



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Senate Minutes 26 September 2012

I. Call to Order at 7:05 pm

Regular meeting with Vice President, Safet Berisa, presiding; Erin Eighan, Secretary.

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Approval of Minutes: 12 September 2012

Minutes approved.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Chantelle Messier

i. Executive Committee

ii. Graduate Career Counselor Search

1. VP of Student Affairs has temporarily suspended this search.

iii. Meeting with Dean and Associate Dean of Graduate School

1. To facilitate a meeting with President Herbst, may consider a special morning meeting with breakfast sometime in the fall.
2. Assoc. Dean Chafouleas will be heading a small committee on the Graduate Student Maternity Leave Policy. We now have a graduate student representative on this committee.
3. Graduate Tuition on Grants expires this year. University Budget committee has been monitoring this issue and our treasurer will present some of our concerns at their next meeting.
4. Discussed the possibility of a permanent GSS space, possible in the Graduate School building. Also considering the possibility of a graduate student social space, which the University may be more willing to concede to our requests.

- a. *We need your input:* what would we like to see happen in the current graduate student lounge in the Student Union?

iv. Parking and Transportation

1. Parking and transportation issues are still a concern. Complaints regarding WRTD's over-capacity. Graduate parking, especially Area III, also seem to be over-capacity. Please send us all your input so that we can put together an official report to present to committees that deal with parking and transportation.

v. Professional Development Conference

1. Please contact your alumni network who are working outside of academia for potentially coming to speak at our conference. We can offer honoraria



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and cover travel expenses (up to \$200). We're looking for ideas for a keynote speaker, so please offer your input.

- vi. External Committees to Fill
 - 1. Please see Addendum for committees left to fill (in red).
- vii. President Herbst's Office Hours: Tuesday, Nov. 8 @ 10 am – 12 pm
- viii. Guests for Fall Meetings
 - 1. Next meeting: Provost Choi, the new interim Provost from the School of Engineering
 - a. Please bring your colleagues to join us in an opportunity
 - 2. Rich Gray, Associate Dean, Francine DeFranco (copyright and intellectual property issues) will be coming at subsequent meetings
- b. Vice President – Safet Berisa
 - i. Student Life Committee
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
 - i. Finance Committee
 - 1. Elections start today
 - ii. Updated Website and Forms
 - 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
 - 4. Please see gss.uconn.edu for all updates
 - iii. Grad Listserv Advertising
 - 1. Events funded by GSS need to be made available to all graduate students. They need, at the very least, to be advertised on the Graduate Student Listserv (for more information, please see listserv.uconn.edu).
 - iv. Monthly Financial Report
 - 1. Please see the attached report "GSS Financial Statement Thru Aug 2012" for further details.
- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 - 1. Committee members: Rich Colon and Ryan Tomchek



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2. Potential Goals
 - a. Increase social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, and Foursquare with the possibility of offering “perks” via social media networking
 - b. Twitter account: @GSSUConn
 - c. Graduate Student Blog: Interested in helping? Contributing?
 - d. Advertising for GSS Events: looking for a Senator or Friend of GSS with graphic design skills to help design fliers and promotional materials for GSS
3. In order to accomplish our goals for the year, it would be prudent to have more members on this committee to manage the workload. If you have an interest in or skill set for advertising, blogging, branding, and/or social media, please consider joining the PR committee.
- ii. External Committee Reports for the Minutes
 1. According to Senate Bylaws, representatives on external committees should send a written report of each meeting to the Secretary within 7 days of the committee meeting
 2. If you cannot make a meeting, please notify the Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee, in conjunction with the representative, will make arrangements for an alternate.
 3. When you provide reports at each Senate meeting, please feel free to request feedback and/or action from the Senate. Introduce the issue during your report, and then raise it for general discussion during the issues forum.
- iii. GSS Meeting Schedule: 10/10, 10/24, 11/7, 12/5
- iv. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
- v. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Ted’s Social Nights
 1. Great turn out, roughly 210 people. People were filing in for an hour and a half.
 - iii. Speed Dating: October 19 in the Pavilion at Nathan Hale
 1. Light appetizers, cash bar, drinks
 2. Online pre-registration required
 - iv. Movie Night: Tuesday, November 27 (co-sponsored by the Grad School)
 - v. Thanksgiving Dinner: Wednesday, November 14 @ 12-2 pm.



