



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Minutes 20 February 2013

- I. **Call to Order at 7:13 pm.**
- II. **Recognition of Senators**
- III. **Special Guest: Charmane Thurmand, Graduate School Diversity Officer**
 - a. As this position is being formed and transitioned into a position with a full agenda, Ms. Thurmand would like graduate student input about graduate student life.
 - b. Ms. Thurmand's position focuses on the recruitment and retainment of minority graduate students.
 - c. Parliamentarian Aldridge: At the Graduate Faculty Council meeting today, the committee directed Dean Holsinger to investigate the "speak" test and the procedures surrounding the test. This is a telephone-based test that international students have to pass before they are approved to be in direct contact roles with students.
 - i. The Graduate School is working very diligently to find the best route to handle this situation. As soon as Ms. Thurmand has more information, she will let us know.
 - d. Rich Colon: Do veterans fall under your umbrella?
 - i. Yes, Ms. Thurmand would like to expand the umbrella of the Diversity Officer to accommodate all kinds of under-represented groups.
 - e. Senator Shabtay: What kind of services do you provide?
 - i. Ms. Thurmand was just hired to this position (a new position) in November, so she's still working on a proper agenda. However, she's begun a multi-cultural scholars program already that is a test group for professional development programs/opportunities. Fall 2013 is when plans should be more formalized.
 - f. Activities Director Kurian: One of the concerns of graduate students that has come to my attention recently is family care or childcare. Is something that you'd be interested helping out with?
 - i. Some of the feedback Ms. Thurmand has received from her multi-cultural scholars is more kid-friendly events. They are also interested in finding about community resources.
 - ii. Activities Director Kurian will email Ms. Thurmand about the issue to follow-up.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes: 6 February 2013**
 - a. Approved.
- V. **Executive Committee Reports**
 - a. President – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Executive Committee
 - ii. Vice Provost for Research Search



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1. President Messier attended interviews with the final three candidates. At least one person from GSS was present at each meeting. All three candidates were external candidates and seemed well-qualified for the position. President Messier felt that two out of three candidates had a shaky understanding of how their position will relate to graduate student research.
- iii. Rec Center
 1. Undergraduate students have been calling for a new Rec Center for a long time now. At this point, plans are being put together for a new Rec Center. This would be a comprehensive Rec Center that would not be affiliated with the Athletics Program. Other amenities include a juice bar, a child-care center, and a graduate student community space.
 2. Beginning 2016 (when the Rec Center would be available), one price plan would be charging Graduate Student \$350/yr and would continue for 30 years. This would be under the GUF fee.
 3. This fee increase does not have to go through any committees. The only people who would have to approve this fee increase would be the President, Provost, and Board of Trustees. We have a representative on the Board of Trustees and would like to give a full picture to her of graduate student views on the issue.
 4. Some perks they are considering include: child-care support, a free extra membership, a community space for graduate students.
 5. Depending on the reaction from some of our constituencies, we need to develop a strategy to approach this fee increase. We need to consider whether we should oppose this fee outright (which could be in vain, considering the support from the undergraduate community, President, and Provost), or if we should negotiate to get the best deal and the most perks for graduate students.
 6. Before this fee could be instituted, graduate student stipends would have to go up. That's not even something we have to fight for—the administration understands this as a legal necessity.
 7. The Executive Committee will be meeting with Amy Donahue and Mike Kirk next week (Wednesday) to discuss this.
- b. Vice President – Safet Beriša
 - i. Student Life Committee
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue



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- i. Finance Committee
 - 1. The Committee is preparing to begin its meeting schedule.
 - 2. The budget hearings will be publicized, as is required.

 - d. Secretary – Erin Eighan
 - i. Public Relations Committee
 - 1. University Fee Survey: gssuconn.poll daddy.com/s/university-fees
 - ii. GSS Meeting Schedule for Spring: 3/6, 3/27, 4/10, 4/24
 - iii. Blog, *The Commons*: gssuconn.wordpress.com
 - iv. Contact GSS: gssuconn@gmail.com
 - v. Attendance

 - e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee
 - ii. Grad Prom: March 1, 7-11 pm (Dinner 7-8:30 pm, Dessert 8:15-11 pm)
 - 1. If you have any ideas for grad prom decorations, please send them to Director Kurian today.
 - 2. Tickets for the dinner portion of the evening are currently sold out.
 - 3. If you are available to help set up for Grad Prom, please talk to Director Kurian.

 - f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Procedures Committee
 - 1. Three candidates for At-Large Senator have been approved
 - 2. Constitution Fun Fact: Formation of a Special Committee
 - a. Please see Article V, Section 2.
 - ii. Presidential Pay
 - 1. At this last meeting of the month, if the Senate does not vote to modify the President's pay level, she will be paid the scheduled amount automatically.
- VI. External Committee Reports**
- a. University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - b. SUBOG SU Policy Council – Ian Yue
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - c. Graduate Faculty Council – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.



