



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes 19 September 2012

- I. Call to Order: 4:36 pm
- II. Recognition of Attendees
 - a. All present. Presiding: Chantelle Messier, Secretary: Erin Eighan
- III. Approval of Minutes: 5 September 2012
 - a. Approved
- IV. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasurer: Ian Yue
 - i. Updated the GSS Website so it is more streamlined and organized
 1. Created a new section: "Policies and Procedures," which includes the Finance Policies and Procedures, funding-related memos recently sent out to Tier IIs, and the document detailing the policies and procedures GSS is subject to by SABO
 2. The old "Forms" section was divided up into "Forms" and "information Sheets" for ease of being able to locate information on the website.
 3. Turned all the Financial forms into PDFs which are editable
 - ii. Proposed Bylaws change
 1. Short-term Loan Criteria (Bylaw 5, Section 3.d)
 2. To be presented at the next meeting, and voted on subsequent to that
 - iii. New motion for the proposed "Brownbag" budget change
 1. "That the Graduate Student Senate amend the Neag Graduate Student Association's FY12-13 Expense Code 620 "Refreshments -- Events/Programs" budget from \$550 to \$750 and amend the Philosophy Graduate Student Association's FY12-13 Expense Code 620 "Refreshments -- Events/Programs" budget from \$360 to \$250."
 - iv. First Senate Budget Committee meeting will be Monday, Sept. 24
 - v. Pres. Messier: "It would be useful to present to the Senate all the changes to the Bylaws at once, so prepare all amendments you might consider beforehand."
 - vi. At least one information session will be held this semester for GSS-funded groups
 1. To be scheduled later
 2. Will cover both special allocation requests and reimbursement requests
 3. Have old powerpoint presentations to work from
 - vii. Bing has prepared a preliminary statistical report of the GAIN survey results



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- b. Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge
 - i. Bylaws on the webpage are not current
 - 1. A motion on March 7, 2012 to amend the bylaws was approved and should have been put into place August 27, 2012; however, the website does not reflect these changes
 - ii. Senator Registration Forms
 - 1. Form is available on the website
 - 2. Will send out an email to everyone who came to the first GSS meeting this semester to alert them of the registration form
 - iii. Exec pay from summer work may need to be voted on. Leland, will you confirm that this vote needs to happen? Can you clarify the procedure for voting on Exec pay?
 - 1. Please include a discussion of this issue at the next GSS meeting in the Parliamentarian's report
 - iv. Pending amendments to the Constitution which have already been approved by GSS need to be approved by the Board of Trustees, but they have not put this on their agenda yet.
- c. Secretary: Erin Eighan
 - i. Nametags
 - 1. Oaktag, hard stock paper
 - ii. Dropbox or Google Drive
 - 1. GSS Email address and password will be forwarded to us by Anish
 - 2. From now on, we should all
 - iii. VP Berisa: Should we consider have an official email address @uconn.edu?
 - 1. We do have an account, but we don't have the password to it
 - 2. We could forward our Gmail-addressed emails to our @uconn.edu address
 - a. Safet will figure out how to do this
 - 3. We should announce this at the meeting subsequent to the change
 - a. gss@uconn.edu
 - iv. Website
 - 1. Bing will commit 4-6 more hours to dedicate to website maintenance, we will be compensating him accordingly
 - a. Exec approves 5 hours
 - b. He will be in the office during these 5 additional hours and dedicate them to website maintenance
 - c. This position should last through the year



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2. Send Bing approved meeting documents to put up on the website
 - a. Work with him on organization of these minutes
 - i. Consider archiving older documents
3. Need more links to student services on the website
 - a. Ian actually put this up on the website yesterday
 - b. We have a skeleton in place, we just need to update it – Bing should do this
- v. Advertising for GSS events
 1. Hire a graphic designer?
 - a. If a member of the senate contributes a significant labor, the senate can later vote to award funds in recognition of extra work as per Bylaw 6, Section 3.
 - i. Subject to a closed-ballet by GSS
 - b. At the next GSS meeting, ask for someone who has this ability (maybe consider asking Talia or someone she might know)
- vi. Should we have a more visual template for GSS email blasts at large?
 1. The listserv system may not be able to handle such attachments
 2. Contact someone who works with the listservs to find out their limitations – can they handle html?
 - a. Contact: Anish will forward this information
- vii. Graduate Student Blog
 1. This can be like the Graduate Student Newsletter
 - a. Can have contributors from internal committees, external committees, and OP EDs from students about on-campus issues, graduate student issues, professional issues, etc.
 2. Can we route the letters of complaints to the blog?
 3. Survey to GSS
 4. Ask for bloggers in GSS
 5. Start an account with wordpress, and embed this in our website
- viii. Social Media Accounts
 1. Chantelle would be happy to man a twitter account
 2. The Public Relations Committee should set up an account and then transfer the maintenance/update role to Chantelle
 - a. Include a disclaimer: “The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Graduate Student Senate.”
 - i. Include this on the blog, as well, since anyone can post
- ix. Executive Committee time management versus compensation



