of Connecticut may post to the listserv.
- All messages must include an identifiable author, working email address, and the author's University of Connecticut affiliation (e.g., recognized graduate student organization, University of Connecticut department, school or college).
- Messages posted to the listserv should be written in respectful language. Authors should refrain from using profanity and racist, sexist or otherwise insulting language.
- All messages must be approved by the listserv moderator before being posted to the listserv.
- The moderator reserves the right to reject any posting for any reason.

APPROPRIATE MESSAGES

- Announcements from the University of Connecticut administration concerning graduate students
- Announcements from the Graduate School
- Announcements from the Graduate Student Senate
- Announcements from recognized graduate student organizations regarding the events they host
- University of Connecticut-affiliated job postings

INAPPROPRIATE MESSAGES

- Messages supporting any type of illegal or dangerous activity.
- Messages advertising companies or businesses.
- Messages advertising non-University of Connecticut events (e.g., events organized by non-University of Connecticut affiliated persons or entities which also do not take place on any of the University of Connecticut campuses).
- Messages that could be reasonably understood to be classified ads (e.g., selling/buying vehicles or other items, seeking roommates, etc.; as a rule of thumb, if you could put it on Craigslist, it probably does not belong here).

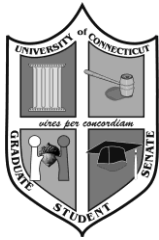


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Addendum: GSS Monthly Financial Report, October 2012
14 November 2012

**University of Connecticut
Graduate Student Senate
Financial Statement FY 13
October 31, 2012**

<u>Income:</u>		
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	-
532	Prior Year Income	-
533	Change Fund Returns	-
540	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
546	Interest (Univ.)	-
547	Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	-
		<u>37,773.70</u>
Total Income:		<u>\$ 37,773.70</u>
<u>Expense:</u>		
601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	672.50
604	Photocopying	364.00
605	Postage	48.87
606	Printing	-
607	Promotional Items	-
608	Refreshments -- Organization	953.87
609	Subscriptions	-
610	Supplies -- Organization	258.83
611	Telephone	404.03
612	Advertising	-
613	Awards and Prizes	157.02
615	Contractual Services	1,850.00
616	Co-Sponsorships	-
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-
619	Participation Fees	-
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	13,700.07
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	234.70
622	Registration Fees	-
623	Rental	1,366.85
624	Travel	506.69
625	Equipment	-
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)	4,532.00
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	77.16
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
Total Expenses:		<u>\$ 25,126.59</u>
Net Profit (Loss)		<u>\$ 12,647.11</u>
	Beginning Balance as of 7/01/12	30,442.55
	Plus Net Profit (Loss)	12,647.11
	Current Balance	<u>\$ 43,089.66</u>



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Addendum: Committee Reports 14 November 2012

Graduate Student Senate, Student Life Committee, 11/1/12

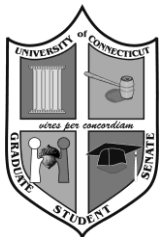
In attendance: Safet Beriša, Hayley Kilroy M., Troy Messick
Reporting: Safet Beriša

The Student Life Committee reviewed President Messier's draft of the resolution on graduate program handbooks. The Committee was overall satisfied with the draft and made only minor adjustments before deciding to support it and propose for it to be added to the agenda of the next Graduate Student Senate meeting.

The Student Life Committee also considered drafting a resolution of support to the University of Connecticut Libraries in their attempts to seek that the cuts to the collections budget be alleviated.

The Student Life Committee revisited some of the standing issues it will be dealing with this year, namely, the WRTD situation and the results of the Student Life Survey.

The Student Life Committee further discussed the creation of a survey targeted at gaining a more detailed insight into the graduate students' living conditions (location, rent, number of roommates, etc.).



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University Senate, 11/12/12

Chantelle Messier in attendance

President's Report (presented by Vice Provost Sally Reis)

- The search for a permanent Provost is progressing. Candidates will be brought to the Storrs campus on 11/27, 11/28, and 11/29, with the possibility of town hall style meetings to involve the University community in the search.
- The search for a Master Planner is down to two finalists, and a decision is anticipated within the next week.
- The searches for a permanent VP for Research and Deans of Law and Nursing are ongoing, but hiring will not be finalized until after the Provost hire.

Senate Executive Committee Report

For full details, see my SEC Reports.

Senators aired their questions about the relocation of the West Hartford campus to Downtown Hartford.

- *Is the old campus being sold?* Probably, but Rich Gray is still under a confidentiality agreement and cannot discuss details yet.
- *How is the news being communicated to faculty in West Hartford?* Administrators have been in consultation with West Hartford faculty about the move, and is trying to meet their needs.