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- d. Vice Provost for University Libraries Search Committee – Safet Berisa
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - e. Provost Library Advisory Committee – Mary Goodrich
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - f. Student Trustee Election Committee – Leland Aldridge
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - g. Joint Elections Committee – Steven Mollmann
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
 - h. Student Welfare Committee – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Please see Addendum for full report.
- VII. Issues Forum**
- a. Rec Center – Chantelle Messier
 - i. President Messier: Here are the questions Exec has already formed for the next meeting
 - 1. A confirmation that this center will not be controlled by the Athletics office.
 - 2. What is the mechanism to ensure that this fee will be uninstated after the 30-year proposal?
 - 3. What meetings has the Administration set up with the undergraduate student body? They should have no reason to refuse a meeting with the Graduate Student Senate.
 - 4. What is the breakdown of undergraduate vs. graduate use of the current rec center?
 - 5. How many graduate students live on campus?
 - 6. Details on the stipend increase.
 - 7. Graduate vs. the undergraduate burden.
 - 8. Why can't there be an opt-in program for the rec center?
 - ii. President Messier: So far I have met with representatives from the President's Office and Provost's office and with Dean Holsinger separately. The Executive Committee will be meeting with these representatives again next week. We are in contact with the Graduate Student representative on the Board of Trustees.
 - iii. Rich Colon: I would like to know why SASFAC doesn't have a say in this fee increase. I find it weird that something this huge would not go through the check-and-balance system that is supposed to exist for it.



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- iv. Senator Rutovytsky: What will happen to the current Rec Center once the new one goes up? Perhaps it would be reasonable to approach the Mansfield Community Center to partner with them for an alternative graduate student gym membership.
- v. Senator Shabtay: I agree with the comments have already been made. The decision for the fee increase should go through SASFAC. That being said, at \$300/yr that's \$25/month. And for the kind of facilities you described there is no other cheaper option around than that. This I see as a really tangible investment. I would be thrilled to see this go through.
- vi. Senator Kilroy: You mentioned child-care facilities. Is that going to be like a large daycare facility that professors and graduate students can take their kids to on a daily basis? Or is it an hourly service—a room with a babysitter? The specifics on that have very different cost breakdowns.
- vii. Senator Gutierrez: I guess I would be interested if they've run any prospective numbers on the expected use of the facility by graduate students. Secondly, considering that it is a pretty substantial fee increase, I'm wondering if GSS should put forth some kind of information campaign to inform the rest of the students on campus about this issue.
- viii. Senator Aponte: Perhaps the best option would be the "opt-in" option.
- ix. Director Kurian: One thing we mentioned in Exec is that it is possible to get access to the data of how many graduate students on average per month go to the gym. The swipe card system should contain all that information. We need this information, and the Administration seemed to dodge this request saying that it was impossible to attain.
- x. Senator Shabtay: I don't know if you can rely on those numbers exclusively because so many grad students go to gyms off campus.
- xi. Senator Wong: I'm uncomfortable using the gym on campus because I don't want to use the gym around my students.
- xii. Senator Njuki: How did they settle on the \$30 fee and will it remain the same across the 30 years? Will it reflect a change in inflation?
- xiii. Kunal Dolas: Why does everyone have to pay for the recreation center? Why isn't it modeled on parking services? Only those who use parking services pay the fee.
 - 1. President Messier: This recreation center isn't being built the way we typically build things on campus. It's about the financing they're able to get—30-year financing versus 50-year finances.



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- xiv. Senator Rutovytskyy: Are we going to have a way to contract the fee so that it remains stable when it is passed? Secondly, does the graduate student community have any voice or say in this matter?
 - 1. The vote would have to go through the Board of Trustees. There is a graduate student trustee and she is perfectly willing to be an opposing voice on the Board. In the past, the Board is willing to listen to the student perspective, but that doesn't necessarily mean they will vote in line with the student perspective.
- xv. Senator Charrette: I find this process of financing construction ultimately disturbing. The problem is when you levy a general fee like this you remove choice. In comparison to peer institutions, UConn's fees are at times 100% more.
- xvi. Senator Kilroy: I would also have some hesitations about the free second membership that was mentioned. I appreciate how they want to accommodate family members, but I would much prefer a discounted membership. Essentially a single person would be paying \$350 for one membership, while another student would be paying \$350 for two memberships.
- xvii. Senator Rutovytskyy: The precedent might have been created way before this.
 - 1. President Messier: Just to clarify, the larger projects like NextGen CT and BioSciencesCT are projects financed through the state, not the University.
- b. Smoking Policy – Ian Gutierrez
 - i. Please see addendum for the drafted Smoking Ban resolution.
 - ii. Senator Sharpsteen: What would enforcement require?
 - iii. Senator Gutierrez: My understanding is it would be similar to any other UConn policy. If it's a UConn policy, it's not a law—police cannot enforce it.
 - iv. Senator Kilroy: So there have been schools and workplaces that have successfully enacted 100% smoke-free policies and probably against stricter legislation than the state of Connecticut has. It would be worthwhile to look into that. In some places, there are transition plans put into place. So maybe there's a way to have a step-wise progression towards a smoke-free campus.
 - v. Senator Vidal: Is the 25-foot perimeter practical for all situations?
 - vi. Senator Alzayani: The 100% ban is controversial. After four years, let's say, of the ban, studies show the rate of smokers would have decreased but the reasons are different. The cohort of students is different now because of the ban. Monitoring is another issue here. Enforcing a policy like this is not an easy task.



