

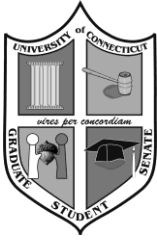


GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 28 November 2012

- I. Called to Order at 4:29 pm.
- II. Recognition of Attendees
 - a. All Present. Presiding: Chantelle Messier, Secretary: Erin Eighan.
- III. Approval of Minutes: 14 November 2012
 - a. Approved.
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 1. Education Tier-II Groups were in a stalemate. Ian and Leland put a proposal forward to the Finance Committee which was approved. The proposal: NGSA would have to talk to all the other groups and determine who they want to represent. If they feel they represent a certain part of their constituency, they have to put together a petition and submit it before budgets are due (Jan. 2013). If they don't do that, only the subgroups of NGSA will be funded. As a one-time exception, all four groups will have a separate budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.
 2. Ian will send out a petition by one group who wants to reallocate funds.
 - ii. University Budget Committee Meeting
 1. Discussed Kuali and met with the University Comptroller. Explained why Kuali was put forth, some of the successes and struggles. The most important points:
 - a. The transition from FRS to the Kuali system has caused a lot of problems, but it may not be a problem with Kuali, itself. If someone faces an issue, they should be aware of this as a possibility for the cause.
 - b. The major issue with the Kuali system is data importing and reporting. A consultant will be coming in soon to handle this issue.
 - iii. Student Fee Advisory Committee Meeting
 1. First meeting will be this upcoming Friday and will report on it at the upcoming GSS meeting
 - iv. Budgetary Issues



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1. The treasurer has to create two budgets for GSS: one is the proposed budget for the Finance Committee, which will make a recommendation to the Senate; the other is one that is broken up into expense codes, which is presented in front of the Student Fee Advisory Committee in order to determine the Graduate Student Activity Fee.
 - a. Two issues: only have complete data for the last fiscal year; the two budgets could not be reconciled. Just recently Ian was able to resolve the first issue by digging around the backlogged records on a GSS computer going back to 2005, but the analysis has yet to be done.
 - b. By the end of the week, Ian will have better figures for the outlook of future GSS budgets.
 2. Petition for fee increase: still need around 20-25 signatures for a comfortable buffer
 - a. Executive Committee should try to acquire at least 5 more signatures from our own departments within the next week
- v. Spring Activities Budget
1. Ian and Anish will meet this weekend to discuss the budget for next semester
 2. The Executive Committee has the ability to reallocate funds within the Executive Committee's General Operations budget, we don't necessarily have to send it through the Senate to get their approval. Otherwise, we can send it through the Senate with a Special Allocations request.
 - a. Anish doesn't feel comfortable going into the Spring semester not knowing exactly what the Activities Committee budget will be.
 - b. Chantelle reminds us that we need to include the Professional Development Symposium in the Activities Budget
 - c. Ian thinks that next year we should plan and project out safely for the entire academic year so we don't run into this problem again. The rest of the Executive Committee is in agreement.
 - d. Chantelle, Leland, and Anish recommend submitting a request for a Special Allocations request that will also mention the reallocation of Exec Committee funds. Ian and Anish will put together a Special Allocations request for the next GSS meeting.
- b. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- i. Procedures Committee



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1. Received a petition to separate the Kinesiology constituency from the Education constituency. The petition was signed exclusively by SAFTA members. There being some other graduate programs besides SAFTA, Leland responded to SAFTA by asking for more information from the other degree programs and their consideration of the petition. He gave SAFTA a deadline of Dec. 3 at which point the Procedures Committee will draft a recommendation for the Senate.
 2. Have not yet received a petition from Art and Art History to be separated into two different constituencies, but he anticipates receiving one in the near future. Since there is such a small department, Leland requested that they get 100% representation (which is 17 students/signatures).
- ii. Joint Elections Committee
1. If we get our Referendum approved for the fee increase, it will be on the Joint Elections ballot.
 2. The Committee was separated into two different committees: logistics and marketing/advertising. We should find a graduate member to be on the marketing committee. Leland asked Erin to join this committee,
 - a. Chantelle: Do our Bylaws require that the Parliamentarian be on any committee that has to do with procedures/elections?
 - b. Leland: The marketing of elections doesn't seem to fall under procedural issues.
 - c. Chantelle: So we may need to do a Bylaw change if that's the case.
 - d. Leland: It would be nearly impossible for me to serve on both committees because the meetings occur at the same time. They do want another GSS representative to take the other spot.
 - e. Chantelle: Then it seems like you'd be able to appoint someone to the other subcommittee, and we may need to revise the Bylaws in addition. But check to make sure that the meetings occur at the same time.
 3. At-Large Senator elections will take place next semester between March 7-11
 - a. Applications are due in mid-February
 4. Chantelle: We are going to need to consider strategies to encourage graduate students to vote for the Graduate Student Fee increase, so this



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should be a part of our marketing campaign during elections.

