



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Minutes 27 March 2013

- I. **Call to Order at 7:09 pm.**  
Regular meeting with Vice President Safet Beriša presiding, Secretary Erin Eighan recording.
- II. **Recognition of Senators**
- III. **Special Guest: Amy Donahue, Mike Kirk, and Kent Holsinger regarding the New Rec Center**
  - a. Proposal for a new student recreation facility on campus.
  - b. Why is the University considering this now? The primary reason above all is because the current facility is completely inadequate—it's small, limited, crowded, and genuinely unpleasant to be in. It's been that way for as long as its existed. Every year we hear students talk about how bad it is. We've come close in the past to address this issue. It's been building over about 10 years. The other part of it has to do with competition. Most of the universities we compete with for students have generally modern recreation facilities. It won't determine whether or not students come, but it will be a strike against us if we don't have something on par with what most others have.
  - c. This will be a large multi-level building that will house anything that could fall under the banner of fitness. It will have a large swimming pool, a track, cardio level, tennis courts, squash courts, rock climbing, juice bar, yoga rooms, spinning rooms, offices for wellness and nutrition—pretty much anything you can conjure that has to do with fitness and wellness would be housed in this building.
  - d. What will the cost be? Generally there are three ways we build things on campus. First, use UConn 2000 money. At this point, that money has been spent and the portion that has not been spent has been allocated for other purposes. Second, a capital investment by the state to build a specific facility. That's not a possibility this year or in the foreseeable future because of the fiscal state of Connecticut. Compounding that is that we also have the Next Generation CT before the legislature this year. Even if NextGen CT hadn't been proposed, there wouldn't be any cause for the university to think it could get that money out of the state. Third, a fee structure for capital building projects at the University. The University would get a 30-year bond and pay it off once a month plus interest. If we want to build a \$100 million building, the fee for undergrads would be \$400-500 a year, for graduates it would be between \$300-400 a year. This is modeled on the GUF fee to pay for recreation services. These are ballpark estimates.
  - e. The process of fee approval is as follows. The University makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees and the Board of Trustees would have to approve the fees. There will be two "town hall meetings" on April 16 and 17 (notification will go out this week). Richard Gray, VP for Administration and CFO, Mun Coi, Cynthia Costanza, and the head of architecture at UConn will present the plan at these town hall sessions. The University, based on these town hall sessions, will determine whether or not to go to



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the Board of Trustees and make their recommendation. The Board won't vote that day and won't discuss it that day, but there is a public comment section for the Board of Trustees to hear public perspectives.

- f. Our purpose tonight is to explain the University's thinking process as they're working through this plan.
- g. The State only covers 26-27% of the University's total budget. The rest comes from student tuition, room and board, and fees.
- h. We don't have a fee-for-service model for most fees that we have. And every single time this has come up in the past, the argument against a fee-for-service model is based on town financial structures.
- i. It will likely be on the former Farmer Brown's lot.
- j. The University wants to build something that will last for a few generations.
- k. The University understands our concerns about the high amount of fees we pay. If the University does approve it, the administration would like to hear from student advisory groups that will work with the University's master planner to make sure the space meets their needs.
- l. This isn't a done deal, it is a conversation. To the extent that you're concerned one way or the other, it's important that you come to the town meetings. You can also come to the Board meeting in April.
- m. The good news is that stipends next year will go up 4% across the board.
- n. Your in a position of weighing in in a transgenerational way. Some of you may still be here. The fees will likely hit around 2016.
- o. Discussion
  - i. Senator Shabtay: I am in support of this kind of facility and am glad there is being action taken. The fees at UMass didn't go up and the way they paid for it is through fundraising. Why is the University not following a similar plan?
    - 1. Mike Kirk: This is something that may be better answered at the town hall meeting by the financial planner for this project. My understanding is that it's easier to raise money for athletics and academics than what this would be, student services.
  - ii. Senator Charrette: If the idea doesn't pass muster at the state level, I worry about precedent. One of the things graduate students consider when they're considering attending UConn is the fee schedule in relation to the stipend level. When you want to raise the attractiveness of the campus, it's clearly catered to undergraduate students. It's concerning that it doesn't show a lot of consideration towards graduate students and what entices them to matriculate.



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1. Mike Kirk: Ideally it would be built in such a way as it would be attractive to you. Regarding your first point, the problem is that there is a degree of UConn investment fatigue at the state level.
2. Kent Holsinger: The stipends are increasing.
- iii. Senator Wong: I understand logically why there's this need for a new rec center. But it's kind of shocking to me that we pay over \$1000 per semester in fees. By adding \$300/yr and that's a significant amount of money. My tuition per quarter at the University of California was around that. I live off campus and my apartment complex has its own gym. I can see if there was more attractive graduate housing on campus. That would make this project more agreeable to them.
- iv. Senator Kilroy: We've asked and have not received any indication of how many graduate students use the current facilities. The percentage could tell you something about where we're going.
- v. Senator Sharpsteen: Do you have any plans on assuaging the difficulty we face now. Is there anything you can do for them now in terms of not having an adequate gym now. You might be able to get them on board now if you, for example, open up the athletic facilities for them now. Is there anything you can do to open up gyms for us or do something for us?
  1. Kent Holsinger: If you or anyone else might be willing to sit down with us and come up with some options in this regard, that would be helpful.
- vi. Visitor: The funding for the UMass rec center was only a \$50 million facility. Graduate students at UMass actually pay a fee specifically because they know most graduate students don't live on campus and because of their financial situation. Comparable facilities seem to have a lot of differences. So I would suggest a different comparison point or a different metric.
  1. Mike Kirk: The reason we would have to charge graduate students is because the bond system requires that we have a secure form of payment each month.
- vii. Senator Charrette: Graduate students in this financial climate make decisions not only on the quality of the institution based on the stipend and the cost of living. UConn is not competitive for this reason.
- p. If people have more questions, they should write directly to the Board of Trustees.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes: 6 March 2013

- a. Approved.

#### V. Executive Committee Reports



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- a. President – Chantelle Messier
  - i. Executive Committee
  - ii. Vice President for Student Affairs
    - 1. Search Committee
      - a. Appealing to the Senate for a volunteer who would be willing to serve on the search committee: April 9, May 27, May 30 or 31, June 8, July 1-3.
      - b. Please contact Chantelle.
    - 2. Meeting with Search Consultant: April 9 @ 10:45-11:15 (School of Business Board Room 321)
      - a. RSVP by Friday by contacting Chantelle.
  - iii. Parking Update
    - 1. UConn has purchased the Farmer Brown lot. So for now the lot is open for anyone who has a commuter permit.
    - 2. If you still have parking issues, please let us know.
  - iv. Graduate Student Families
    - 1. Please see survey details in the Addendum.
    - 2. Talk to those in your constituency and ask them whether they would be interested in forming an organization or support group for graduate students with families.
- b. Vice President – Safet Beriša
  - i. Student Life Committee
  - ii. Appeals to Decisions of the Finance Committee
- c. Treasurer – Ian Yue
  - i. Finance Committee
    - 1. Updates
      - a. The Committee went through a second round of preliminary budget cuts and will be holding Budget Hearing sessions starting tomorrow.
      - b. The Committee has also reviewed a Tier-II petition, but Treasurer Yue cannot get into the details due to confidentiality reasons.
    - 2. Budget Hearing Schedule: 3/28, 4/9, 4/10, 4/11
  - ii. Monthly Financial Report for February 2013
    - 1. Please see addendum for details.
- d. Secretary – Erin Eighan



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- i. Public Relations Committee
    - 1. University Fee Survey Analysis
  - ii. GSS Meeting Schedule for Spring: 4/10, 4/24
  - iii. Blog, *The Commons*: [gssuconn.wordpress.com](http://gssuconn.wordpress.com)
  - iv. Contact GSS: [gssuconn@gmail.com](mailto:gssuconn@gmail.com)
  - v. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
- i. Activities Committee
  - ii. Ted's Social Night: April 16
    - 1. May add an activity like karaoke. If you have a suggestion for another activity, please contact Anish.
  - iii. Jorge Cham, creator of PhD comics, will be coming to speak tomorrow, March 28. If interested in joining him for a reception after the talk, please register online. The talk is at 5:30 in the Student Union Theater. After the talk is a book signing, after that is the reception.
  - iv. If you have any ideas for other social events for this semester, please contact Anish.
- f. Parliamentarian – Leland Aldridge
- i. Procedures Committee
    - 1. At-Large Election Results
      - a. Mike Robillard and Joey Kopriva were elected.
  - ii. Fee Referendum Results
    - 1. The results of the referendum were 45.4% were in favor, 54.6% were opposed. The referendum result will be used as a piece of evidence for the Student Fee Advisory Committee's final recommendation.
  - iii. Presidential Pay
  - iv. Executive Committee Elections
    - 1. Voting will occur at our next meeting. All positions are open. With the exception of the President, all positions are open to all graduate students who pay the Grad Activity Fee. The President must have had at least one year experience in the Senate.
  - v. Appeal to Finance Committee Decisions
    - 1. The appeals process is not the appropriate place to deal with disagreements on the merits of events, it is for taking care of the Finance Committee acting outside the bounds of its powers or the



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Finance Committee acting on incomplete information. Please see the Finance Policies and Procedures section 5.7.1.1 or 5.7.1.2.

2. Please be explicit as to which grounds you are appealing on: 5.7.1.1 or 5.7.1.2.

#### VI. External Committee Reports

- a. University Senate – Safet Berisa
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
  - ii. If you'd like to go to a Meet and Greet with the new Vice President for Research, Jeffrey Seeman: Tuesday, April 2 @ 3:30-4:30 pm (North Reading Room, Wilbur Cross).
- b. University Senate Executive Committee – Chantelle Messier
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- c. Graduate Faculty Council – Leland Aldridge
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- d. Student Trustee Election Committee – Leland Aldridge
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- e. Student Union Partners – Safet Berisa
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- f. University Senate Scholastic Standards Committee – Aidalí Aponte-Avilés
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.
- g. Faculty Standards Committee – Danielle Wong
  - i. Please see full report in the Addendum.