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- vii. Senator Wong: The University of Kentucky did a similar ban, but it wasn't policed. The amount of people seeking tobacco rehab increased. There should be support for those who need it. The University of Michigan also put this into a three-year progressive process. There are 120 campuses in the US that have a smoke-free population.
 - viii. Director Kurian: The 25-foot policy may also be a public safety issue. What about a vulnerable student who takes a smoking break in the middle of the night?
 - ix. Senator Charrette: This is legislating a health choice. We also don't want people to eat pizza every day, but we can't legislate that.
 - x. Parliamentarian Aldridge: I agree with everything that was just said. I don't really like anything that legislates anything that protects us from ourselves. You're just going to push people to the edges if you try to control their behavior.
 - xi. Senator Gutierrez: Sitting in these meetings, that was my very first thought as well. The undergraduates wrote a statement about people's right to choose in terms of their own health behaviors. It was overlooked by the committee, who has been pretty motivated from the beginning to push for a 100% ban. The second Resolution in the draft of the smoking ban (regarding an educational campaign), I am totally in support of.
 - xii. Senator Sharpsteen: I look at this as an opportunity for people to quit the addiction. As a smoker, I know that if this policy isn't enforced, it won't change habits. But if this resolution seeks an educational/rehabilitation campaign, I would support that.
 - xiii. Senator Aponte: I have an issue using the word "ban," because as soon as you ban it, the students find a way to go against whatever ban there is.
- c. Graduate Student Unionization – Ian Gutierrez
- i. Parliamentarian Aldridge: I'll start off by saying that I personally am pro-union, but this issue has come up in my long GSS career has come up many times—at least three separate times. It's an enormous time commitment; there are enormous legal hurdles. Unless we have someone who is willing to get kicked out of graduate studies, there's no point in even starting. The time commitment required is enormous.
 - ii. Rich Colon: Like Leland said, this has come up time and time again. There have been several underground attempts by grad students in departments to start it. I feel that if people are interested in this, then we ought to make an exploratory committee here. We are not representatives enough of the constituency here.



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- iii. President Messier: I do think that it's important that GSS not be in the middle of a unionization effort. The University Senate, for example, is in communication with the Unions but is a completely separate thing from the Unions because they need to represent both those who are part of the Unions and those who are not.
 - iv. Rich Colon: Our representative on the Board of Trustees should also be in a neutral position on this issue.
 - v. Director Kurian: I don't know if this is something that the Ombudsman could help with, but maybe we could pursue a conversation with him about this.
 - vi. President Messier: I would like to talk to you, Senator Gutierrez, about some of the issues the Student Welfare Committee addressed because there are avenues to deal with them that work outside of unionization.
 - vii. Senator Charrette: We don't have a capitalist system in academia (that functions with unions), we have an apprenticeship. I think what we should do is perhaps form a committee to find the answers to the questions we have about the protection of graduate students. What other avenues can we take besides unionization to help ameliorate that problem? We could set up a fact-finding committee—a research committee—to come up with concrete solutions that doesn't involve unionization. At least until we become employees under the administrative eyes of the Union.
 - viii. Rich Colon: It may be beneficial to involve Charmane Thurmand in these conversations.
 - ix. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The purview of the Student Life Committee should be able to address these issues if we feel, as a Senate, that these issues do fall under that committee.
- d. Other Issues – Open Forum
- i. Senator Aponte: This Saturday is the Open Humanities Multi-faceted Approaches for the 21st century conference. You are all invited.
 - ii. Senator Sharpsteen: What did we decide about the finance committee adjustments proposed last meeting?
 - 1. Parliamentarian Aldridge: No one has presented a formal proposal for this meeting. We are required to present any changes to the legal documents of GSS one meeting prior to the vote on those changes. Anyone making changes should make a specific and concrete one.

VIII. Unfinished Business



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- a. GSS 12/13-16: That the Graduate Student Senate approve the apportionment of seats of the Graduate Student Senate as recommended by the Procedures Committee, effective the first day of the Fall of 2013 academic term.
 - i. Motion: Senator Mollmann. Seconded.
 - ii. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The main reason for postponing the vote on this issue was to determine whether or not the Medieval Studies program should represent its own constituency.
 - iii. Senator Slater: The Medieval Studies program is housed under the English department. As far as I understand it, the program was originally cohosted interdepartmentally. But it seems to stand alone at this point. I think it makes a lot of sense to have Medieval Studies separate from English because those students are doing different work from the English students and because, though they are housed within the English department physically, they are cut off from the rest of the University by virtue of their program and have different needs from English graduate students.
 - iv. Senator Kilroy: The EEB department would have a decrease from two senators to one senator. It seems that that could have gone either way because we are the 50th percentile in terms of departments. And, as worded, the allocation works around the 50th percentile, not with it.
 - v. Parliamentarian Aldridge: It comes down to the Bylaws that suggests that the apportionment should fall around the natural breaks. There was a larger gap between EEB's total number of graduates and the next largest constituency, than between EEB and the next smallest constituency, so in judging where the "natural break" was I placed the dividing line in the larger gap.
 - vi. Senator Kilroy: That seems quite subjective. There are a multitude of ways of looking at natural breaks.
 - vii. MOTION: Senator Kilroy: To amend the apportionment so that EEB retains two senators. Seconded by Senator Shabtay.
 1. VOTE: Passed.
 - viii. **VOTE: Passes as amended.**