Committee Reports

The Senate voted to accept the reports of the [Nominating Committee](#) (including the appointment of Muhammad Hussein as Chair of the University Budget Committee starting in January 2013) and the [Curricula and Courses Committee](#) (including some course revisions and new course approvals).

Scholastic Standards Committee

Presented a [motion to revise the Senate bylaws](#) on Student Academic Misconduct Hearings in the Undergraduate Student Conduct Code. The SSC chair discussed the only amendment the SSC felt was "controversial": the choice to remove the phrase "intentionally or knowingly" from the definition of Student Academic Misconduct. The SSC concluded that a student's intention is nearly impossible to



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Addendum: Committee Reports 14 November 2012

prove, and thus should form no part of the policy. The motion will be voted on at the December meeting of University Senate. Amendments will not effect the Graduate Student Conduct Code, which is separate.

Nominating Committee

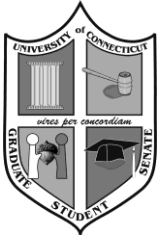
Presented a [motion to revise the Senate bylaws](#) to update some committee information. This included giving the GSS a right to appoint a representative to the Nominating Committee. The motion passed.

Other Business

- A Senator brought up concerns about IT choices to make major software changes during the semester. IT representative stated that these kinds of inconveniences result from a structural lack of communication between IT and users, a problem that the IT unit is working to solve.

Respectfully submitted,

Chantelle Messier



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University Senate Executive Committee, Meeting with Committee Chairs, 11/2/12

Growth and Development

- Items to discuss this year
 - UITS
 - Library resources (including cut in collections budget)
 - Kualii
- Establishing blog and town hall meeting schedule to open better lines of communication w/ community about campus building and development projects

Faculty Standards

Still reviewing mandatory SET's and emeritus policies; coordinating w/ Health Center is current priority

Budget

Discussed graduate tuition-on-grants policy

- Requested extended monitoring as there is insufficient data (see GSS Treasurer's report on this meeting for background and details).
- In response to question about how remaining untouched revenues will be spent, Budget Committee chair Bontly said that the Grad School is investigating. He also noted that due to multi-year commitments to support grads on fellowship, some funds that now appear to be unspent may actually already be committed.

Student Welfare

- Working Alone Policy
 - The specific policy is available online at <http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=2494>
 - Some faculty are concerned that enforcement of the policy will limit the function of their labs
 - Insurance policies may be available for faculty who face liability issues for accidents in their labs
 - Policy was enacted without consultation with the AAUP, which has caused some complaints
 - The broad wording of the term "hazardous" in the policy is potentially problematic
 - Questions remain about who is ultimately liable in case of a workplace accident (faculty, university, AAUP?) and whether the policy is truly a strategy for enforcing safer environments or merely a safeguard against legal liability

Scholastic Standards

Will submit a motion to University Senate to amend the Senate Bylaws section II.E.13 on Student Academic Misconduct as follows:

- Remove the clause "intentionally or knowingly" from the definition of academic misconduct
- Shorten the required time in which instructors have to notify student and Community Standards from 15 to 5 days



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- Shorten the required time in which students have to respond to the instructor and/or request a hearing from 15 to 5 days
- Leaves instructors discretion to decline reporting instances that are "purely technical...without any perceived intent to achieve academic advantage"
- Keeps students from withdrawing from a course during a pending academic misconduct case without permission of the instructor and the appropriate dean
- Allows students to appeal the hearing on the grounds of questioning the sanctions imposed by the Hearing Board
- Enables Community Standards to meet with students prior to calling a hearing to see if the issue can be resolved

Other Business

- Upcoming meetings w/ candidates for Master Planner/Architect position
- Discussed ongoing strategies for meetings between SEC and administrators

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



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University Senate Executive Committee, Meeting with Administrators, 11/9/12

Enrollment

- Plans to expand summer session enrollment will include moving the summer programming offices out of the Registrar's Office and into a more prominent location
- Developing virtual and physical student help-desk to facilitate student retention (will be available to graduate students as well)

Economic Development

- The upcoming Eastern Connecticut Innovation Corridor Hub program will help UConn support start-ups and boost the growth of "stage two" companies.
- Technology Park
 - Master plan for the Tech Park will be shared with the campus and local community in the spring
 - UConn will work with major industry partners to create jobs and develop our research areas
- See development plan brochure for more information
here: http://www.uconn.edu/pdf/uconn_development.pdf