#### VII. Issues Forum

- a. Senator Kilroy: Change to Federal work study. The graduate students in EEB just became aware of this this afternoon. Both undergraduates and graduates are eligible for this if you are a US citizen and under a certain income level. As of this summer, it is supposed to be funded by the departments. The cost to the EEB department is \$30,000 annually (including graduates and undergraduates). Twenty-five graduate students in our department get \$2000 in the summer through federal work study and the cost to the department is \$12,500 to keep the summer funding going. The faculty want to keep this going, but they will have to reallocate funds on the spot, so there is no guarantee that they are going to be able to do this or sustain it long-term. Ten grads get work study during the academic year (up to \$5000 over the course of a calendar year). That's going to be cut entirely in our department. This change just happened with no one being consulted. We wanted to bring this up and see if other departments will feel the effects of this.



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- i. Senator Johnson: I rely on work study for supplemental income in Psychology.
  - ii. Senator Updhyaya: This is also an issue in my department.
  - iii. Senator Washart: The decision has already been made, so what should we do about it now? Senator Kilroy can you speak to this?
  - iv. Senator Kilroy: I wanted to make sure that everyone is aware of this. Please email me if you get feedback from your department.
- b. Senator Tomchek: The Parking Advisory Committee is having a meeting next week, so please email me if you have any concerns you'd like me to address to the committee.
- c. Senator Sharpsteen: Who decides the policy and procedure for the Executive Committee?
  - i. Parliamentarian Aldridge: The Senate has final say over what is in the Finance Policies and Procedures. Who literally writes it is mainly the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee, but there's nothing that says changes must originate there.
- d. Senator Ross: My group is disappointed about the honorarium cap which was reduced from \$1500 to \$1000 and now from \$1000 to \$750. We should consider investing more money in this. I think we should be devoting more money to this rather than events like Thanksgiving Dinner.
  - i. Senator Charrette: We have to balance our desires and wants with what everyone else wants. A lot of people want Thanksgiving Dinner and Grad Prom.
  - ii. Senator Ross: Those should be a pay-as-you-go event. Regarding the implication that in order to make changes we should join the Finance Committee, I would argue that information about the Finance Committee and Graduate Student Senate should be made readily available in September before the GSS starts.
  - iii. Parliamentarian Aldridge: We have that information already available. We already have training sessions with the budget.
  - iv. Senator Kilroy: To be fair, one of the major issues organizations have is how bad the SOLID training is and how it's geared towards undergraduates.
  - v. Senator Wong: It might be helpful to have a Robert's Rules of Order cheat sheet or a summary.
  - vi. Treasurer Yue: I want to touch on three points. First, one of the requirements for all groups receiving funding from GSS is that they have two people on my personal email list that I send all finance-related information to. I do communicate with these people multiple times per month, so I'm sometimes surprised that the information I pass along doesn't get delivered to the rest of the members in these group. I do also hold information sessions that cover



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everything from reimbursements to the actual budgeting process. We do make an effort to make this information available to everyone, including posting finance-related information to the GSS website. If there are suggestions to make this communication of information better, let me know. The way I see it, I'm doing my best to get this information out to you so unless you give us specific methods or information for how to improve, what we're doing now is the best we can do. Secondly, whatever the Finance Committee recommends to the Senate is only a recommendation. The Senate ultimately decides funding. Finally, having a GSS orientation session is something that Exec has been considering.

- vii. Senator Shabtay: I just wanted to say that next year my organization is going to go through a leadership transition. Part of my responsibility as the president of my organization is to make that transition as smooth as possible. If you're going through a transition, too, then you should identify who your possible replacements will be and make these transition plans now while we still have two meetings left.

#### VIII. Unfinished Business

- a. GSS 12/13-18: That the Graduate Student Senate amend Section 3.2.1 of the Finance Policies and Procedures, which outlines the membership and organization of the Finance Committee, from "five elected members" to "a minimum of five elected members."
  - i. Motioned by Senator Johnson. Seconded.
  - ii. Recommendation by the Executive Committee: Historically, it's taken a lot of effort to fill even the minimum number of seats in the Finance Committee. Having the possibility of adding members throughout the year could be disruptive to the process of deciding budget and how the Committee makes timely decisions. The Executive Committee would recommend against the adoption of this amendment.
  - iii. Senator Wong: When these elections happened in the beginning of the year, a lot of Senators did not know what the Finance Committee was. I know you said it might disrupt the process, but it should be the new person's responsibility to catch up.
  - iv. Senator Charrette: GSS serves mostly as a social community. The only area of politics is in the distribution of money. Your job as senators is to advocate for your constituency. As we move from November to March and we get closer to the decisions of the Finance Committee, the motivations for joining are subject. You will be advocating for your constituency. I fear that if we advocate for the





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expansion of membership, we're going to get people advocating for their constituencies not for the graduate student body generally.

- v. Senator Sharpsteen: I wouldn't necessarily be advocating for Philosophy, but for a different emphasis on the mission of the Finance Committee. I think academic initiatives should be privileged.
- vi. Senator Ross: My only suggestion would be to take a fixed percentage of the GSS budget and limit that to social events.
- vii. Senator Aponte: I don't think the solution is to add more people to the committee.
- viii. Senator Wong: Maybe have a cut-off point: by a certain time in the academic year, the Finance Committee should be established. For example, perhaps by the first meeting of the spring semester.
- ix. Senator Mollmann: MOTION that the amendment under consideration from "a minimum of five elected members" to "five to seven elected members."
  - 1. Seconded.
  - 2. VOTE: Motion fails.
- x. Senator Charrette: I don't see what is gained by adding people to this. I really think this will end up being that Senators want their interests represented on the committee. It all goes back to the Senate anyway. If someone can come up with a concrete reason for why increasing the number of members on the committee can accomplish the goals you want it to, then bring that forward.
- xi. Senator Cash: The excuse that you don't understand the policies and procedures is unacceptable. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with them.
- xii. VOTE: Motion fails.

#### IX. New Business

- a. GSS 12/13-19: That the Graduate Student Senate amend its Financial Policies and Procedures as attached.
  - i. Please see Addendum for amendments.
  - ii. VOTE: Motion passes.
- b. GSS 12/13-20: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$350.00 to the Linguistics Club at UConn for their event, "ECO 5."
  - i. Please see Addendum for a summary of the allocation request.
  - ii. VOTE: Motion passes.
- c. GSS 12/13-21: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$150.00 to the Activities Budget for the co-sponsorship with the Writing Center of a Graduate Student Writing Retreat held in March.



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- i. Please see Addendum for a summary of the allocation request.
  - ii. VOTE: Motion passes.
- d. GSS 12/13-22: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$150.00 to the Activities Budget for the co-sponsorship with the Writing Center of a Graduate Student Writing Retreat held in April.
  - i. Please see Addendum for a summary of the allocation request.
  - ii. VOTE: Motion passes.
- e. GSS 12/13-23: That the Graduate Student Senate uphold the Linguistic Club at UConn's appeal of the decision of the Finance Committee regarding the NELS 44 event, in the amount of \$350.00 in expense code 615 (Contractual Services) and \$2040 in expense code 624 (Travel).
  - i. Please see additional documents in the Addendum.
  - ii. Executive Committee Recommendation
    - 1. Per FPP 5.7.2, the Executive Committee deemed the Linguistic Club at UConn's appeal as valid under the contention that "materially relevant information is available now that was not available at the time of the decision" (FPP 5.7.1.2). The Executive Committee chose not to modify the amount of the appeal.
    - 2. Given that the Linguistics Club at UConn is proposing to use UConn graduate student funds to offset the costs of this conference, and given the fact that the registration cost of the conference is sizable enough that it could potentially be prohibitive to a UConn graduate student wanting to attend the NELS 44 event (FPP 1.4), the Executive Committee asks that the Linguistics Club at UConn speak to whether it would, if funded, use the GSS contribution to solely offset the NELS registration costs of UConn-only graduate students.
  - iii. Senator Washart: Approximately how many UConn graduate students will attend?
    - 1. 50-60 from Linguistics, Cognitive Science, Psychology, Philosophy
  - iv. Senator Sharpsteen: Because this is probably a pretty significant decision, I would motion to postpone this to the next meeting.
    - 1. Seconded.
    - 2. Motion passes.
- f. Finance Committee Elections
  - i. Senator Charrette nominates Senator Sharpsteen. Accepted.
    - 1. VOTE: 10 votes in favor, 3 votes opposed. Senator Sharpsteen is elected to the Finance Committee.



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- g. Nominations for Executive Committee
  - i. Senator Wong nominates Jason Charrette for President. Accepted.
  - ii. Senator Steve Mollmann nominates himself for Vice President. Accepted.
  - iii. Senator Steve Mollmann nominates Anish Kurian for Activities Director. Accepted.
  - iv. Senator Shawn Washart nominates himself for Vice President. Accepted.
  - v. Activities Director Kurian nominates Safet Berisa for President. Accepted.
  - vi. Treasurer Yue nominates Jing Jin. Accepted.
  - vii. Senator Sharpsteen nominates himself for Parliamentarian. Accepted.
  - viii. Senator Wong nominates herself for Secretary. Accepted.