IX. New Business

- a. GSS 12/13-17: That the GSS establish a special committee on professional development in order to explore potential areas in which GSS could support graduate student professional development, and to evaluate whether the GSS should establish a Professional Development Coordinator as an officer on the Executive Committee. The Professional Development special committee shall contain at least three members, and



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meet either in person or electronically as needed throughout the Spring 2013 semester. Its charge is:

- i. To explore potential areas in which GSS could support graduate student professional development;
- ii. To evaluate whether the GSS should establish a Professional Development Coordinator as an officer on the Executive Committee, who would chair a permanent standing committee;
- iii. To compose, if necessary, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws establishing a Professional Development Coordinator, outlining his/her duties as an officer, recommending a stipend, and outlining the composition and charge of that officer's permanent Professional Development Committee.
- iv. The committee will present its recommendations to the Senate by the second-to-last meeting of the Senate, so that any Constitution and Bylaws changes can be voted on at the last meeting.
 1. MOTION: Senator Njuki. Seconded.
 2. Senator Mollmann: Before I vote in favor of this, I would really like to hear that there's someone who will be interested in chairing this committee.
 3. Senator Njuki: I think we should first discuss the merits of this proposed committee. First, I believe that graduate students here have a professional development need that is not being adequately met. As an organization that represents graduate students, we can remedy this.
 4. **VOTE: Passes.**
 5. Nominations for chair of the Professional Development special committee.
 - a. Senator Gutierrez nominates Senator Njuki. Accepted.
 - b. **VOTE: Passes.**
 6. The chair may propose members of the committee to the Senate at our next meeting.
- b. Senator Wong: I would propose a motion to amend the Membership and Organization of the Finance Committee as put forth in the Finance Policy and Procedures. I would like to amend Section 3.2.1 from "five elected members" to "a minimum of five elected members."
 - i. Parliamentarian Aldridge: This motion has been proposed but must be reserved for a vote until the next meeting.

X. **Adjournment at 9:31 pm.**



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Addendum: Attendance

20 February 2013

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
Chujiao Ma	chujiao.ma@uconn.edu	SAGE	Representative
Mike Winder	mjwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Senator
Eric Njuki	eric.njuki@uconn.edu	ARE	Senator
Austin Johnson	austinj@gmail.com	Education	Senator
George Omolloh	george.omolloh@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Salman Alzayani	salman.alzayani@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Hayley Kilroy	hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu	EEB	Senator
Aidalí Aponte-Avilés	aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Senator
Troy Messick	troy.messick@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Senator
Micah Cash	micahcash@gmail.com	Studio Art	Senator
Talia Shabtay	talia.shabtay@uconn.edu	Art History	Senator
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Senator
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Nathaniel Windon	nathaniel.windon@uconn.edu	English	Senator
Noah Sharpsteen	noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Senator
Mike Robillard	michael.robillard@uconn.edu	At-Large	Senator
Agathe Vidal	agathe.vidal@uconn.edu	French	Senator



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Lauren Van Derzee	lauren.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Sociology	Senator
Indu Updhyaya	indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Senator
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Senator
Mary Goodrich	mary.goodrich@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Representative
Kunal Dolas	kunal.dolas@uconn.edu	TARANG	Representative
Yevehen Rutovytsky	rutovytsky@yahoo.com	At-Large	Senator
Rich Colon	richard.colon@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Representative
Michelle SanPedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Senator



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Addendum: Committee Reports

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University Senate Executive Committee

15 February 2013

Chair: Andrew Moiseff
 Professor
Andrew.moiseff@uconn.edu
[u](#)

Representative: Chantelle Messier
 President
chantelle.messier@gmail.com
[m](#)

Website: <http://www.senate.uconn.edu/exec.htm>

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Graduate Tuition on Grants Report
- Electronic SET's
- Smoking Ban

Detailed Report

FACULTY STANDARDS

Student Evaluations of Teaching (SET's)

- UConn is behind the technology; most schools are doing SET's online
- Currently drafting an electronic SET form that will use a 5-point instead of a 10-point rating scale
- Issues about how to ensure and handle feedback from students are still being discussed
- There will be an option to fill out a paper form if students prefer
- Will consider possibility of making these SET's mobile-device-friendly

UConn has hired an ombudsperson, who will assist both faculty and grad students in finding the services they need and dealing with problems and complaints.