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- f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Procedures Committee
 - ii. Presidential Pay
 - 1. According to the Senate Bylaws, the President will be paid the full allotted amount unless the Senate decides otherwise.
 - iii. Bylaw Update
 - 1. On the March 7th meeting last year, we voted to amend the Constitution and Bylaws. The Board of Trustees have just recently approved these changes. Changes still need to be made to the website, but will be made soon.
 - iv. Proposed Bylaw Amendment
 - 1. See attached proposal.
 - v. Senator Registration
 - 1. Forms need to be turned in and emails sent by next meeting or we will not be able to recognize you as a senator
- V. External Committee Reports**
 - a. University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
 - b. University Senate – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
 - c. SUBOG Policy Council – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
 - d. Student Welfare Committee – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
 - e. Parking Appeals Committee – Derek Doran
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
 - ii. If you know someone who got a ticket in the first few weeks of the semester after Parking Services gave you specific lots to park in, you should encourage him/her to appeal because those appeals have largely been upheld (not denied).
 - iii. If you or someone you know has gotten a ticket at all, always appeal. If the reason in the appeal is legitimate, and a student has zero or one previous ticket, there is a better chance it will be upheld than if you have a record of violating the parking rules on campus.
 - f. Environmental Health and Safety Committee – Eric Njuki



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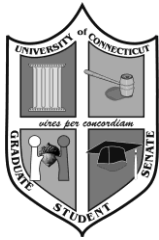
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- i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- g. University Budget Committee – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see full report in the Addendum

VI. Issues Forum

- a. Graduate Recreation Facilities and University Space Planning – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Senator Gutierrez: What spaces would we like to see developed in the long-run for graduate student life? Also important to think about ways to improve currently-existing spaces.
 - ii. President Messier: If you also have suggestions about the Graduate Student Lounge, please direct them to me.
 - iii. Activities Director Kurian: The reality of the situation is that very few of us live very close to campus. The problem starts with getting people to move closer to campus. Something some other schools do is that they have co-ops: five or ten people live in a house and create their own community. It would be nice if UConn could buy houses within the area and turn these into “co-op” housing spaces for graduate students. The community in the graduate student population is lacking. Most students come to campus to work and then leave.
 - iv. Senator Aponte: One of the other big problems is transportation. Many of the activities and spaces are there are simply not available on those who depend on public transportation schedules.
 - v. Senator Kilroy: Almost all of the grad students I know, myself included, who go to a gym go outside of the University. No grad student wants to use the recreational facilities because they don’t want to run into their undergraduate students while at the gym. Other universities have recreational spaces that are more catered to the diverse populations of the University (like faculty and graduate students). Also, regarding the Grad Student Lounge, some changes can be made to the outside, too. Some student groups set up tables right outside the door to the lounge and block the entrance. It doesn’t feel like it’s a respected space—perhaps a wider window, a bigger sign. Also maybe, different size tables. A variety of tables and chairs.
 - vi. Senator Doran: I use the gym at UConn a lot because it’s very convenient and free and has basically everything that you could ask for. Personally, I could care less if I run into my students. I would understand if graduate students would want to take special classes with undergraduate students or that are run for undergraduate students. So it might be nice to offer classes specifically for graduate students. Regarding the student lounge, I definitely agree there should be a larger sign. Also