**X. Adjournment at 9:51 pm.**



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### Addendum: Attendance 27 March 2013

Name	Email	Constituency	Role
Chantelle Messier	<a href="mailto:chantelle.messier@gmail.com">chantelle.messier@gmail.com</a>	Exec. Committee	President
Safet Beriša	<a href="mailto:safet.berisa@uconn.edu">safet.berisa@uconn.edu</a>	Exec. Committee	Vice President
Ian Yue	<a href="mailto:ian.yue@uconn.edu">ian.yue@uconn.edu</a>	Exec. Committee	Treasurer
Erin Eighan	<a href="mailto:eeighan@gmail.com">eeighan@gmail.com</a>	Exec. Committee	Secretary
Leland Aldridge	<a href="mailto:laldridge@gmail.com">laldridge@gmail.com</a>	Exec. Committee	Parliamentarian
Anish Kurian	<a href="mailto:anish.m.kurian@gmail.com">anish.m.kurian@gmail.com</a>	Exec. Committee	Activities Director
Aidalí Aponte-Avilés	<a href="mailto:aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu">aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu</a>	LANGSA	Senator
Shawn Washart	<a href="mailto:shawn.washart@uconn.edu">shawn.washart@uconn.edu</a>	Higher Ed./Student Affairs	Senator
Joey Kopriva	<a href="mailto:joey.kopriva@uconn.edu">joey.kopriva@uconn.edu</a>	At-Large	Senator
Michael Hutson	<a href="mailto:michael.hutson@uconn.edu">michael.hutson@uconn.edu</a>	EEB	Senator
Hayley Kilroy Mollmann	<a href="mailto:hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu">hayley.kilroy@uconn.edu</a>	EEB	Senator
Steven Mollmann	<a href="mailto:steven.mollmann@uconn.edu">steven.mollmann@uconn.edu</a>	English	Senator
Ryan Tomchek	<a href="mailto:ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu">ryan.tomchek@uconn.edu</a>	Math	Senator
Salman Alzayani	<a href="mailto:salman.alzayani@uconn.edu">salman.alzayani@uconn.edu</a>	At-Large	Senator
Talia Shabtay	<a href="mailto:talia.shabtay@uconn.edu">talia.shabtay@uconn.edu</a>	Art History	Senator
Micah Cash	<a href="mailto:micahcash@gmail.com">micahcash@gmail.com</a>	Studio Art	Senator
Matthew Ross	<a href="mailto:matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu">matthew.b.ross@uconn.edu</a>	Economics	Senator
Troy Messick	<a href="mailto:troy.messick@uconn.edu">troy.messick@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Senator
Beata Moskal	<a href="mailto:beaty.moskal@uconn.edu">beaty.moskal@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Representative
Peter Smith	<a href="mailto:peter.w.smith@uconn.edu">peter.w.smith@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Representative
Noah Sharpsteen	<a href="mailto:noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu">noah.sharpsteen@uconn.edu</a>	Philosophy	Senator
Mike Robillard	<a href="mailto:michael.robillard@uconn.edu">michael.robillard@uconn.edu</a>	At-Large	Senator
Kunal Dolas	<a href="mailto:kunal.dolas@uconn.edu">kunal.dolas@uconn.edu</a>	TARANG	Representative
Rahul Narayan	<a href="mailto:Rahul.narayan@uconn.edu">Rahul.narayan@uconn.edu</a>	At-Large	Senator
Jason Charrette	<a href="mailto:jason.charrette@uconn.edu">jason.charrette@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	Senator



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### Addendum: Attendance

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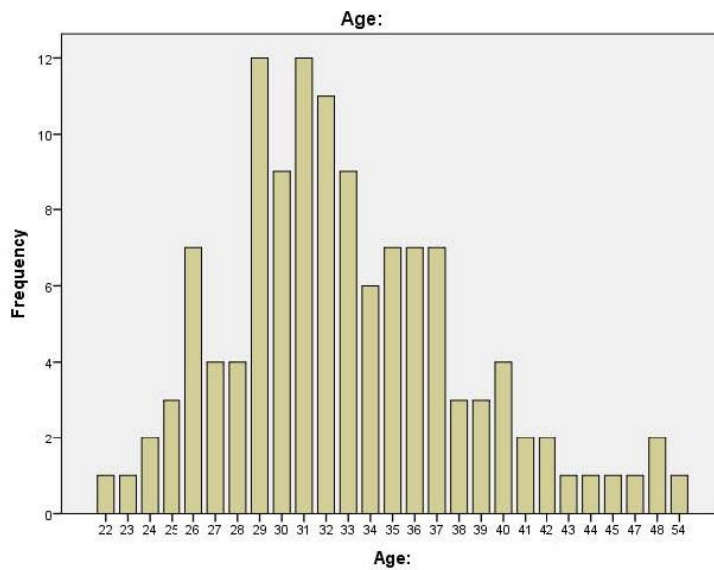
Daniel Wong	<a href="mailto:Daniel.wong@uconn.edu">Daniel.wong@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	Senator
Matthew Parent	<a href="mailto:matthew.parent@uconn.edu">matthew.parent@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	Representative
Indu Upadhyaya	<a href="mailto:indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu">indu.upadhyaya@uconn.edu</a>	Animal Science	Senator
Jing Jin	<a href="mailto:jin.jin@uconn.edu">jin.jin@uconn.edu</a>	Material Science	Representative
Eric Njuki	<a href="mailto:eric.njuki@uconn.edu">eric.njuki@uconn.edu</a>	ARE	Senator
Joshua Ang	N/A	Economics	Representative
Kristina Reardon	<a href="mailto:Kristina.reardon@uconn.edu">Kristina.reardon@uconn.edu</a>	LCL	Senator
Song Li	<a href="mailto:song.li@uconn.edu">song.li@uconn.edu</a>	Chemistry	Senator
Michelle San Pedro	<a href="mailto:michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu">michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu</a>	Anthropology	Senator
Austin Johnson	<a href="mailto:austinj@gmail.com">austinj@gmail.com</a>	Education	Senator
Mary Goodrich	<a href="mailto:mary.goodrich@uconn.edu">mary.goodrich@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Representative
Yevhen Rutovtyskyy	<a href="mailto:rutovtyskyy@yahoo.com">rutovtyskyy@yahoo.com</a>	At-Large	Senator
Mike Winder	<a href="mailto:mhwinder@gmail.com">mhwinder@gmail.com</a>	Physics	Senator



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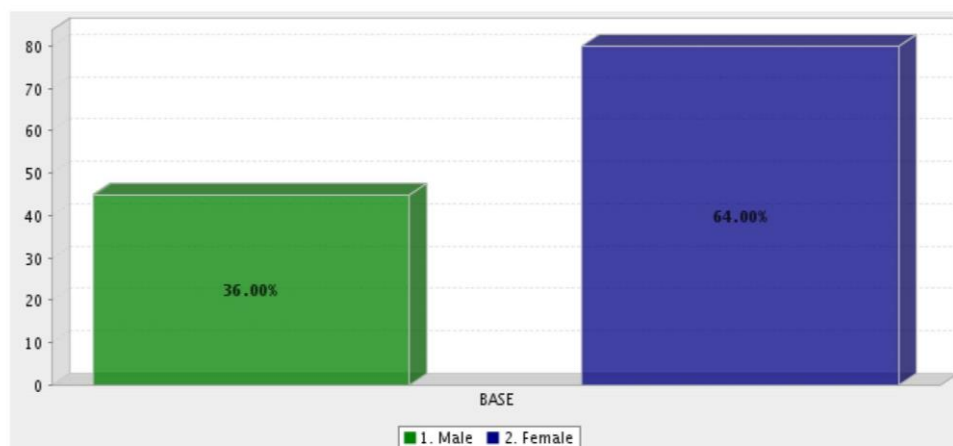
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### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013



Mean age = 32.97

### Sex



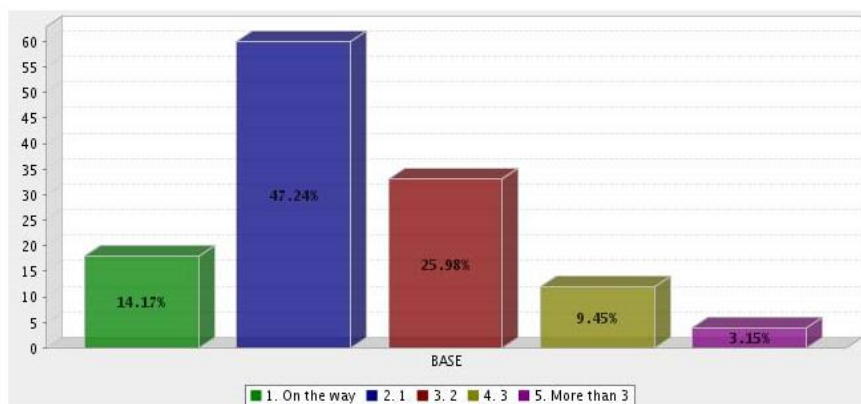


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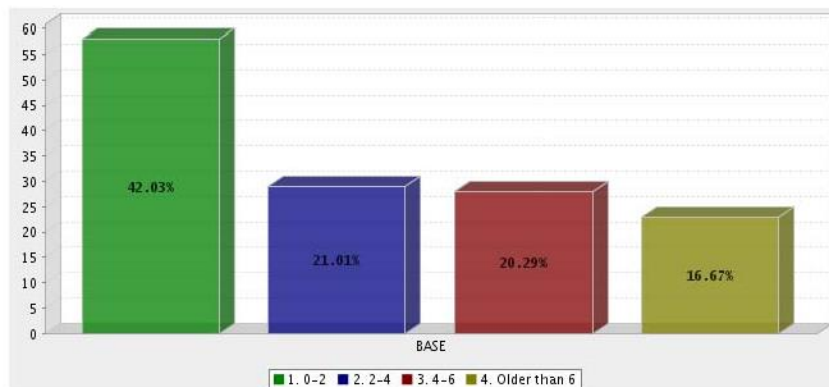
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### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