BUDGET

Report on Graduate Tuition on Grants (TOG)



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- Revenue generated by TOG policy is far less than anticipated (~\$1.5M, as compared to initially expected \$9M and even modified projection of \$2.5M).
- Funds from TOG have been mainly spent to support graduate student fellowships. Since this funding began, UConn has increased in number of grads supported on fellowships, from 7 in 2009 to >50 in 2012.
- The number of graduate RA's at the university has declined by 86 (6.8%) since TOG was implemented. The number of Post-Docs on grants, meanwhile, is increasing. The Budget Committee still feels that the statistics are insufficient to clearly indicate causality.
- The final recommendation of the Budget Committee was that the Senate continue to monitor the effects of TOG on research and grad education.
- Please see me for a complete draft copy of the report.

STUDENT WELFARE

Smoking Ban

- Will present a resolution to University Senate to prohibit smoking a minimum distance of 25 feet from any university building or air intake. The difference from the current policy would be that, while the state already has this policy, the University bylaws don't specify all buildings and air intakes.
- Though many committee members were in support of a complete smoking ban, it was the opinion of legal advisors that it would be almost impossible to negotiate such a ban with the relevant workers' unions.
- The resolution will further recommend the establishment of a task force to educate the university community about the policy, and to revise and implement the current policy.
- Please see me for a complete draft copy of the resolution (though based on discussion, draft is likely to be substantially revised).

GENERAL EDUCATION OVERSIGHT (GEOC)

Student Athletes

- Questions raised about the number of CPIA-excused absences by student athletes. Instances have been reported of CPIA "excusing" some student athletes from up to 40% of class sessions.
- An additional problem is that student athletes have limited access to majors because so many majors have labs or other requirements that conflict with practice.

VICE PRESIDENT/PROVOST FOR RESEARCH SEARCH

Concerns were raised about the way the VPR search was conducted, specifically, its confidentiality, limited community participation, and rushed schedule. These concerns will be brought up with President Herbst at the next University Senate meeting.



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SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS

Currently considering how policy on bunched finals interacts with final projects or papers that may be due during exam week.

Discussions on multiple readmissions and mandatory syllabi also continue.

ENROLLMENT

Next Generation CT

- Under the Next Gen CT proposal, UConn would add 6,500 students by 2024. This will have an obvious effect on enrollment.
- The governor has asked that many of these new students be in STEM, which has an additional effect on enrollment procedures.
- Look for President Herbst's letter about the Next Gen CT plan, which will go out to the university community on Monday.



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Addendum: Committee Reports

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Student Union Board of Governors Policy Council

7 February 2013

Chair: Paul Bloom
UConn Undergraduate
paul.bloom@uconn.edu

Representative: Ian Yue
Treasurer
ian.yue@uconn.edu

Website: http://www.studentunion.uconn.edu/policy_council.html

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Special guest Beth Settje, Senior Assistant Director and Manager of Internship Resources for UConn Career Services, was invited to give a brief overview of Career Services.
- Career Services now has two locations on campus: the Center for Career Planning and Development (main office) in Wilbur Cross and the Center for Internships and Employer Relations on the second floor of the Student Union. Graduate students receive “upgraded” services from Career Services compared to undergraduates, including walk-in career counseling/advising (no appointment necessary) and longer resume critique sessions (30 minutes).
- Graduate students are charged two fees every semester related to the Student Union: The Student Union portion of the General University Fee (GUF) and the Student Union Building Fee. The Student Union’s portion of GUF goes to support student services and activities in the Union. Any “leftover” funds from GUF’s contribution to the Student Union are put towards the Student Union Reserve Account, which is utilized when operational updates to the Union are needed. The Student Union Building Fee is a separate fee and is used to raise revenue to pay off a bond that went towards the Student Union’s renovation and expansion project, which was undertaken a couple of years ago.

Detailed Report

SPECIAL GUEST



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Beth Settje, Senior Assistant Director and Manager of Internship Resources for UConn Career Services, was invited to give a brief overview of Career Services. Beth mentioned that starting this school year, Career Services has two locations on campus: the Center for Career Planning and Development (main office) in Wilbur Cross and the Center for Internships and Employer Relations on the second floor of the Student Union. The Center for Career Planning and Development is the place students can get their resumes and cover letters critiqued. The Center for Internships and Employer Relations is where practice and on-campus interviews take place. Both locations serve students for career advising. Beth also covered the basics of Husky CareerLinks, UConn's online portal for job searching, employer look-up, etc. Graduate students receive "upgraded" services from Career Services compared to undergraduates, including walk-in career counseling/advising (no appointment necessary) and longer resume critique sessions (30 minutes).

REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTRATION

Chuck Morrell, Associate Director for Operations, gave an update on the food vendors located within the Student Union, stating that all but Blimpie met expectations last fiscal year. Blimpie's poor performance resulted in the Student Union's decision to remove the operation in July 2012. This caused a loss of revenue for the Union in the form of rent and Common Area Maintenance payments. However, Dunkin Donuts has exceeded expectations, with sales being three times what was expected. The success of Dunkin Donuts has helped to cover the Union's loss of revenue from Blimpie. At the conclusion of his report, Chuck announced that he will be retiring on November 1, 2013, having served the Student Union for 38 years.