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1. Pay attention to how many hours you're working
2. Consider for next year's Exec. Committee
- d. Activities Director: Anish Kurian
 - i. Social Night at Ted's: Monday, September 24
 1. How do we deal with graduate students from the Farmington campus (or from the law school, medical school, dental school, etc.) whose IDs don't specifically say they're a graduate student?
 - a. We can't establish any policy that prohibits any graduate students from coming
 - b. Add a clause in the rules that can account for these graduate students in the reminder email the day of the event
 2. Speed Dating
 - a. 2 options: dating party (party for everyone with dating games) or normal speed dating
 - i. Anish is against the former option
 - ii. Cost is \$500 regardless of number of attendees
 - iii. Still need to consider how to handle single-gender dating services
 - b. Nathan Hale
 - i. Capacity is 200
 - ii. \$55 for bartender for an open bar
 - iii. Provide a menu for appetizers, can consider this
 - iv. Can set up the space with tables and chairs
 - v. \$200 for 4 hours for room rental, linens included
 - c. Approximate cost right now is well under \$1000
 - d. Anish will confirm with the dating service and Nathan Hale
 - e. Mid-October, a Friday evening 5-7 pm or so
 - i. Tentatively October 19
 - f. Set a quota for the single-sex dating session ahead of time
 - i. We can offer each of these three sessions (men/women, all women, all men) if each session meets a quota
- e. Vice President: Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Committee has been filled
 - ii. No news from the Branding Committee
 - iii. Student Union Partners
 1. Has Chantelle notified them that Safet has joined the committee?



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2. Safet believes that Student Union Partners is different from SUBOG Policy Council
- iv. SUBOG Policy Council meeting Thursday, September 20
- v. Windham Region Transit District
 1. Major problems with the bus schedule
 2. Waiting for Hayley Kilroy to go to the first meeting
- f. President: Chantelle Messier
 - i. Parking and Transportation Issues
 1. Need to consider a major intervention
 - a. Should prepare a good report and a resolution from the Senate
 - b. Student Life Committee should request information from Parking Services
 - c. We should acknowledge that Parking Services and City Transportation
 - ii. Career Center Graduate Career Counselor Search
 1. Temporarily suspended by the VP John Saddlemier
 - a. Chantelle will follow-up with VP Saddlemier because they haven't offered reasoning
 - iii. Graduate Student Maternity Leave Policy
 1. Group of students in the Sociology Graduate Program
 - a. Proposed setting up a meeting with Pres. Herbst and GSS
 - b. Chantelle proposed that we coordinate an effort with GSS, but that we approach Pres. Herbst separately to improve our chances
 2. Should we consider forming an ad hoc committee?
 - a. Student Life Committee can form a subcommittee
 - iv. Meeting with Dean Holsinger and Assoc. Dean Chafouleas (next week)
 1. Transportation and Parking
 2. President Herbst's attendance at a GSS meeting
 3. Graduate Student Maternity Leave
 4. Meeting and Social Space
 5. Graduate Tuition-on-Grants
 - v. Meeting Guests
 1. Provost Choi – October 10
 2. Assoc. Dean Chafouleas – a meeting in November
 3. Francine DeFranco, intellectual property and copyright issues
 4. Rich Gray, VP/CFO



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5. Barbara O'Connor, Police Chief
6. Pres. Herbst for the spring perhaps
- vi. Student Union Locked Bulletin Board
 1. Money has been allocated, but the allocation expired
 2. We need to get a new quote and resubmit the request to the GSS
 3. Safet will ask the Chuck, SUBOG Policy Council for more information
- vii. Graduate Student Space
 1. Ask Dean Holsinger about this
 2. University is creating a Space Committee and hiring a Space Planner
- viii. Professional Development Conference
 1. Maybe change the name to a "Colloquium"
 2. Thursday, Feb. 28 (space booked from 8am – 8 pm)
 - a. Single day, single room format
 3. Major differences
 - a. Lunch served
 - b. Registration
 - c. New space, new time, new format
 - d. Coherent advertising plan earlier
 - i. For example, consider bus signs
 - e. Cover the territory from non-academic job search
 - i. Graduate school is having workshops that are catered towards the academic job market
 4. Contact Alumni of UConn Grad School who are successfully working in industry
 - a. Can offer honoraria (~\$100) and travel expenses (~\$200), but no one who works for UConn
 - i. Leland and Ian: Check into whether or not this covers state employees
 - b. Consider asking alumni of your own department, CC Chantelle on this email please
 5. Ask Graduate School if they'd like to co-sponsor to fund honoraria
- V. External Committee Reports
 - a. University Senate and Senate Executive Committee
 - i. Please see the full report in the Addendum below.
- VI. Preparation of Agenda for next meeting

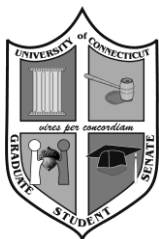


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VII. Adjournment: 7:15 pm



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Addendum

19 September 2012

University Senate Executive Committee meeting, 9/14

Research

- Office of Research has collaborated with the AAUP to increase faculty travel funds.
- Establishing an Office of Interdisciplinary Research; a search is underway for a director.
- Office of Sponsored Programs is undergoing internal review.