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- consider installing an ID-reader on the door. It might be nice to make it a real social space: put in a TV, some lounge chairs, couches, etc.
- vii. Senator Shabtay: I want to thank Hayley for bringing up the point about the gym. Coming from OSU, my opinion of our gym is that it is disgusting. It greatly affects my life that I don't want to use the gym on campus. Another major problem is the locker rooms: you can't shower and get ready in the locker rooms. You can't get ready to teach afterwards. It's not a clean facility. It's probably the number one thing that frustrates me about student life.
 - viii. Senator San Pedro: I just wanted to add that I'm one of the few students in Northwood apartments. There's really not activities for graduate students to do. A place to congregate would be nice, and activities catered specifically towards graduate students. Maybe if there could be more speed dating or speed networking for those graduate students who are not single.
 - ix. Motion to extend Issues forum: Senator Doran. Seconded.
 - x. Senator Charrette: There doesn't seem to be a lot of impetus to get outside of our departments. So what is the goal for this meeting space? It would have to be something really spectacular for me to stay after teaching all my classes. I don't know what would make it a better choice than already existing cafes.
 - xi. President Messier: The English Graduate Student Association has a lounge in their building and it works really well. It is highly used. The microwave, refrigerator, magazine racks etc. make it really useful.
 - xii. Senator Wong: I'm still not sure I see the value in this space yet.
 - xiii. Senator Kilroy: I understand what you're saying, Senator Wong. I never need to leave my lab—we have a coffee maker, a fridge, etc. But I don't want to be in there always. I happen to have friends in the English department and I actually have come over to their graduate student lounge because it is a pretty awesome space. It's made better use of than the lounge in my own department. So, it's just nice to—especially in the Union space because some time you have some time to kill and you're over by the library or something.
 - xiv. Senator Gutierrez: There's gotta be some major pull, some real attraction to this space beyond just getting to know other graduate students. In thinking about this, dream up whatever you want to see—like a Grad-only coffee shop (something that would draw the envy of the undergrads, for example!).
 - xv. Senator Washat: I agree with Senator Gutierrez. I work in the Union and I don't see grad students in the lounge very often. It's going to be difficult to convince the administration that we need a new space or to renovate a space if we aren't using



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the space given. We need to show that we use it. Take what we have now and make the best of it and build toward the future.

- xvi. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The coffeehouse setting is a fantastic idea. People often go to Starbucks just to get out of their department.
 - xvii. Senator Aponte: Can we create a survey to get input from all grad students?
 - xviii. Secretary Eighan: Consider something like Boston College's "The Chocolate Bar"—a café and dessert bar. Also, consider crowd-sourcing your other alumni institutions for other ideas of spaces that have been offered. This
 - xix. Senator Shabtay: At OSU they have a café connected to the gym that caters to the health-food markets.
 - xx. Senator Hutson: What about live music? We could see if there's local music that would be interested in performing, and that would give them an audience and us a draw.
 - xxi. **If you have more issues and ideas, please contact Ian Gutierrez: ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu.**
- b. Senator Njuki: Do we have an external committee that could deal with the new system in place for conference reimbursements? There have been lots of difficulties with this and my constituency has complained a lot.
- c. Senator Mollmann: My constituency has also had a problem with Area III parking.
- d. Senator Charrette: No one is in Area III parking on Stadium Rd. between 9 and 9:20, but by noon it is full. In addition, can we streamline the Committee Reports? Running through everything for an hour and five minutes—after awhile I'm ready to tune out.
- i. Secretary Eighan: We have discussed this in our Executive Committee meetings, but were concerned it wouldn't be as good a use of our time since you may only have these 2 hours free each week. I would like to take a standing poll to see who would be able to read the committee reports prior to coming to the meeting beforehand [standing poll indicated an overwhelming majority].
 - ii. Senator Kilroy: I wonder if we could limit the reports to only those points that are directly relevant to grad students and leave the rest in the minutes.
 - iii. Senator Doran: While I see your point, there are some committees which are important enough to require a full report.
 - iv. Senator Wong: Consider allotting time for each report and limit it to that time.