Otherwise, there isn't much on the ballot that might draw graduate students to vote.

- a. Anish suggests making announcements about this and the At-Large Senator Elections at our biggest events next semester, including Prof. Dev. Symposium (Feb. 28) and Grad Prom (March 1).

iii. A few more people have expressed interest in becoming an At-Large Senator

c. Activities Director – Anish Kurian

- i. Movie Night last night didn't have very good attendance. Right after Thanksgiving Break is not a good time. However Sandra and Kent at the Graduate School still want to do the Nathan Hale mixer in February.

1. We have leftover popcorn/soda vouchers that we can use for give-aways at future events or use them at future Movie Night events.

ii. Still working on the spring budget for Grad Prom with Ian

iii. Ted's Social Night planned for next week. Still waiting on the invoice.

iv. People expressed interest in another Speed Dating event, but Anish is hesitant to put it on again for a number of reasons, including the financial and social pressures involved.

1. Chantelle suggested the possibility of doing a hands-off singles mixer, and Anish is more open to that as a possibility.

2. Chantelle also suggests that in the future, we should ask the LGBT Grads group to promote this event specifically.

d. Secretary – Erin Eighan

i. Public Relations Committee will meet next week.

ii. Send out an announcement about the next semester's meeting dates and the new meeting place.

iii. Received some responses from the Bulletin

1. Erin will compose a summary of responses and send them out to the Executive Committee

2. Erin should then forward the comments/suggestions to Ryan Tomchek on the Parking Committee or Hayley Killroy on the WRTD Committee

iv. Leland would like to know if we should do another push for open seats apportioned to constituencies.

1. Leland will put together a list of the open seats and Erin will contact eh departments with a notification.

e. Vice President – Safet Berisa



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- i. Branding Committee
 - 1. Safet still hasn't been contacted and suggests that we check on the status of the committee and remove it from our list if it is now nonexistent.
- ii. GSS Meeting Schedules
 - 1. Safet distributed the schedules for both GSS meetings and Exec meetings. Exec meetings will be scheduled from 7-9 pm (Wednesday, biweekly).
- iii. Student Life Committee will meet tomorrow. The main objective will be to figure out the new survey on graduate student living conditions.
- iv. Shawn Washart will attend the next SUBOG SU Policy Council for Safet.
- v. The SUBOG SU Policy Council will be reviewing the spaces allotted to groups in the Student Union. There is a checklist of requirements that must be completed in order to continue the use of the space.
 - 1. Timeline of review: Every year, 5 organizations at a time will be reviewed. If the organization fails, it will receive one semester of probation. If it fails the organization twice, SUBOG SU Policy Council will make a recommendation to the Director of the Student Union to withhold space from the organization. Inspections will begin next semester.
- f. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Professional Development Symposium
 - 1. Met with Ally Walton, representative from the Benton, to finalize plans for the reception, called "The Art of Professional Networking." Would like to open up registration and treat the reception as a separate but attached event for open networking. That way, those who can't attend the symposium can still attend the reception. They are still working on the logistics of alcohol service, potentially a cash bar. Anish suggested getting Lizzie to cater the reception.
 - 2. Also met with Charmane Thurmand, the Diversity Office at the Grad School. She would like to come to a meeting with the Senate next Spring. She would love to be a part of professional development activities where issues of diversity might be of relevance. Chantelle will work with her to put together a panel for the Prof. Dev. Symposium.
 - 3. Received some responses from Alumni. It seems like we will be able to assemble a panel on cooperatives, non-profits, corporate careers, and interviewing.



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- ii. Ongoing Provost Search
 - 1. On Friday the University Senate Exec will discuss the collective response to the candidates and make a recommendation to President Herbst
 - 2. If there are any things we feel should be asked of the candidates, please let Chantelle know.
- iii. University Senate Diversity Committee
 - 1. We need a substitute for the next meeting on Wednesday, December 5 @ 2 pm. Leland has volunteered.
- iv. Google Drive for GSS
 - 1. Should we consider tasking Bing with uploading the backlogged data on GSS computers to our online archives.
 - 2. Erin would like to consider using Dropbox instead of Google Drive. An informal poll was taken for preferences. Erin and Safet prefer Dropbox. Ian prefers Google Drive. Safet leans toward Dropbox, but abstains. Chantelle and Anish abstain.
 - 3. Erin suggests letting Bing get started on organizing the backlogged files and making a suggestion about which service would suit our needs best. Chantelle would move forward with Bing on this approach.

- V. Prepare Agenda for the Next Meeting

- VI. Adjournment at 6:10 pm.