#### How many children do you have?



#### Child's age



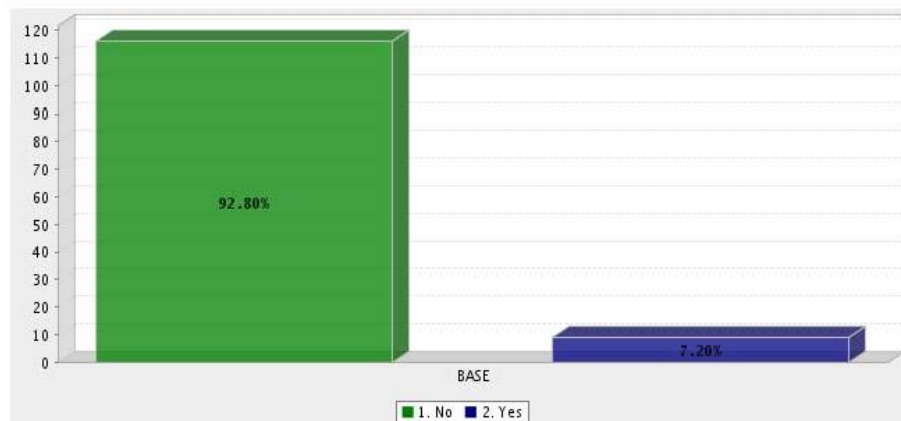


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

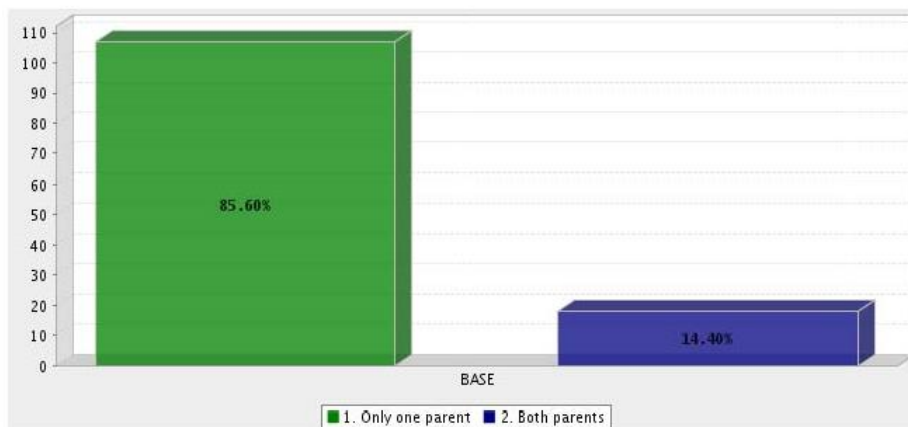
*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

#### Are you a single parent?



#### Are both parents in the family graduate students?





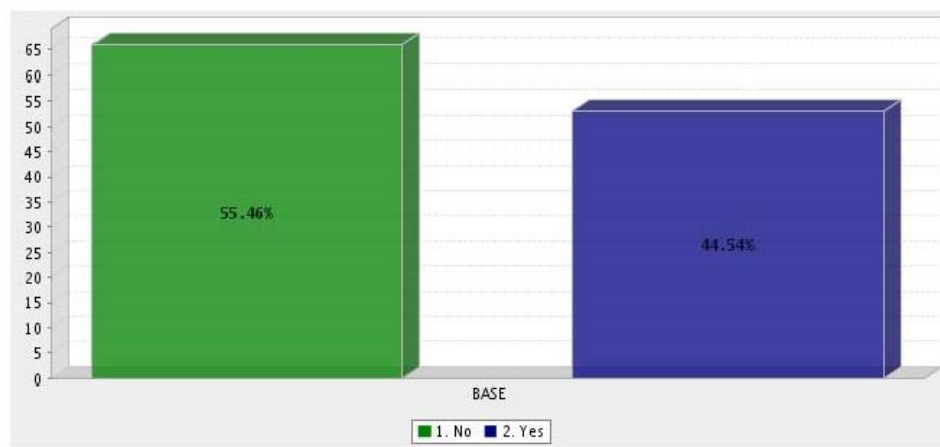


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

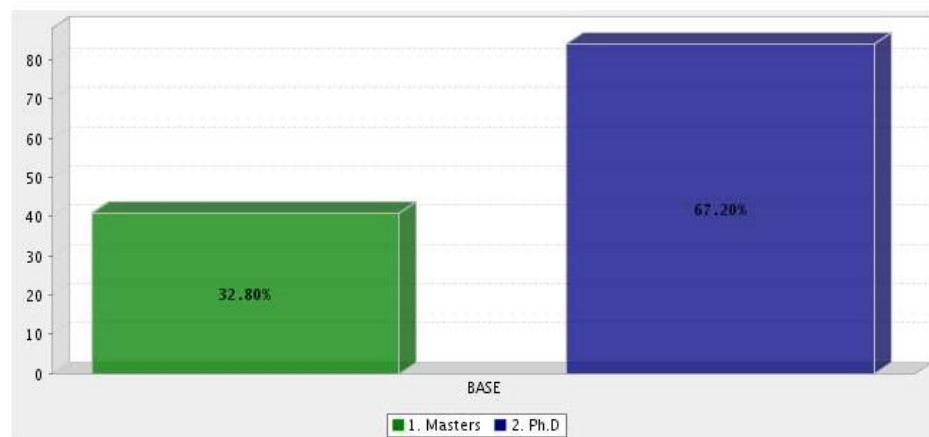
*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

**Does your child/ren go to daycare?**



**What level of graduate studies are you in?**



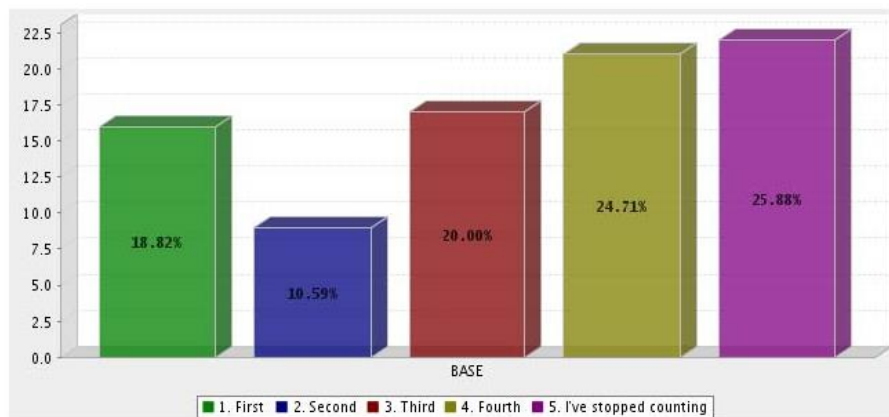


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

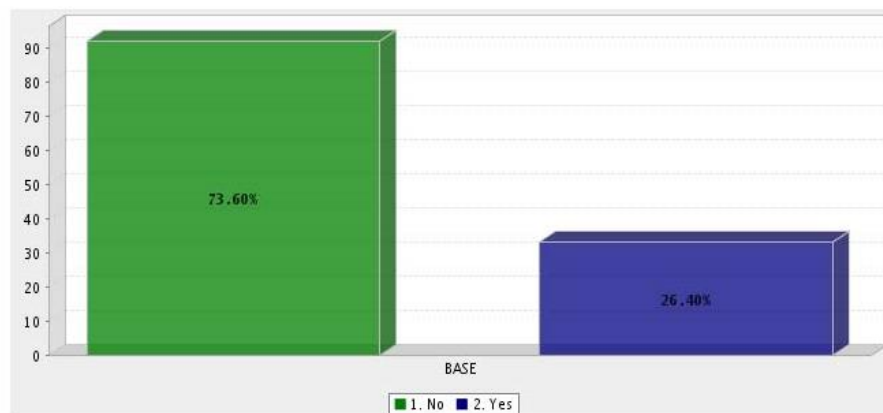
*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

**If Ph.D, what year?**



**Are you an international student?**



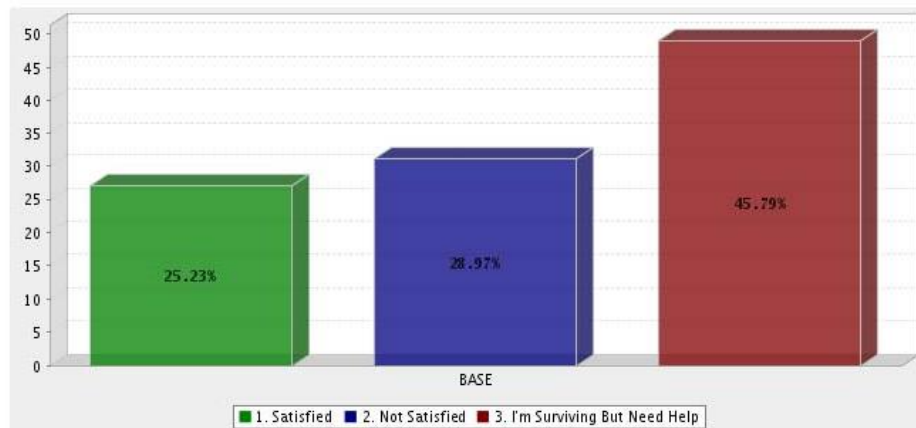


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

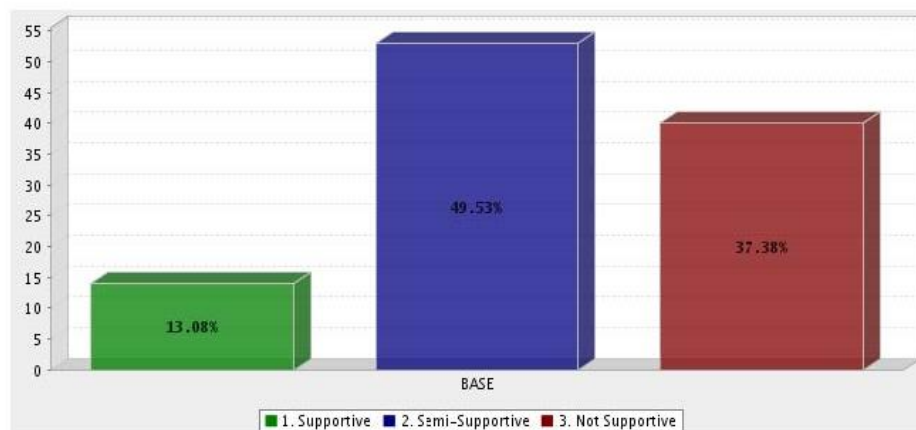
*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