VII. Unfinished Business



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- a. GSS 12/13-01: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$200 to the NEAG Graduate Student Association's "Brownbag" budget and that the Graduate Student Senate reduce the Philosophy Graduate Student Association's "Brownbag" budget by \$110.
 - i. Reraising a settled question and are thus improper. Stricken from the agenda.
- b. GSS 12/13-03: 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.
 - i. MOTION: Senator Mollmann. Seconded.
 - ii. **MOTION PASSES.**

VIII. New Business

- a. Finance Committee Elections
 - i. Senator Kilroy nominates Senator Mollmann.
 - ii. Senator Wong nominates Senator Charrette
 - iii. Senator Mollmann nominates Derek Doran.
 - iv. Senator Tomchek nominates Gao Niu.
 - v. **VOTE: All nominees have been elected unanimously.**
- b. GSS 12/13-04: That the Finance Policies and Procedures be amended as attached.
 - i. MOTION: Senator Kilroy. Seconded.
 - ii. Senator Kilroy: I'm really impressed with the changes. They helped clarify lots of things that I was confused about previously and some thing that I didn't even know I could be confused about, so I think they're awesome.
 - iii. Senator Mollmann: As the person who wrote the previous FPP, I'm on board with all of these changes.
 - iv. **MOTION PASSES.**
- c. GSS 12/13-05: That the Graduate Student Senate award \$400 to the treasurer, Ian Yue, and \$400 to the activities director, Anish Kurian, according to the Senate Bylaws.
 - i. MOTION: Senator Tomchek. Seconded.
 - ii. This is the maximum amount suggested by the bylaws, and you are free to reduce it but you cannot raise it.
 - iii. **VOTE: With unanimous consent the motion passes.**
- d. At-Large Senator Elections
- e. External Committee Appointments
 - i. **VOTE: All External Committee appointments have been approved unanimously.**



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IX. Adjournment at 9:02 pm.



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Addendum: Attendance

26 September 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
Derek Doran	derek.doran@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Senator
Michelle SanPedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Medical 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
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Nate Windon	nathaniel.windon@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Lauren Van Derzee	lauren.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Sociology	Senator
Indu Upadhyaya	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Senator
Matthew Ross	matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu	Economics	Senator
Austin Johnson	austinj@gmail.com	Education	Senator
Noah Sharpsteen	noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Senator
Troy Messick	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Senator
Andrew Oyer	andrew.oyer@uconn.edu	Polymer Science	Representative
Micah Cash	micahcash@gmail.com	Studio Art	Senator



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Anita Virga	anita.virga@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Senator
Aidalí Aponte- Avilés	aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Senator
Talia Shabtay	talia.shabtay@uconn.edu	Art History	Senator
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Senator
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Hayley Kilroy Mollmann	hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Zihang Zhou	zihang.zhou@uconn.edu	Mathematics	Senator
Ryan Tomchek	rtomchek@gmail.com	Mathematics	Senator



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Addendum: External and Standing Committees

26 September 2012

GSS External Committees

(see GSS website for descriptions)

Notes	Committee	GSS Rep 1 Contact Info	GSS Rep 2 Contact Info	Associated With	Last Known Meeting Info	Committee Contact
General Election	Board of Trustees	Rose Barham rbarham@student.uhc.edu		BOT		
Approved	Capital Projects Planning and Advisory Committee	(unable to find info about committee)		University Admin.		
Approved	Distinguished Professor Nominations Committee	Nicole White nicole.2.white@uconn.edu		BOT		Mary Dean mary.dean@uconn.edu
Approved	Diversity Committee	Michelle San Pedro michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu		University Senate	M 9:30-11 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	Environmental Health and Safety	Eric Njuki eric.njuki@uconn.edu		University Admin.	T 9 am	Jane Miner jane.miner@uconn.edu
Approved	Faculty Standards	Danielle Wong danielle.wong@uconn.edu		University Senate	M	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	General Education Oversight Committee	Noah Sharpsteen nesharps@gmail.com		University Senate	M/F 11-1 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	GFC Policies and Procedures	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge aldridge@phys.uconn.edu		GFC		Dr. Tom Peters thomas.b.peters@uconn.edu
Mandated	Graduate Faculty Council	President: Chantelle Messier	Parliamentaria	GFC		Dr. Tom Peters thomas.b.peters@uconn.edu



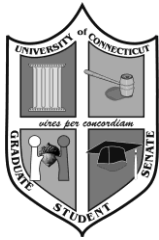
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Addendum: External and Standing Committees