Finance

- UConn is planning to move the West Hartford campus to Downtown Hartford
 - Deferred maintenance on West Hartford campus would have cost \$25M. The space is no longer a good place to work and learn, and repairing it will be a drain on the University's resources.
 - Student Affairs is in support of the move, especially since West Hartford is one of UConn's most diverse campuses. The move will certainly improve student life.
 - Security has been a worry for some students who will be moving. While VP/CFO Gray cannot disclose the location yet, he assured the SEC that security and safety will not be a problem.
 - UConn will likely sell old building, possibly to one of several other universities in the area
 - Location of new building in Downtown Hartford is still confidential. It will be a combination of bought and leased real estate, already well adapted for educational use
 - Downtown Hartford mayor and local businesses anticipate economic benefits to Downtown Hartford from the move
 - Purchase money will come out of UConn's savings, so it won't be siphoned off from other building projects
 - Parking plans and a new location for the School of Social Work are still in the works
 - The Law School will not move
 - Programs like Public Health and Engineering could also potentially get use out of the new Downtown Hartford space



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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- CT state budget still operating in deficit, with possible plans to cut CAP funding. UConn will honor its financial commitments to these programs regardless of cuts, so state budget cuts to CAP could pose a financial problem to the University.
- Master Planner hiring process is drawing to a close
 - A "grand vision" person who will bring more cohesive architectural standards to everything from traffic to lighting
 - Will work closely with Space Planner who will report to the Provost

Research

- Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has been reorganized. Pre-award and post-award support will now have a close working relationship for the sake of simplicity and more efficient operations.
- Jackson Labs collaboration on Personalized Medicine Institute has led to increasing engagement with our research areas in personalized medicine

Student Affairs

- Director of Veterans' Affairs Lt.-Col. Chris Perry has just been hired
- Search for Career Services Director will begin in the spring
 - Embedded Career Services administrator for the Graduate School search has been suspended so that the new Career Services Director will have input in the hiring process. The search will continue once a Director is in place
- Emergency Operation Command functioned well during Hurricane Sandy
- Plans for allowing some programming on Spring Weekend are ongoing
 - Undergraduate students and community members providing input and helping to disseminate info
 - Students in SUBOG are working to coordinate and vet proposed activities
 - There will still be a guest ban and police presence
 - Programs on Spring Weekend will be UConn-centric and student-focused
- Working on plans to establish a Student Legal Services office on campus
 - At this early stage, it's uncertain what this office will look like
 - Will offer mostly consumer-related legal advice for students
 - The existence of a Student Legal Services office tends to influence local landlords to stick to the law and treat their tenants more fairly

Provost's Office

- SEC member raised questions about implications of Family Leave Policy on tenure.
 - The current policy mandates a stop to the tenure clock when a faculty member has a "family event." There are issues with how equally this policy is applied to male and female faculty (concern is that women who give birth automatically take the tenure clock stop, but men have to report paternity voluntarily).
 - Another possible issue with the policy is that the stop to the tenure clock could mean some faculty are viewed as applying for tenure early, and thus held to higher standards.



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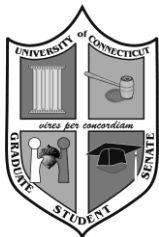
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- Provost Choi indicated that these issues need to be investigated further.
- IT system failures are being reviewed by IT administration
 - We need clearer communication about server shutdowns (especially anticipated duration)

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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Addendum: Committee Reports

14 November 2012

Graduate Faculty Council, 11/7/12

Leland Aldridge and Chantelle Messier in attendance

Graduate Professional Development Seminar: Preparing for Academic Job Interview

This workshop on academic interviewing is upcoming on November 14th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Whetten 200. "Panel comprised of junior faculty and department heads will discuss the 'do's and don'ts' related to interviewing for a job in academia." Response from grad students has been positive and the Graduate School anticipates demand for the workshop may exceed capacity.

Electronic Dissertation Submission and Publication

- Already in place for Masters' theses
- Will begin for Doctoral theses/dissertations on December 17th
- Graduate students submitting their theses/dissertations will be able to request a publication embargo of up to 10 years

Online Graduate School Applications, Admissions, and Tracking

- Is already being implemented through Hobson's software suite
- Graduate School's diversity officer will be involved in implementation of recruiting system
- Will have a program for graduate student retention, which will go live next year

Discussion Items

- Graduate Program Handbooks
 - Rationale for asking each graduate program to have a handbook
 - Standardizes workload and expectations across a single program
 - Gives transparency to policies and standards
 - Helps in recruitment of new graduate students
 - Provides written policy in the case of a conflict
 - I shared a draft of the proposed GSS motion to require graduate program handbooks
 - Question of whether to make handbooks "suggested" or "mandatory" for graduate programs
 - Question of how the Graduate School would direct the process (guidelines versus criteria versus templates)
 - Question of whether each field of study should have a handbook, or whether each individual program or area of concentration needs one
 - Consensus seems to be that graduate program handbooks would be a good idea, but that graduate programs and fields of study would like autonomy in creating and structuring them. Many members felt that the handbook policy should be a strong suggestion rather than a mandatory requirement because enforcement may not be practical.