**How satisfied are you with your ability to balance family and your educational commitments?**



**How supportive do you feel the UCONN community is of your parental commitments?**



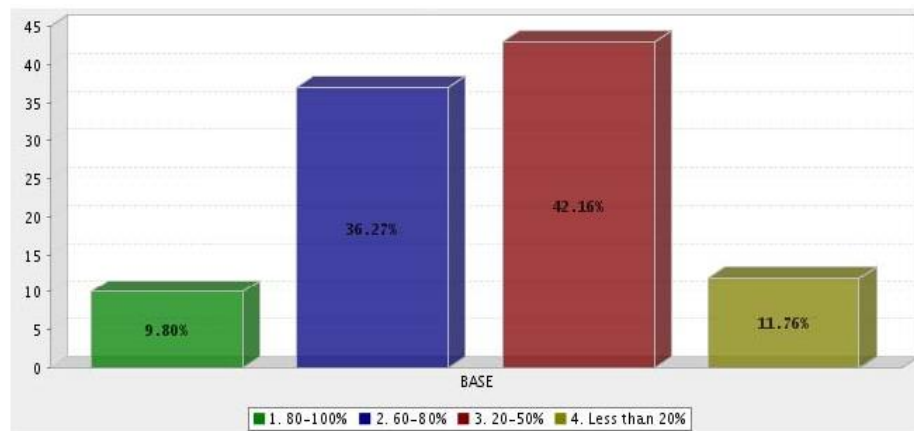


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

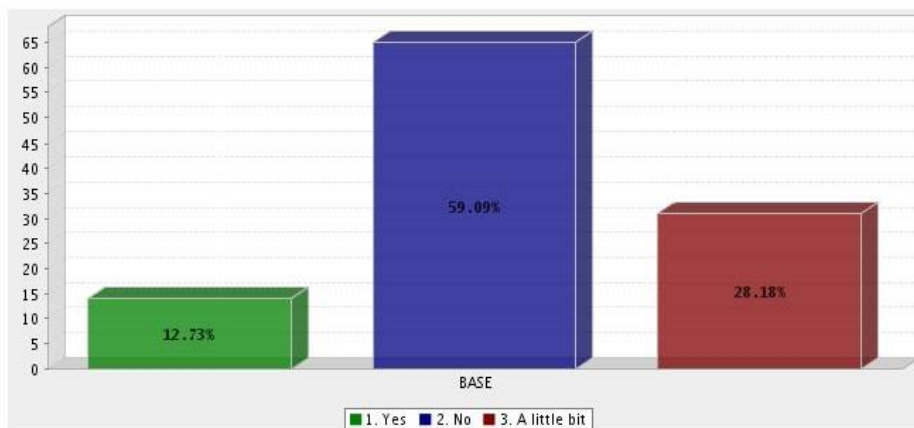
*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

**About what percent of the time are you the primary adult supervising your child?**



**Do you feel you understand the resources available in the community for parents and children?**

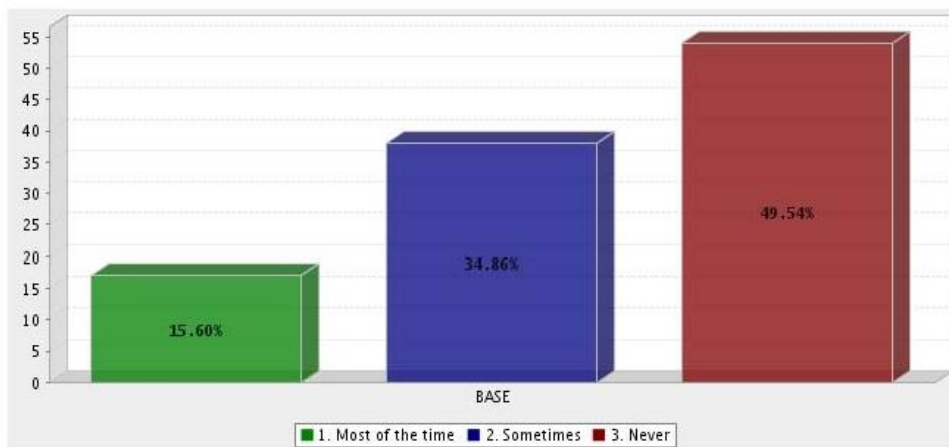




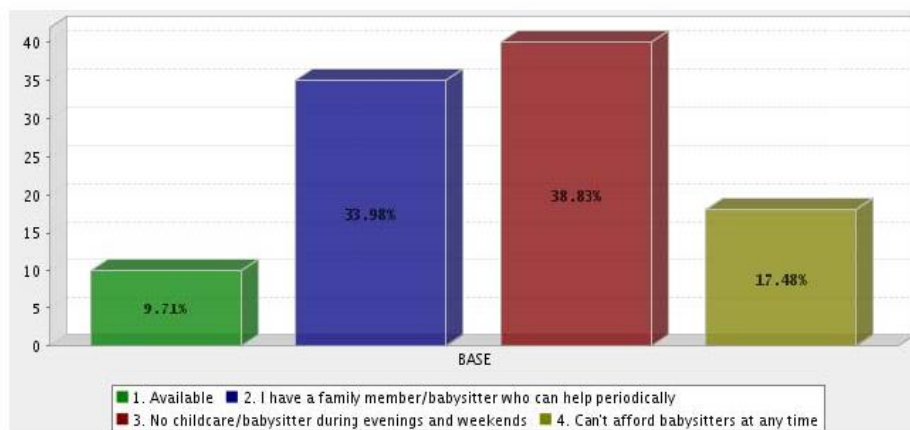
## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE *University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey 27 March 2013

**Are you available to get help from extended family in caring for your child/ren?**



**How available is childcare for evening and weekend hours when you need it?**



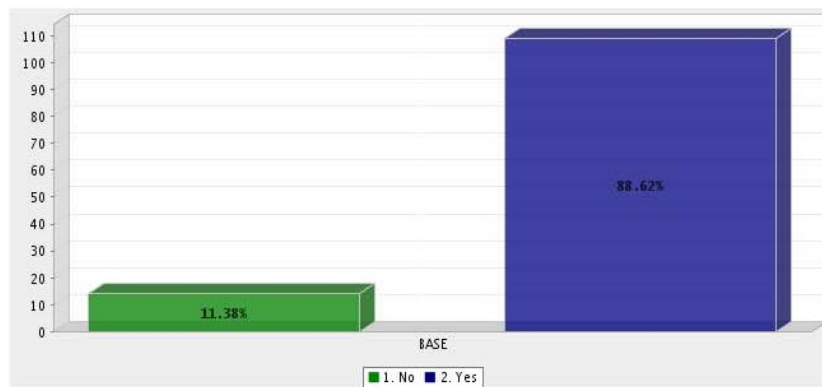


## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Grad Parents Survey  
27 March 2013

**Do you see value in graduate student parents support group/s?**



**What department are you in?**

Communication  
History  
HDFS  
Electrical Engineering  
Electrical and Computer Engineering  
CSE  
Pathobiology  
NRE  
drama  
Computer sciences  
ECE  
MCB  
MCB  
School of Social Work  
Psychology  
PNB  
Speech and hearing science  
Educational Psychology  
HDFS  
Computer Science and Engineering  
lcl  
Political Science  
MBA  
Music  
EPSY  
Nutritional Sciences  
Nursing  
EPSY  
Public health



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey

27 March 2013

**Would you like to say something about your experience as grad-student parent/s at UConn?**

<p>There is very little support/resources for parents in Storrs, especially if you do not have a vehicle and a big budget. A noticeboard FB group (advertised/promoted) for reliable babysitters and swapping child care with other parents would be invaluable.</p> <p>we badly need backup daycare for days when child is sick or mansfield discovery depot is closed</p> <p>this says it all <a href="http://www.phdcomics.com/comics.php">http://www.phdcomics.com/comics.php</a></p>
<p>My experience is that how we can manage the family life and studies/research mainly depend on PhD advisor. Flexibility of time is very important as long as the student take the responsibility of completing the expected tasks.</p> <p>It is quite difficult.</p> <p>We have various supports from university and the community, but grad-parents group would be a place where we can share good and tough experiences in the U.S. and may support each other.</p> <p>I would love to participate. Unfortunately I am not local as I am away collecting my dissertation data.</p> <p>Having children is the most challenging part in graduate school</p> <p>I am very interested in this topic, and have done some research on it myself here at UConn. Please feel free to contact me - I would like to be of help if I can be. <a href="mailto:Sarah.Hampson@gmail.com">Sarah.Hampson@gmail.com</a></p> <p>I have delayed child-bearing for too long working on this PhD out of a fear of worsening my own poverty (and causing my children to be impoverished). I don't feel at all safe or supported by UConn to have kids, and fear</p>
<p>sometimes that I may miss my chance to have kids entirely due to my age. There is no affordable childcare on/near campus to support grad students. There is no clear, supportive maternity (or paternity) leave policy for GA/TAs. The co-pays to have my husband on my GA health insurance (much less to birth kids and insure them through UConn) are outrageous in relation to how little we're paid and how much of our paycheck is immediately taken from us by "student fees."</p> <p>Completely ignored. GSS events or campus events in general are not kids friendly or even taken into consideration.</p> <p>Certainly feel in the minority.</p> <p>Hardest thing ever. I never knew it would be this hard. And the Soc department has been less than understanding. Generally speaking, there is a culture of "you need to make sacrifices to succeed," and since I didn't sacrifice family, it is assumed that I have sacrificed my career goals --- and consequently, since it is so impossible with such little support, I have not been able to publish as much as I need to (I teach 2-3 classes a semester and can only afford daycare for the days that I am in the classroom). Thanks for even thinking of forming a support group - but please consider some sort of virtual connection too since I doubt I can commute and find kid coverage to attend any actual meetings but would still love to feel connected.</p> <p>I'd just like to say that I work with the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) and we would really be interested in doing more to reach out to grad students with families. I'd love to be in touch about how GSS could collaborate with a support group like this.</p> <p>As a grad student with a surgical resident husband it is VERY tough to balance the obligations of school and home. A support group may be helpful, however it could take time away from the home- and I already feel guilty being away so frequently! It would perhaps be more helpful to have groups based in common geographic areas- these smaller groups could meet at regional campuses or local venues.</p> <p>It's very tough. would have been much easier if help and resources are available. I am happy to see people are realizing the need of graduate students parents.</p> <p>I am parent to 6 children 25 yrs - 13 years old. I would love to attend more activities offered by the SSW but family needs, and work take all my time.</p> <p>I also commute, from RI so it's unlikely I will have time to attend a support group but an online community would be useful. the things is, my commitment to PhD work has always been unsteady, even prior to having my son.</p>



# GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

## University of Connecticut

### Addendum: Grad Parents Survey

27 March 2013

	however, I was hoping to finish--maybe not with as stellar of a record of others, but finish at least. Now that my son is born my doubts about my ability and desire to complete have skyrocketed. I simply don't make enough money to afford the commute and the daycare. I know UConn's stipend is generous and I know that the job market is tough but at this point I am making practically no progress at all since my time is all consumed with driving, teaching, grading, cleaning, grocery shopping, taking care of the baby, taking him to WIC, applying for heating assistance, etc. Frankly, it's depressing and odd to move between the reality of my working class home life that feels very real and earthy to the campus where things feel kind of fluffy and ethereal--like there's a huge disconnect. Again, I've always felt like this about higher ed, even as an undergrad but there is greater immediacy to this feeling now.
	I've had to bring my child to class because he/she was nursing and wouldn't take a bottle. Professors have been supportive/accommodating... but I often took a babysitter or my husband with me to watch the child outside for tests or if the child got fussy. A babysitter was very costly. Would be fun to get together with other graduate student families... but distance is a big deterrent.
	I can see some "value" in a "support group" - but don't have time to actually attend one. I would rather have an online forum, perhaps someplace where we could send feedback about what we want, request and share information. Essentially a central hub for this information.
	Busy and lot of work
	My children are 13 and 16, so daycare isn't a concern. However, they are both quite involved in extra-curricular activities, so I often find myself balancing my school work while trying not to miss out on any of their games, shows, concerts, etc. More often then not, I am running to catch the shuttle bus so that I can see the last half of the game. When you are a PhD student and a parent, there is school work, your own job and parenting. There simply isn't time for anything else.
	No
	I've made a conscious effort to have start-up conversations with other psychology graduate students who I see with children or talking about their kids and have met 3-4 regular playdates that way - but I'd live to get some regular things going with other graduate students! Two things: outandaboutmom.com is a great CT resource for events and places to go. My other thought on a possible thing to do: semi-regular (every 5-7 weeks?) events, that take place in different places that are in or about 20-30 min from storrs (hartford, manchester, vernon, etc) - to accommodate that often people live in surrounding towns from storrs. I am interested in participating in a
	planning committee to this effect - thank you for organizing this survey!
	Grad school and parenting don't mix. Professors have zero respect for grads family responsibilities and are often overstepping their bounds on what they ask grads to do. undergrads also don't have respect for their GA's as people with families. The administration completely overlooks this issue and there is very little respect on camps for grad students who are parents or not.
	I'm a student in Continuing Studies, so Storrs-specific resources don't really apply to me.
	My program supports me, but there aren't any other supports at UConn.
	Their should be a support group for the non-grad student parent who is taking care of the child exclusively when we have classes or studies...
	Uconn does not cater to adults that have jobs and children. It is difficult to attend any events because of the hours. The program itself is difficult especially with the requirements for internship. It's difficult to work a full time job and complete an internship.
	I wish there were more university based options for childcare aside from the could labs which has a long wait list. There also needs to be breastfeeding stations (not just toilets) and family friendly restrooms. A support group of grad students who have kids is utterly lacking. Lastly, the stigma attached to being a parent and a grad student must be removed consciously from the top down through a cultural change starting from the administration and faculty
	I have limited funds but I would love for my child to be in an early learning school & around other children because she is the only child. Resource would be nice!
	It was tough, financially, physically, and mentally.
	I feel like there is support outside if the UConn community (Mansfield), if you look for it, but within UConn, I don't feel any support/ connection.
	As far as I know, Uconn has very limited resources on child care (only uconn child lab, and very few spots there), so it is very hard for us to find child care place that is both close enough and affordable. It is a little bit hard to be a parent and a graduate student, but I think we can manage it with more effort.





# GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

## Addendum: Grad Parents Survey

27 March 2013

	Honestly, I just do not feel that many people in the department have a sense of how hard it is to balance parenting and graduate school.
	Flexibility to take online courses and or flexible schedules/ times would help
	Being a parent and full time PhD student has been challenging. I am very lucky to have immediate and extended family to help with child care - plus a very supportive husband. However, balancing home and school is a challenge - I sometimes feel I am doing an adequate job in both- but can never be exceptional at one or the other. Having a support group is a great idea- however:) I believe given all the commitments - adding on a commitment to attend a support group- presents with yet another challenge!
	Uconn should think about a drop-off daycare option on campus that is reliable, yet does not come with the full-time commitment of Child Lab. This would make juggling teaching/research on campus and parenting more compatible
	I feel that grad school is very different when your a parent and that this is not something that is taken into consideration. Beyond the logistics of the situation there is also the emotional support needed to deal with some of the topics in Social Work that can be hard for parents to work with (attachment theory, family dynamics, family of origin etc))
	The children's age question does not allow you to answer if you have more than one child. Thanks.
	I will like to be able to participate and get involve in school events. Unfortunately I can't because I don't have childcare, I don't feel like a real member of the School of Social Work because I don't have time to get involve. If some of the events should be more family oriented or at least some of them should be and provide childcare so I can meet other people going through the same thing I am.
	What would be most valuable to grad students would be a university culture that is more tolerant of parent-students and the demands they have. The assumption held by many is that academics should come first and your family second. This mindset must change. Perhaps an on-campus quality day care open to all, even on an ad hoc basis, would help. Especially for elementary school holidays, breaks, etc. Regarding the idea of a support group... what grad student parent has time for a support group? I have no time whatsoever. Between teaching, research,
	writing, grading, commuting and parenting I have NO time whatsoever. Perhaps a website, blog or forum might be a better method.
	I sometimes get frustrated when I can't get much of my dissertation work done, and would love advice in balancing work/childcare.
	Academic timelines need to accommodate parenting demands. This is an issue much bigger than UConn.
	I'm in an online program, and this is the first thing I've seen with "parents" and "UConn" in the same sentence. Not a lot of support needed, but it would be nice to have some information about graduate students who where able to be successful in their studies as well as with their family life.
	I'm out of state, so not much 'support' from the UCONN family, but I wouldn't expect it.



# GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

## Addendum: Monthly Financial Report for February 2013

27 March 2013

<b>Income:</b>		
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	1,042.47
533	Change Fund Returns	-
540	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
546	Interest (Univ.)	-
547	Student Fees (Tier III/Univ.)	66,422.00
<b>Total Income:</b>		<b>\$ 67,464.47</b>
<b>Expense:</b>		
601	Donations	-
602	Dues	-
603	Gifts	720.30
604	Photocopying	364.00
605	Postage	52.02
606	Printing	132.18
607	Promotional Items	-
608	Refreshments -- Organization	1,773.87
609	Subscriptions	-
610	Supplies -- Organization	362.78
611	Telephone	906.47
612	Advertising	-
613	Awards and Prizes	197.02
615	Contractual Services	7,336.50
616	Co-Sponsorships	-
617	Cost of Goods Sold -- Food Sales	-
618	Cost of Goods Sold -- Merchandise Sales	-
619	Participation Fees	-
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	40,234.23
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs	490.61
622	Registration Fees	-
623	Rental	1,973.10
624	Travel	597.48
625	Equipment	-
626	Equipment -- Capital	-
627	Insurance	-
628	Repairs and Maintenance	-
629	Utilities	-
630	Penalties and Fees	-
631	Miscellaneous	-
632	Prior Year Expenses	3.53
633	Change Funds	-
640	Business Taxes (Tier III/Univ.)	-
641	Employee Benefits (Tier III)	-
642	Wages -- Student (Tier III)	13,160.84
643	Wages -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
644	Wage Taxes -- Student (Tier III)	163.44
645	Wage Taxes -- Non-Student (Tier III)	-
<b>Total Expenses:</b>		<b>\$ 68,468.37</b>
<b>Net Profit (Loss)</b>		<b>\$ (1,003.90)</b>
<b>Beginning Balance as of 7/01/12</b>		<b>30,442.55</b>
<b>Plus Net Profit (Loss)</b>		<b>(1,003.90)</b>
<b>Current Balance</b>		<b>\$ 29,438.65</b>



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### University Senate

25 March 2013

<b>Chair:</b>	Susan Herbst University President <a href="mailto:president@uconn.edu">president@uconn.edu</a>	<b>Representative:</b>	Safet Berisa GSS Vice President <a href="mailto:safet.berisa@uconn.edu">safet.berisa@uconn.edu</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://senate.uconn.edu">senate.uconn.edu</a>	<b>Committee Type:</b>	External

#### Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- NextGen CT
- VP for Research Search
- Work study
- Smoking Policy Resolution
- Annual Report from the Dean of the Graduate School
- University Budget Report

#### Detailed Report

NextGen CT lobbying is going well, according to President Herbst.

Jeffrey Seeman (Texas A&M) is the new Vice President for Research.

The departments will be paying the 25% of the pay for students on Work Study (instead of the University).

The Student Welfare Committee presented a Smoking Ban Resolution that was approved by the Senate. The Resolution sets to prohibit smoking 25 feet from all university buildings and air intakes across all six campuses and calls for the President's Council to implement the policy and consider further measures. Full text: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.swcResolution.pdf>

GA appointments now must be initiated by the academic departments (the students can work for other departments, like UITS, but their appointment must come from their academic dept.)



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

The Graduate School is organizing a workshop geared to help students apply for national fellowships. It will be held on April 16<sup>th</sup> between 3:30 and 4:45 PM (social sciences and humanities) as well as 5:00 to 6:30 PM (scinences).

The University Budget Committee presented their report regarding graduate tuituin charges on grants, full text: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.UBCgradtuition.pdf>

The Senate requested that the University Budget Cmte do another study on the impact of charging the graduate tuitions on grants.