26 September 2012

		chantelle.messier@gmail.com	n: Leland Aldridge alaldrige@gmail.com			nn.edu
Requested (ad-hoc)	Graduate Leave Policies Committee	Erika Del Villar erika.l.delvillar@uconn.edu		Graduate School		Dr. Sandra Chafouleas sandra.chafouleas@uconn.edu
Approved	Growth and Development Committee			University Senate	Th am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Requested	IT Governance Committees (Teaching and Learning, Research and Scholarship, Administrative Systems, Infrastructure)	Teaching and Learning: Ryan Tomchek rtomchek@gmail.com		CIO	1/month for 1 hour	Kristy Hughes kristy.hughes@uconn.edu
Mandated	Joint Elections Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge alaldrige@phys.uconn.edu		Student Activities		Becca Herman rebecca.herman@uconn.edu
Approved	Mansfield Downtown Partnership			Other		Cynthia van Zelm vanZelmCA@mansfieldct.org
Requested	Parking Advisory Committee	Ryan Tomchek rtomchek@gmail.com		University Admin.	W/Th pm	Karla Fox karla.fox@uconn.edu
Requested	Parking Appeals Committee	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu		University Admin.	M 10 am	Martha Funderburk martha.funderburk@uconn.edu
Approved	President's Honors and Awards Committee	Micah Cash micahcash@gmail.com		President	one meeting: T, 10/30/12	Joanne Fazio joanne.fazio@uconn.edu



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Approved	Provost's Commission on Institutional Diversity	Michael Crawford michael.crawford@uconn.edu		Provost		Salome Raheim salome.raheim@uconn.edu
Approved	Provost's Library Advisory Committee	Noah Sharpsteen nesharps@gmail.com		Provost		Khara Leon khara.leon@lib.uconn.edu
Approved	Public Arts Committee	Allison Hale hale.allison@gmail.com		President		?
Approved	Scholastic Standards	Aidali Aponte-Aviles aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu		University Senate	Th 11 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Activities Election Week Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge aldridge@phys.uconn.edu		Student Activities		
Mandated	Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu		University Admin.		David Clokey david.clokey@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Leadership Group	Exec Member		Other		
Mandated	Student Life Committee	Grad Student Trustee Rose Barham rbarham@student.uchc.edu		BOT		
Approved	Student Technology Advisory Group	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu		Other		Matt Smith matt.smith@uconn.edu
Mandated	Student Trustee Election Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge aldridge@phys.uconn.edu		Other	Exists on alternating years	
Mandated	Student Union Partners	Exec Member		Other	W 1:30 pm	Tonya Lemire tonya.lemire@uconn.edu



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Addendum: External and Standing Committees

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Approved	Student Welfare Committee	Ian Gutierrez ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu		University Senate	F 12-1 pm	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Requested	SUBOG Policy Council	Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	(same as Student Union Partners?)			
Appointed by President	UConn Branding Committee	Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu		President		Scott Brohinsky scott.brohinsky@uconn.edu
Appointed by President	UConn Reads Steering Committee			President		uconnreads@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Budget Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu		University Senate	T/Th late am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Senate	President: Chantelle Messier chantelle.messier@gmail.com	Vice President: Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	University Senate	M 4-6 pm	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Mandated	University Senate Executive Committee	President: Chantelle Messier chantelle.messier@gmail.com		University Senate	F 11-2 am	Tammy Gifford tammy.gifford@uconn.edu
Approved	Windham Regional Transit District	Hayley Kilroy-Mollmann hayleykilroy@gmail.com		Other	4th W of month 5 pm in Willimantic	Melinda Perkins melinda@wrtd.net



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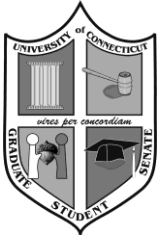
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Addendum: External and Standing Committees

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GSS Standing Committees (see Bylaws for descriptions)