STUDENT UNION GOALS FOR 2012-2013

The SUBOG Policy Council reviewed the document outlining the Union's goals for 2012-2013. See the document (attached) for details.

DISCUSSION OF STUDENT UNION BUDGET

The SUBOG Policy Council was given copies of the Student Union's budget proposal to be presented before the Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee later this month. Chuck clarified the difference between two Student Union fees that students are charged: The Student Union portion of the General University Fee (GUF) and the Student Union Building Fee. The Student Union's portion of GUF goes to support student services and activities in the Union. Any "leftover" funds from GUF's contribution to the Student Union are put towards the Student Union Reserve Account, which is utilized when operational updates to the Union are needed. One example of this was the flooring replacement for the Union's third floor, which took place over winter break. The cost of the project was approximately \$55,000, and the flooring is projected to last 25-30 years.



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Chuck emphasized that the Student Union has been a good steward of the funds it's been given through GUF. The Student Union Building Fee is a separate fee and is used to raise revenue to pay off a bond that went towards the Student Union's renovation and expansion project, which was undertaken a couple of years ago.

Action Items for the Senate

- Inform your constituents about the services available from Career Services.
- Inform your constituents about the two Student Union fees that they pay.



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Student Union Goals 2012-2013

Student Engagement

The Division of Student Affairs will provide programs, services, and co-curricular activities that enhance student learning, engage students in their academic and University experiences, and prepare students for the world of tomorrow.

- Review job descriptions for current student employee positions and update as needed
- Develop and implement student employee incentive and recognition program
- Develop student employee learning outcomes
- Develop an In-Service training program for Student Union Maintenance staff and Student Union Setup Crew. Elements will include safety training from the UConn Fire Department, UConn Police Department and Office of Code Compliance
- Develop and implement student employee program that will result in a 75% retention rate of eligible employees
- Develop and implement student employee training programs that will result in 15% of current eligible employees applying for leadership positions
- Develop and implement student employee program that will result in annual evaluations indicating students score a 4 out of 5 in "job knowledge" and "customer service" categories
- Explore opportunities for additional practicum sites for HESA students
- Explore the opportunity to submit a bid to host ACUI I-LEAD program

Effectiveness and Service Delivery

The Division of Student Affairs will support the institution's goals through a quality portfolio of services based on the principles of reliability, evidence based decision making, and effectiveness.

- Maintain an outstanding staff by filling all open positions and providing outstanding orientation and training programs for all employees
- Becoming proficient KUALI users and employ the program to benefit the Student Union. Review the work order management database for both internal and external work orders based on recent changes in KUALI and how the expenses are reported back to the Student Union
- Evaluate the staffing pattern for the Student Union Maintenance Staff and determine if the recent additions to the staff offer any opportunities to improve work flow across the three shifts
- Improve the maintenance staff office to enhance communication
- Upgrade large complex cleaning equipment (machinery)
- Create wish lists of equipment, replacements, upgrades, etc. for all venues/office spaces under our management; work on depleting the lists as funds become available
- Work with UConn Fire Marshall to ensure all set-ups in all managed venues meet egress compliance standards
- Work with campus safety and security offices to improve emergency preparedness and procedures; establish specific protocols for large scale emergencies i.e. hurricanes, power outages, etc.
- Develop mechanism/promotions to increase customer satisfaction survey return percentage to 30%



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- Provide outstanding customer service that results in an overall satisfaction score of 4 or higher on the customer satisfaction survey
- Research options to add seating to the Student Union Food Court. Investigate the possibility of replacing the seating in both the food court and second floor area overlooking the food court with the intent to increase seating feasible.
- Complete the RFP process and add a new food option in the Student Union Food Court
- Complete all aspects of the Student Union business continuity plan
- Research opportunities to give the Theatre a face-lift – lighting, ticket booth, backstage area, etc.
- Continue research methods to effectively use EMS software including Virtual EMS and enhance staff training
- Create a “Partners-model” monthly meeting for administrative assistants housed in the Student Union
- Continue to investigate new and innovative ways to decrease our carbon footprint and increase our sustainability efforts
- Implement Student Activities new on-line ticket purchase system

Diversity

The Division of Student Affairs will foster a campus community that provides a welcoming environment, attracts and supports a diverse student body and staff, promotes a diverse culture in which students live and learn, and prepares students to succeed in diverse global environment.

- Develop and implement a student employee training program that includes mandatory diversity and sexual harassment prevention training
- Create a marketing strategy and student employee recruitment process that will result in the staff makeup reflective of the campus diversity
- Add artwork and photos reflective of diversity; explore interesting art options for lounges and public spaces, including the Food Court
- Explore the options to add building signs in different languages

Community Engagement and Service

The Division of Student Affairs will provide opportunities for engagement between the Institution and the community that enhance learning, promote student engagement, foster connections with the Institution and provide services to the community.