#### OTHER REPORTS:

Consent agenda items (passed):

Report of the Curricula & Courses Committee: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.cc.pdf>

Report of the Nominating Committee:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.NominatingReport.pdf>

Report of the Nominating Committee:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.Nom.StandingCommittee2013-2014Slate.pdf>

Report from the Scholastic Standards Committee:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.sscMotion.pdf>

Annual Report on the Honor's Program: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.honors.pdf>

Annual Report from the Retention & Graduation Task Force:

<http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.RGreport.pdf>

Annual Report on Research: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.research.pdf>

Annual Report on INTD Courses: <http://senate.uconn.edu/20130325.intd.pdf>

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#### Action Items for the Senate

- N/A



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

**University Senate Executive Committee**  
15 March 2013

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

**Representative:** Chantelle Messier  
President  
[chantelle.messier@gmail.com](mailto: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

- Recreation Facility
- Next Generation Connecticut
- Smoking Ban
- (Extremely Controversial) Changes to MWF Class Schedules

#### Detailed Report

##### MEETING WITH FACULTY REPRESENTATIVES TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Concerns expressed about role of faculty reps on BOT.

- Not always clear what reps should do at meetings
- Majority of important business seems to happen in Executive Session, without reps

##### Recreation Facility

- I was able to confirm that the Rec Facility will go before the BOT in some form on its April 24 meeting
- Faculty reps and SEC recommended GSS should seek to attend a BOT Building, Grounds, and Environment Committee

##### BUILDING AND GROUNDS



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

#### Next Generation Connecticut

- This \$1.6M plan through which UConn is advocating for the funds from state legislature to expand the University's STEM programs and admit more students
- Important for University community to get behind the effort
- However, also need to ensure faculty monitoring so that the academic mission is protected and that students remain a priority
- Concern that community has not been offering much feedback; we don't want the students and faculty to be uninvolved in the process
- Relatedly, concern that the upper administration has a plan but appears uninterested in discussing the details before the legislature approves funds
- We need to establish the metrics UConn will use to gauge success (i.e., graduates remaining in CT, grant money returning economic growth to community, etc.) in order to shape the NextGenCT plans
- Important to consider how NextGenCT fits with the academic planning process
- Awareness of changes on regional campuses is also key

#### STUDENT WELFARE

##### Smoking Ban Resolution

- New draft of resolution as of today (3/15/13)
- Committee decided that a 100% ban isn't currently feasible, but remains the ultimate goal
- Current draft would ask the University Senate to move to modify the smoking policy "to prohibit smoking a minimum distance of 25 feet from any and all university buildings or intakes across all six campuses"
- Additional resolution would request a taskforce to revise the current policy, implement the new policy, and educate the campus community about the health hazards of smoking
- SEC suggested some revisions to the resolution to clarify the purpose of the ban and educational program
- One particular concern was to ensure that the educational effort would be not a "campaign" but a "program" that would include compassionate understanding of the causes of addiction

#### GENERAL EDUCATION OVERSIGHT (GEOC)

##### New MWF Class Schedule

- The new class schedule for MWF would leave 15 minutes between classes instead of the current 10 minutes in order to leave students more time for transition and travel (i.e., keeping classes the same duration but re-arranging them)



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

- Problem is apparently that campus is expanding, more students are traveling from one end of the campus to another, and faculty are complaining that they don't have enough preparation time after the previous instructor vacates the room
- The Provost's Office announcement of this policy was made incorrectly, claiming University Senate participation in the decision; the University Senate was in fact not consulted
- SEC members expressed strong concerns about the implications of this schedule, the hurried implementation, and the fact that it was presented to the Senate as an accomplished decision
- Many evening labs, many of which are taught by grad students, will be extended later at night
- SEC members also questioned how widespread or serious the problem, and what justifies such a potentially disruptive policy to address it so suddenly
- The SEC resolved to communicate immediately with the Provost's Office that we have serious reservations about the policy
- The AAUP also plans to raise objections

#### DIVERSITY

Concerns that UConn is not meeting its diversity goals

- Office of Diversity and Equity is really a compliance office and seldom directs its efforts toward increasing diversity
- Diversity Committee is concerned that shortfalls in diversity are being overlooked
- Issues like spousal hiring are key to recruiting diverse candidates
- Diversity Committee will be meeting with President Herbst later this month, and will bring up these concerns

#### SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS

Multiple Readmissions

- Scholastic Standards is proposing a motion to amend the University Senate Bylaws on multiple readmissions.
- The amendment would require that all requests for readmission go through the Office of Student Services and Advocacy (OSSA)
- The amendment would further specify different processes for readmission depending on how many times the student has been dismissed

#### **Action Items for the Senate**

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## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

- Feedback on the Recreation Facility, including whether the GSS should send representatives to the public comment session of the April 24 meeting of the BOT to discuss the Rec Facility
- Any potential grad student concerns about the revised MWF schedules, particularly from grads who TA evening labs





## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Graduate Faculty Council

27 March 2013

**Chair:** Kent Holsinger  
Dean of the Graduate  
School  
[kent.holsinger@uconn.edu](mailto:kent.holsinger@uconn.edu)

**Representative:** Leland Aldridge  
Parliamentarian  
[Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu](mailto:Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu)

**Committee Type:** External

**Website:** [http://grad.uconn.edu/faculty/gfc\\_exec.html](http://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

- Reviewed draft Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Inappropriate Romantic Relationships
- Authorized the conferral of graduate degrees
- Voted to approve the revised draft of the Scholarly Integrity Policy
- Reviewed draft Complaint Resolution Procedure
- Reviewed draft Termination, Dismissal, and Hearing Procedures section of the Graduate Catalog
- Reviewed draft of the Standards and Degree Requirements section of the Graduate Catalog

#### Detailed Report

The Title IX Committee of the Office of Diversity and Equity has put out an updated policy against discrimination, harassment and inappropriate romantic relationships. The parts on discrimination and harassment are fairly straightforward. The parts on inappropriate romantic relationships include any sort of amorous or romantic contact, and prohibit such contact between faculty or staff and undergrads. Such contact between faculty and grad students or grad students and undergrads is prohibited in the case of direct advisory or supervisory relationships, and strongly discouraged otherwise. A relationship entered into against the prohibitions/discouragements in the policy must be immediately reported to the Office of Diversity and Equity.

Issues raised from the GFC included the seemingly weak position of the document in "prohibiting" things but then saying the ODE would take them on a case-by-case basis when reported.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

The GFC authorized the conferral of all earned graduate degrees for this semester. You're welcome.

The Scholarly Integrity Policy was brought before the GFC again in a final form. The resolution of the issue of "intent" in scholarly misconduct was to remove all mention of intent in the descriptions of the various forms of misconduct and to direct the Hearing Committees to consider mitigating circumstances in their choice of sanctions. Additionally, in a section on jurisdiction, the wording was clarified so that students are under the jurisdiction of whatever campus they are enrolled at. (I.e., a Biology student working at the Health Center would still be subject to the Storrs campus procedures). The Scholarly Integrity Policy was adopted with these changes.

The new version of the Complaint Resolution Procedures had one main change, which was the removal of the mandatory ladder of mediation which had previously been in place. The Graduate School still wants people to seek mutually agreeable solutions before moving to a formal complaint procedure, but has decided to let the person initially receiving the complaint (the concerned Associate Dean) decide if a proper level of attempted mediation has been attempted.

The GFC brought up the new Ombudsperson's Office, and how it would interface with this. The answer given was that the Ombudsperson would be a resource for informal resolution of disputes, but a formal process was still needed if that was to fail. Also brought up were the descriptions of the grounds for complaint. Some of the faculty members thought they were too loose and would allow spurious and inappropriate complaints to go forward. It was my feeling, which I shared, that the types of issues described (improper assignment of work duties, credit, hours/pay, etc.) were particularly insidious and that grad students should be given as much room as possible to bring complaints forward should they be warranted. I did not feel that spurious complaints being taken to the highest levels of the administration would be a problem on the scale that would need to be worried about.

Standards and Degree Requirements were changed from the last GFC meeting as discussed at that meeting. Everybody was happy with the changes!

#### **Action Items for the Senate**

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- None at this time



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Student Trustee Election Committee

12 March 2013

<b>Chair:</b>	Christine Wilson Director of Student Activities <a href="mailto:Christine.wilson@uconn.edu">Christine.wilson@uconn.edu</a> <a href="#">u</a>	<b>Representative:</b>	Leland Aldridge Parliamentarian <a href="mailto:Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu">Aldridge@phys.uconn.edu</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="#">N/A</a>	<b>Committee Type:</b>	External

#### Overview of Report

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- The results of the election of the Undergraduate Student Trustee were certified.

#### Detailed Report

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#### Action Items for the Senate

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- None



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Student Union Partners

27 March 2013

**Chair:** Monica Rudzik  
Student Union, Director  
[monica.rudzik@uconn.edu](mailto:monica.rudzik@uconn.edu)

**Representative:** Safet Berisa  
Vice President  
[safet.berisa@uconn.edu](mailto: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

- Commuter lounge
- Graduate lounge
- Student Union hours during spring weekend
- Midnight breakfast
- Hole restoration
- Parking lot closures
- Latin Fest '13
- Career services job opening

#### Detailed Report

The carpet in the Commuter lounge has been replaced.

The Union is waiting for the new furniture for the Graduate lounge to arrive. Once it arrives, a fresh coat of paint will also be applied to the lounge.

The Student Union hours during Spring weekend will be:

Thursday, April 25th 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 Mid

Friday, April 26th 7:00 a.m. until 12:00 Mid

Saturday, April 27th 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 Mid

Midnight Breakfast is Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

The restoration of the hole by Hillside Rd and the surrounding area that was damaged when several pipes burst should be completed on Thursday.

Some parking lots will be closed again for Spring weekend.

Details on Latin Fest '13: <http://jorgensen.uconn.edu/events/view.php?id=315>

Career services extended their openings for student employment advisors until Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. These are generally available for undergraduates, but "if the right graduate student applies [they] will entertain the idea [of hiring him or her]."