Committee	Chair	Members and Contact Info
Student Life	Vice President: Safet Berisa safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Hayley Killroy hayleykillroy@gmail.com Troy Messick troy.messick@uconn.edu
Public Relations	Secretary: Erin Eighan eeighan@gmail.com	Rich Colon richardcolonjr@gmail.com Ryan Tomchek rtomchek@gmail.com
Finance Committee	Treasurer: Ian Yue ian.yue@uconn.edu	Steven Mollmann steven.mollmann@uconn.edu Jason Charrette jason.charrette@uconn.edu Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu Gao Niu gao.niu@uconn.edu
Procedures Committee	Parliamentarian: Leland Aldridge laldridge@gmail.com	Jason Charrette jason.charrette@uconn.edu
Activities Committee	Activities Director: Anish Kurian anish.m.kurian@gmail.com	Derek Doran derek.doran@uconn.edu Ryan Tomchek ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu Austin Johnson austin.johnson@uconn.edu Danielle Wong danielle.wong@uconn.edu Talia Shabtay talia.shabtay@uconn.edu Indu Upadhyaya indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu

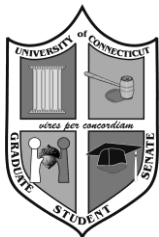


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Addendum: GSS Financial Statement Thru Aug 2012
26 September 2012

**University of Connecticut
Graduate Student Senate
Financial Statement FY 13
August 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.)	104.00
		104.00
Total Income:		\$ 104.00
<u>Expense:</u>		
601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	-
604	Photocopying	-
605	Postage	16.95
606	Printing	-
607	Promotional Items	-
608	Refreshments -- Organization	-
609	Subscriptions	-
610	Supplies -- Organization	254.58
611	Telephone	-
612	Advertising	-
613	Awards and Prizes	-
615	Contractual Services	180.00
616	Co-Sponsorships	-
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-
619	Participation Fees	-
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	1,644.80
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	21.67
622	Registration Fees	-
623	Rental	-
624	Travel	263.84
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)	-
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	-
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
		-
Total Expenses:		\$ 2,381.84
Net Profit (Loss)		\$ (2,277.84)
	Beginning Balance as of 7/01/12	30,442.55
	Plus Net Profit (Loss)	(2,277.84)
	Current Balance	\$ 28,164.71



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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Addendum: External Committee Reports

26 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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- Quality of students on regional campuses is also increasing

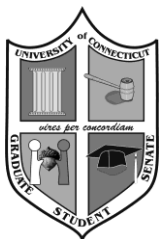
Provost

- 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



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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Addendum: External Committee Reports

26 September 2012

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



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Addendum: External Committee Reports

26 September 2012

Student Welfare Committee Meeting Minutes

The Student Welfare Committee's first meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year took place on September 14th. Three topics dominated the agenda for the course of the meeting:

- **Final assessment and bunched finals policy.** The University Senate is looking to (1) end the current final exam policy, which mandates that all courses must culminate in a final exam. This would give IORs the freedom to not assess students at the end of the semester with a sit-down exam. The University is also considering altering its policy on "bunched finals," in which students can request alternate dates for final exams if they have three or more exams within a 24 hour timeframe, but these alterations are unclear at the moment.
- **Student Recreational Facility.** The committee raised the issue of creating and implementing a plan for creating more space for student life, noting that UConn fell far behind other universities in this regard. (OSU has more than 4x the recreational space for students that UConn does). ***The committee sought graduate student input about what kinds of recreational spaces they might like to have--GSS ought to provide proposals to the committee.*** Any newly constructed space, it should be noted, would not likely be built for many years.
- **Student Debt.** The committee also discussed the explosion of student debt around the country and wondered what might be done to advise UConn students and applicants to UConn about their financial well-being with regard to debt. ***GSS might consider how the University can help students manage debt...*** (aside from reducing tuition and/or throwing money at our feet).



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Addendum: External Committee Reports 26 September 2012

Minutes of the Environmental Health and Safety Committee September 18, 2012

1. Working Alone Policy

The working alone policy was finally published before the beginning of the school year. All graduate students will be expected to familiarize themselves with its contents.

2. Building and Emergency Contact List

Every building and department on campus has a primary and a secondary emergency contact person.

Contact persons are supposed to act as liaisons between building occupants and emergency services.

This information is now available online <http://beclist.uconn.edu>.

Members are asked to familiarize themselves with their emergency contact persons.