- Create new Student Union brochure that features services and venues interesting to the community. Distribute them in prominent places such as Town Hall, The Oaks apartments, Senior Center, etc.
- Update the Student Union website to include room photos and floor plans
- Consider other programming options like Trick or Treat in order to enhance awareness and building traditions
- Complete Senior Square; enhance the Hillside entrance
- Encourage sharing of community information at the Information Center
- Plan and implement the campus-wide 60th Anniversary celebration
- Host an extremely successful ACUI Region 1 Annual Fall Conference

Alumni Involvement and Development



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The Division of Student Affairs will provide opportunities that engage alumni in the Institution, foster alumni development and enhance charitable giving support of Divisional programming and priorities.

- Support the 60th Anniversary Alumni Celebration planned by the Division of Student Affairs
- Explore social media opportunities to stay connected to Student Union former employees
- Develop a new data base system to track student employee alumni



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Graduate Faculty Council

20 February 2013

Chair: Kent E. Holsinger
Dean of the Graduate School
kent.holsinger@uconn.edu

Representative: Leland Aldridge
Parliamentarian
Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu

Committee Type: External

Website:
http://www.grad.uconn.edu/faculty/gfc_exec.html

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Discussion of draft revisions to the Graduate School's "Scholarly Integrity Policy"
- Discussion of draft revisions to the Graduate School's "Standards and Degree Requirements" section of the Graduate Catalog.
- Discussion of and resolution regarding the Versant Test for non-native English speakers to qualify for direct-contact teaching roles.

Detailed Report

SCHOLARLY INTEGRITY POLICY

A draft version of the document "Scholarly Integrity in Graduate Education and Research" was circulated and discussed. It defined Scholarly Misconduct and described how it would be dealt with in a course or outside of a course.

Inside of a course the procedure was nigh identical to that for undergraduates. Outside of a course, any person has standing as a Complainant, and will notify the appropriate Associate Dean of the Graduate School. The Associate Dean will review the complaint and determine whether the case should be referred to a Hearing Committee.



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Hearing Committees would have a membership made up of two members of the graduate faculty and one graduate student, all selected by the Associate Dean. The accused may have one support person whom they may consult but who may not participate directly in the hearing.

The GFC's discussion centered mainly on the definitions of scholarly misconduct, largely about whether intentionality was a necessary condition for plagiarism, and the provability of intent. Also discussed was whether the Complainant and the accused should be allowed to directly question one another during the Hearing, the general consensus was that they should not.

A revised draft will be drawn up and resubmitted to the GFC for review.

STANDARDS AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The requirement of the timing of the submission of the Dissertation Proposal, discussed at the previous GFC meeting, has been downgraded from "must" to "should," while staying materially the same. This is intended to have a one-year grace period, and the consequence for not being in compliance will be regular reminder emails to the student and the student's thesis advisor.

Also changed was the amount of non-degree work allowed for Master's students, changed from six credits to 25% of the total amount of credits taken. As well, the Residence requirement for PhD students, that during at least two consecutive terms the PhD student have no other employment than working on their dissertation or dissertation research, was eliminated entirely.

VERSANT (PHONE) TEST

Dean Holsinger brought up the Versant Test and that our international graduate students taking it had a roughly 50% failure rate. It was the strong and widespread opinion of the graduate faculty that this represented a failure of the Versant Test and the procedures for its use, and not a failure of our students' ability to communicate in English.

The GFC passed a motion directing Dean Holsinger to investigate and report options for correcting this problem back to the GFC. (Minutes have not been made official, so official text of the resolution is unavailable at this time.

Action Items for the Senate

- As all three of these items are of direct relevance to graduate students, any thoughts from the Senate should be shared during the Issues Forum
- Any strong conviction of the Senate could be recorded in an official resolution to bring back to the GFC



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Vice Provost for University Libraries Search Committee

19 February 2013

Chair: John Elliott
School of Business, Dean
dean@business.uconn.edu

Representative: Safet Berisa
Vice President
safet.berisa@uconn.edu

Website: [N/A](#)

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- N/A

Detailed Report

N/A.

Action Items for the Senate

- N/A



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Provost's Library Advisory Committee

20 February 2013

Chair: Sylvia Schafer
History Dept.
sylvia.schafer@uconn.edu

Representative: Mary Goodrich
Linguistics graduate student
mary.goodrich@uconn.edu

Website: [N/A](#)

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Demonstration of UConn Virtual PC software (<http://vpc.uconn.edu/>)
- Demonstration of Connecticut State Data Center website (<http://ctsd.c.uconn.edu/>)

Detailed Report

N/A

Action Items for the Senate

- N/A



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Student Trustee Election Committee

15 February 2013

Chair: Christine Wilson
Director of Student Activities
Christine.wilson@uconn.edu
[u](#)

Representative: Leland Aldridge
Parliamentarian
Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu

Committee Type: External

Website: [N/A](#)

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Candidates for the undergraduate seat on the Board of Trustees were confirmed.

Detailed Report

N/A

Action Items for the Senate

N/A



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Joint Elections Committee

13 February 2013

Chair: Becca Herman
Student Activities
becca.herman@uconn.edu

Representative: Steven Mollmann
Senator, English
steven.mollmann@uconn.edu

Website: <http://www.elections.uconn.edu/>

Committee Type: External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- Candidate application. was underway as of the meeting. There were then 0 applications for at-large Senator.