VP/CFO

Funds have been authorized to monitor campus locks to prevent issues with researchers getting locked out of their labs or leaving labs unlocked, as well as malfunctioning Locknetics locks.

Student Activities

- Career Services is undergoing external review to improve a number of its services in internships, placement, etc.
- Plans to replace the Student Health Services building and the Mental Health Services building.
 - The already-established fees-for-service model will make a new Student Health Services center financially self-sustaining.
 - UConn Health Center will be building an outpost in downtown Storrs, which will allow Student Health Services to more easily refer students to specialists without sending them far away. Services there will include a lab and occupational health services.
- Search is underway for a Veterans Coordinator.
- Student Activities is making plans to redesign the weekend formerly-known-as Spring Weekend as a UConn-centered weekend with scaled-back activities and a continued ban on guests.
- *Northwood Apartments* is now all graduate student housing with no undergraduates mixed in. Efforts continue to negotiate graduate student issues with pricing, etc.

Enrollment

The VP for Enrollment calls this year's entering class a "phenomenal class" (which explains why I love my freshman students so much this year).

- Enrollment numbers are within limits
- 2% more students of color than last year
- Average 10 points higher SAT scores than last year
- 50 more international students than last year (almost a 50% increase over last year!)
- 50% of entering students are in the top 10% of their high school graduating class



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Addendum

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- Quality of students on regional campuses is also increasing

Provost

- Proposed Institute for Systems Genomics
 - UConn recently held a 2-day genomics symposium with our new partners, Jackson Labs.
 - One thing to come out of this partnership has been a proposed Institute for Systems Genomics. This will include modular training programs for graduate students that will bring in specialists from other branches and labs.
 - Genomics will also get improved funding support at the faculty hiring level.
 - Provost wants UConn to become a world leader in systems genomics, drawing on our existing expertise.
- Proposed Institute for Creativity, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship
 - Institute will be established to help UConn become an economic innovation hub for Eastern Connecticut
 - Develop student entrepreneurship and innovation competitions

Other Business

- Questions about Environmental Health and Safety policy against working alone in labs under hazardous conditions; SEC members wanted this policy clarified.
- University Senate Growth and Development Committee may establish a subcommittee on Information Technology
- UITS is drafting a plan of action to improve server security at UConn. This will likely include new policies, a communications plan, comprehensive server inventory, defining security and server configuration standards, and firewall controls. This plan is in the draft stage and will be vetted by committees.
- Executive Compliance Committee (to support and monitor compliance and ethics) may be rebuilt with an updated charge and membership.

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier



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Addendum

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University Senate meeting 9/17 (Chantelle Messier and Safet Berisa in attendance)

President's Report

- Reaffirmed UConn's aspirations for academic success
- Important leadership searches in progress
 - Permanent Provost by the end of the calendar year
 - VP for Communication to bolster public relations efforts (due before end of year)
 - VP for Research (new Provost will have input)
 - Space Planner
 - Deans of Law and Nursing

Senate Executive Committee

(see my SEC reports)

Consent Agenda

The Senate voted to accept the reports of the Diversity Committee (<http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120917.DiversityAnnual.pdf>) (N.B. item on supporting grad students of color), Courses and Curricula Committee (<http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120917.cc.pdf>), and Nominating Committee (<http://www.senate.uconn.edu/20120917.nom.pdf>).

Diversity Committee Report

- New Vice Provost for Diversity Jeffrey Ogbar outlined UConn's diversity status and plans
 - UConn's racial diversity in faculty has changed very little in the last five years
 - Non-white grad students at UConn have increased from 12% to 17% of the population since 2004
 - Males graduate at a lower rate than females in general, but this disparity is greater in African-American and Latino populations.
- There will be a town hall meeting on diversity at UConn 10/10 4:00 p.m. in Konover Auditorium, Dodd Center
- New Diversity website has just launched, at <http://diversity.uconn.edu/>
- Also, visit the Office of Diversity and Equity (<http://www.ode.uconn.edu/index.php>) for diversity compliance, discrimination case management, policies, and other resources
- Senators suggested tracking success of women in STEM programs

Respectfully submitted,
Chantelle Messier