3. Fire drills and safe place designations

All professors/instructors will be required to familiarize themselves with emergency and evacuation procedures and be ready to explain them to students at the beginning of every semester.

4. Quarterly Injury Report

There has been a significant reduction in accidents and injuries on campus, compared with previous quarters.

And for the first time, there were no accidents or injuries involving graduate students.



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Addendum: External Committee Reports

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University Budget Committee: Monday, September 24, 2012

“Tuition on Federal Grants” Policy

- The University Senate is charged with monitoring the impact of this policy for three years after it went into effect in Fall 2009
- The Senate Executive Committee has asked the University Budget Committee (UBC) to prepare a report for the Senate on the policy’s effect on university revenues and enrollment in graduate programs
- *From the University Budget Committee November 16, 2009 Meeting Minutes:* According to Dr. Suman Singha (Vice President for Research), all grant proposals submitted after July 1, 2009, must include tuition for graduate research assistants supported on the grant when the funding agency allows it. The tuition charge will be levied at 60% of the in-state tuition rate. Graduate research assistant funds could be segregated into a separate account when collected. Funds will be used only to enhance research and graduate education, e.g. covering tuition and health benefits on national fellowships when sponsor support is insufficient.
- Because this policy only applies to new grant proposals submitted after July 1, 2009, the full effect of the policy on university revenues and potential effects on graduate student enrollment is still not clear. For example, grants that were proposed/approved in 2008 and remained valid for 4 years have not been affected by this policy. Thus, until all research grants at UConn are subject to this policy, we cannot know the full policy effect.
- The UBC decided that it would be best to gather the latest university revenue and graduate student enrollment data from Dr. Singha and/or Dr. Kent Holsinger when one or both of them attend the next UBC meeting.
- There was discussion on whether the UBC may need another semester or year to come up with a report that provides a legitimate assessment of the policy’s effects.

General Overview of the University Budget

- Presented by Ms. Lysa Teal, Budget Director and ex-officio UBC representative of the Chief Financial Officer’s Office
- Overview document handed out by Ms. Teal to UBC members is attached
- FY12 was a “tough” year for the University, financially. The University, however, was able stay within its budget, ending the fiscal year with a net \$4.8 million surplus. This surplus can largely be attributed to significant energy cost savings due to favorable gas prices and a mild winter.
- The FY13 budget was also presented. University budgets are built in March and presented to the Board of Trustees in June. Three major aspects to the FY13 budget were mentioned and discussed by the UBC:

- (1) UConn has committed to hiring 290 faculty members over the next few years. A total of 50 faculty members were budgeted for this FY13, but only 40 net new faculty members are



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- actually starting in Fall 2012, with some new faculty deferring for a semester or year. The University is prepared to budget for 70 net new faculty members for next fiscal year and 90 net new faculty members the following fiscal year. Significant financial issues remain for the university, however: The University must not only find a way to fund the salaries of these new faculty members but also finding new office and lab space for them. The University has little swing space, especially with current construction across campus and the poor condition of a number of campus buildings, such as Arjona and Monteith.
- (2) The “Strategic Redesign Initiative” — informally known as the McKinsey Report — was a report prepared by the McKinsey & Co. consulting firm that identified \$50 million in potential savings and revenue opportunities for the University over 5 years. This report was commissioned by the previous University administration. A number of approaches to the report, however, do not align with the current University administration’s approach to budgeting. Additionally, some in University leadership have deemed a number of suggestions in the McKinsey Report as not feasible or realistic. Mr. Tom Callahan, a former UConn administrator, has been asked to examine the McKinsey Report to determine what is and is not feasible to implement. This is an ongoing work.
 - (3) The State of Connecticut’s appropriation to UConn has decreased by \$1.4 million. Student tuition has increased by 5.75%.

Future Meetings

- October 22, 2012 or October 24, 2012
 - With special guest(s) Dr. Suman Singha (Vice President for Research) and/or Dr. Kent Holsinger (Dean of the Graduate School)
 - To discuss the results-to-date of the “tuition on federal grants” policy
- November 26, 2012
 - With special guest Charlie Eaton (University Controller)
 - To discuss Kualii 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