Detailed Report

JOINT ELECTIONS

Not further information than the overview report.

Action Items for the Senate

- NO



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Student Welfare Committee

15 February 2013

Chair: Lawrence Goodheart
Prof. of History
Lawrence.goodheart@uconn.edu

Representative: Ian Gutierrez
Senator, Psychology
ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu

Website: [URL Address](#)

Committee Type: GSS Internal/Standing

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? Yes No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes No

- The Student Welfare Committee has recommended the implementation of a ban on smoking within a minimum of 25 feet from all campus buildings.
- The committee has expressed informal support for the formation of a Graduate Employee Union.
- A representative from the Graduate School will be speaking to the Student Welfare Committee about the committee's concerns regarding graduate student welfare on March 8th.

Detailed Report

Proposed Changes to Smoking Policy

Current state and University of Connecticut campus smoking policy prohibits smoking indoors, with the exception of designated indoor smoking areas. Some buildings on campus (e.g., library, residential life, student union) have bans on smoking within 25 feet of entrances. This "25 foot" policy, however, does not apply to all campus buildings as is not a formal University policy.

The Student Welfare Committee has recommended to the University Senate and the president's office that the University implement a ban on smoking within a minimum of 25 feet from all campus buildings (not just entrances) and air intakes. Such a policy would formalize the 25 feet restriction across campus and provide the University with recourse for penalizing repeat offenders. Furthermore, the Student Welfare Committee has proposed that an educational publicity campaign be implemented in tandem with changes to the smoking policy. This campaign would be designed to alert students, faculty, and staff to the dangers of tobacco smoke on health and the campus environment.



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Some members of the committee still favor a campus wide smoking ban. Such a ban, however, would require all six unions on campus to approve its enactment, which would be unlikely. A campus-wide smoking ban would, in all likelihood, require Connecticut state legislature to pass a bill allowing state universities to enact such a ban.

Graduate Student Welfare and Unionization

Graduate student welfare will be the focus of the Student Welfare Committee's next meeting, to be held on March 8th, 2013. Thomas Peters, from the Graduate School, has been invited to address the committee on this topic.

I also received more encouragement from the committee with regards to organizing the graduate student body into an employee union. Kathy Sanner, head of the University of Connecticut's Professional Employee Association (UCPEA), gave me contact information for Melodie Peters, who is a former Connecticut state senator and the current president of the Connecticut chapter of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), whom Kathy said would be more than happy to assist the graduate student body organize a union under AFT's auspices.

Organizing a graduate union is a contentious proposal that could face opposition. It is my recommendation to GSS that an internal committee be formed to research and consider the benefits of unionization, the obstacles that such an endeavor might face, and the steps that graduates at the University of Connecticut would need to take to create a graduate employee union. Following careful consideration from this internal committee, the graduate body can determine the best course of action on this matter.

Action Items for the Senate

- Add "Smoking Policy" to the Issues Forum for the February 20th meeting for discussion.
- Form an internal committee to GSS: "Graduate Union Exploratory Committee."



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Smoking Ban (Draft Feb. 19, 2013)

I. Whereas the existing University of Connecticut Smoking Policy --

<http://policy.uconn.edu/?p=1038> -- is based on Connecticut State, *CGS 19a-342*, such that:

- A. Student Housing Contract -- stipulates no smoking within 25 feet of dorms;
- B. Library – no smoking within 25 feet of building with signs posted;
- C. Student Health Services – no smoking with 25 feet of building with signs posted;
- D. Student Union – no smoking within 25 feet of building with signs posted;
- E. Child Labs – no smoking in or on the grounds of the Child Labs or on field trips where children are present;
- F. *Contractor Environmental Health and Safety Manual* – prohibits smoking in University of Connecticut buildings, around flammable materials and near open windows, doors and air intakes.

II. Whereas as the American Medical Association, among other authorities, identifies smoking and second hand smoke directly with the genesis of disease and premature death:

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/public-health/promoting-healthy-lifestyles/smoking-tobacco-control.page/>;

III. Whereas of January 2013 over 1,000 colleges and universities have adopted 100% smoke free policies throughout the entire campus, including the nearby University of Massachusetts:

<http://www.no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=447/> and http://umass.edu/senate/fs/docs/SEN_DOC_No_11-058.pdf/;

IV. Whereas epidemiological studies, e.g. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21851836/>, document a smoking ban on university campuses reduces smoking by students compared to campuses without such a smoking ban;

VI. Whereas the University of Connecticut is committed to providing a safe and healthy working and learning environment for the students, staff, and faculty on its campus;

Resolved: that the University Senate moves that the existing smoking policy be modified to prohibit smoking a minimum distance of 25 feet from any and all university buildings or intakes



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[Alternative to the above: Resolved: that the University Senate moves that the existing smoking policy be modified to a 100% smoke free campus that eliminates smoking in all indoor and outdoor areas across the entire campus.]

Resolved: that the University Senate requests that the President's Council convene a taskforce to revise the current policy and implement the new policy as stated above, which should include an educational campaign that facilitates a culture on campus that seeks to discourage smoking according to the best medical guidance.