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- Graduate School's role in standardizing graduate degree policies and requirements across programs
 - The Grad School already does this to an extent through the policies in its catalog
 - GA appointment letters have been a problem, as some programs have not met the basic criteria for specificity in these offer letters. Template letters are available on the HR website and will soon be linked on the Graduate School website.
 - A related issue is the disparity in actual GA workload (hours expected to work) compared with the number of hours GA is ostensibly working
 - Members raised questions as to the freedom of graduate programs to have different or more stringent requirements from the Graduate School. This is still a question under consideration.
- Admissions deadlines
 - It may be beneficial to make admissions deadlines earlier, to make UConn grad programs more competitive in attracting the strongest students
 - However, an earlier deadline might keep grad students who are admitted later from competing for Outstanding Scholar Program or Multicultural Scholar Program
 - One possible solution would be to split admissions deadlines to allow programs the option of admitting earlier or later, and to reserve some OSP and MSP scholarships for students admitted at the later deadline
 - Discussion was inconclusive, and the Graduate School will continue to discuss the issue

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



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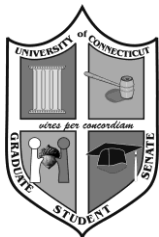
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Addendum: Committee Reports 14 November 2012

SUBOG SU Policy Council, 11/1/12

In attendance and reporting: Safet Beriša

There was talk of considering to send a proposal to Dr. Christine Wilson, Director of Student Activities, for Student Activities/Student Affairs to take over Recreation from Athletic. This would result in more student control over Recreation, and especially the new recreation facility when/if one is built.



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Addendum: Committee Reports

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Student Union Partners, 11/7/12

In attendance and reporting: Safet Beriša

Student Union hours of operation during the Thanksgiving break:

Friday, November 16th	7:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m. (ACUI Conference)
Saturday, November 17th	7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. (ACUI Conference)
Sunday, November 18th	7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (ACUI Conference)
Monday, November 19th	7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, November 20th	7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, November 21st	7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 22nd	CLOSED
Friday, November 23rd	7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 24th	CLOSED
Sunday, November 25th	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.



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President's Honors and Awards Committee, 10/31/12

The President's Honors and Awards Committee met October 31 from 3-4pm. During the meeting we discussed various individuals nominated for honorary doctorates. The nominees need to remain private since many have not yet been approached. Overall, it was a successful meeting.



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Addendum: Committee Reports

14 November 2012

Mansfield Downtown Partnership, 11/2/12

In Attendance: Ryan Tomchek

- Apartments
 - Phase 1B
 - Leasing for new building, which will be completed in the fall.
 - 195 new units. Some demand is coming from grad students so they rearranged their plan and 80 of the 195 will be studio apartments.
 - Phase 1C
 - More apartment units
 - Pricing
 - Studio \$1000, 1-bed \$1500, 2-bed \$2200, 3-bed \$2700
 - Remember that these places are brand new. I am sure the place I am living in now was pricy at the time it was new, but now that it is over 25 years old...
 - This includes everything except electricity
 - Residential Townhomes in the works.
 - UConn rents 18 units for visiting professors and scholars.
- Businesses
 - Already there: Froyoworld, Subway, Insomnia Cookies, Sweet Emotions.
 - Coming before the end of the semester: Moe's (next week), Mooyah Burgers, 7-Eleven.
 - Coming next year: Co-op branch, Health Center, Geno's Grille
 - Future Plans: Price Chopper, Sports Bar
 - Shopping Center with "mall" type shopping (Evergreen Walk, not as expensive)
- Parking
 - \$60 per month for overnight; \$30 per month daily
 - Not what "daily" means.
 - Garage is free for 2 hours, then \$1 per hour after.
 - Good in a pinch considering our current situation.



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Scholastics Standards Committee, 11/7/12

Reporting: Aidalí Aponte-Avilés

1. Bunched exams - Students who have bunched exams and who request a change of time may not choose which exam to change. Rather the office of Student Affairs chooses the "middle exam".
2. Incompletes - The timing to fulfill an incomplete, according to the bylaws, is before the second week of classes of next semester. (The language makes it problematic for Spring classes.) However, student can reach a different mutual agreement. This is especially important for TAs who are graduating and can not wait for next semester to begin.
3. Changes to bylaws - There will be a requirement of a syllabus for all classes. Although the language to include in the Bylaws is still being drafted, a syllabus must include an assessment (evaluation). As far as TAs, the concern is who creates the syllabus and what classes/labs really require a syllabus.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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Addendum: Committee Reports 14 November 2012

Faculty Standards Committee

I had the faculty standards meeting this week and all they went over was:

- making the language of the requirements for tenure consistent with the university bylaws
- making sure there are syllabi for every course
- improving the quality for online courses and making sure academic freedom is not being hindered, all making sure that each professor's intellectual property is protected
- dealing with professors who have been intercepting their evaluations

Sincerely,
Danielle Wong