#### **Action Items for the Senate**

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- N/A



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Senate Scholastic Standards Committee

12 March 2013

**Chair:** Larry Gramling  
Associate Dean for  
Undergraduate Students  
School of Business  
[larry.gramling@uconn.edu](mailto:larry.gramling@uconn.edu)

**Representative:** Aidali Aponte-Avilés  
Senator - LANGSA  
[aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu](mailto:aidali.aponte-aviles@uconn.edu)

**Committee Type:** GSS Internal/Standing

**Website:** [Click here to enter text.](#)

#### Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☐ Yes ☒ No

- Readmission Policy
- "Bunch" Exams

#### Detailed Report

##### REMISSION POLICY

Readmission will be handled in a centralized form. A student who applies for readmission will do it through the Office of Student Services and Advocacy, a readmission board will be formed consisting by the Dean's designees. After a second dismissal, a student can reapply for readmission after eight semesters (four calendar years). The language on the previous bylaws was made more specific and process will be handled centrally so that the same bylaws apply to regional campuses. Previously, a students that applied for readmission could be denied by one campus and approved by another. The new bylaws will prevent this from happening. These changes will be presented in the next Senate meeting to be considered for a vote on April.

##### "BUNCH" EXAMS

Language on bylaws is not clear as of what is considered a "final evaluation/assessment" which can be problematic as far as being considered for the "bunch exam" policy. The committee is considering changing the language to make it clearer. It was also discussed whether an "opt-in/out" for final exam classroom can be implemented for instructors. This will help the OSSA to regulate if



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Committee Reports** 27 March 2013

students should be excused during Finals week. Although there is no consensus on this matter, OSSA and Scheduling office (Registrar) are considering options to deal with this situation.

#### **Action Items for the Senate**

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- None.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Faculty Standards Committee

25 March 2013

**Chair:** Preston Britner  
Professor of Human  
Development and Family  
Studies  
[preston.britner@uconn.edu](mailto:preston.britner@uconn.edu)

**Website:** Click here to enter text.

**Representative:** Danielle Wong  
Senator  
[danielle.wong@uconn.edu](mailto:danielle.wong@uconn.edu)

**Committee Type:** External





## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Committee Reports

27 March 2013

#### Overview of Report

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? ☒ Yes ☐ No

- Going through the process of making evaluations electronic
- 

#### Detailed Report

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##### Husky DM

- Looking over the new Husky CT and offering training sessions to professors so they can become used to the program and learn the new add ons

##### Online Evaluations

- Looking for clarifications for online administration
- Trainings are taking place for those professors that are interested
- Trying to determine which statements/sentences should be made (looking at wording)

##### Emeritus Status

- Final language has been approved by the committee on the wording about granting of Emeritus Status

#### Action Items for the Senate

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- N/A



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
*University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Writing Center Special Allocation Requests  
27 March 2013

GSS 12/13-20: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$350.00 to the Linguistics Club at UConn for their event, "ECO 5."

**Basics**

*Tier II Organization:* Linguistics Club at UConn  
*Event Name:* ECO5  
*Event Date:* March 30, 2013  
*Event Location:* Oak Hall, UConn Storrs Campus  
*Anticipated Attendance (Total):* 40 people  
*Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):* 35 students (20 from UConn, 5 from other universities)

**Proposed Budget**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
620	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$350.00

**Sub-Total: \$350.00**

**Revenues from Outside Funding**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Revenue
	N/A	\$0.00

**Sub-Total: \$0.00**

**TOTAL: \$350.00 – \$0.00 = \$350.00**

**Executive Committee Recommendation**

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of approving the Linguistics Club at UConn's request at a reduced amount of \$250.00 for the "ECO5" event. Overall, the consensus among the Executive Committee is that the event is worthy of GSS funding given the event's appeal to students from a variety of disciplines. However, given the refreshments breakdown of \$50 for breakfast, \$150 for lunch, and \$150 for dinner — with the dinner portion only open to ECO5 presenters — the Committee felt it would be a more appropriate use of GSS funds to not fund the dinner portion and instead allocate \$50 more to the breakfast portion.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
*University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Writing Center Special Allocation Requests  
27 March 2013

**GSS 12/13-21:** That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$150.00 to the Activities Budget for the co-sponsorship with the Writing Center of a Graduate Student Writing Retreat held in March.

**Basics**

*Tier II Organization:* Graduate Student Senate  
*Event Name:* March 2013 Graduate Student Writing Retreat  
*Event Date:* March 30, 2013  
*Event Location:* Wilbur Cross, North Reading Room  
*Anticipated Attendance (Total):* ~ 75-85 graduate students  
*Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):* ~ 75-85 graduate students

**Proposed Budget**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
620	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$150.00
623	Rental	\$246.00
Sub-Total:		\$396.00

**Revenues from Outside Funding**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Revenue
623	Rental	\$246.00
Sub-Total:		\$246.00

**TOTAL:** \$396.00 – \$246.00 = **\$150.00**

**Executive Committee Recommendation**

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of granting this request in the full amount of \$150 given the popularity of these events among graduate students and the wide range of students from different departments that attend.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
*University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Writing Center Special Allocation Requests  
27 March 2013

**GSS 12/13-22:** That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$150.00 to the Activities Budget for the co-sponsorship with the Writing Center of a Graduate Student Writing Retreat held in April.

**Basics**

*Tier II Organization:* Graduate Student Senate  
*Event Name:* April 2013 Graduate Student Writing Retreat  
*Event Date:* April 27, 2013  
*Event Location:* Wilbur Cross, North Reading Room  
*Anticipated Attendance (Total):* ~ 75-85 graduate students  
*Anticipated Attendance (Graduate Students):* ~ 75-85 graduate students

**Proposed Budget**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Expenses
620	Refreshments – Events/Programs	\$150.00
623	Rental	\$246.00

Sub-Total: \$396.00

**Revenues from Outside Funding**

Expense Code	Expense Category	Revenue
623	Rental	\$246.00

Sub-Total: \$246.00

TOTAL: \$396.00 – \$246.00 = \$150.00

**Executive Committee Recommendation**

The GSS Executive Committee is in support of granting this request in the full amount of \$150 given the popularity of these events among graduate students and the wide range of students from different departments that attend.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
*University of Connecticut*

Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal  
27 March 2013

Event Form #2

Please complete one worksheet for each event. For repeated events, such as a colloquium series, indicate the number of times the event will occur per school year (e.g. 6x per school year)

Event Name: NELS 44

Anticipated Event Date or Number of Occurrences: October 18-20, 2013

Description of event:

Please provide an estimate of the anticipated number of total and graduate student attendees

The Department of Linguistics has been elected to host the 44th annual meeting of the North Eastern Linguistic Society--one of the major language conferences in North America. NELS is an important forum for presentation and discussion of innovative work in all areas of linguistics and provides a wide appeal to anyone involved with the language science community (Linguistics, Psychology, Cognitive Science, Education, Communicative Disorders, Philosophy, Mathematics). In addition to funding being requested from GSS, LingClub has already secured partial funding from the departments of Linguistics, Psychology, the Dean of CLAS, and will also be partially funded by NFS's IGERT: Language Plasticity grant recently received by Jim Magnuson of UConn Psychology (to name a few of the funding sources providing the "anticipated revenues"). We expect up to 100 participants with at least 40 of those being UConn graduate students.

Type of Expense		Anticipated Expenses	Anticipated Revenues	Net Amount Requested
603	Gifts	300.00	300.00	-
604	Photocopying			-
605	Postage			-
606	Printing	1,650.00	1,650.00	-
612	Advertising			-
613	Awards and Prizes			-
615	Contractual Services	1,950.00	1,600.00	350.00
620	Refreshments -- Events/Programs	6,650.00	6,650.00	-
621	Supplies -- Events/Programs			-
623	Rental	520.00	520.00	-
624	Travel	3,940.00	1,900.00	2,040.00
625	Equipment (<\$1k)			-
Total for Event		\$ 15,010.00	\$ 12,620.00	\$ 2,390.00



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal

27 March 2013

**TO:** Safet Beriša, Mary Goodrich  
**FROM:** Ian Yue, GSS Treasurer, on behalf of the GSS Finance Committee  
**SUBJECT:** Update regarding the Linguistics Club at UConn's FY13-14 budget allocation request  
**DATE:** March 10, 2013  
**CC:** File, Chantelle Messier, GSS Finance Committee Members: Leland Aldridge, Salman Alzayani, Jason Charette, Ian Gutierrez, Steve Mollmann

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The GSS Finance Committee met on March 5, 2013 to review and discuss all of the Tier II graduate student organizations' budget requests for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. During that meeting the Committee determined that the following requests will be removed from further consideration at this time:

(1) NELS 44

The primary reason(s) underlying the Committee's decision(s) was/were:

- (1) *Regional conference* – The Committee deems the event to be a regional, disciplinary-specific, professional conference that should be solely funded by outside sources, and would therefore be an inappropriate use of GSS funds.

For more information regarding the budgeting process, see the following documents, both of which are available on the GSS Funding webpage ([www.gss.uconn.edu/funding.html](http://www.gss.uconn.edu/funding.html)):

- GSS Finance Policies and Procedures
- Overview of the GSS Budgeting Process & Funding Guidelines

As the Committee continues to gather information and evaluate all Tier II graduate organizations' budget requests, additional cuts may be required. However, at this time, the Linguistics Club at UConn's total budget allocation request for the 2013-2014 fiscal year is **\$2,105**.

Please note that per GSS Finance Policies and Procedures, Section 5.7.1, you may appeal the decision of the Finance Committee within 5 days of the date of this memo by addressing the GSS Vice President in writing. See the GSS Finance Policies and Procedures for details.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE *University of Connecticut*

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### Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal 27 March 2013

**TO:** Safet Beriša, Vice President of the Graduate Student Senate  
**FROM:** Peter Smith, Linguistics Club at UConn, NELS 44 Organizational Committee  
Beata Moskal, Linguistics Club at UConn, NELS 44 Organizational Committee  
Mary Goodrich, Linguistics Club at UConn, Chief Operating Officer  
Safet Beriša, Linguistics Club at UConn, Chief Financial Officer  
**SUBJECT:** Appeal to the GSS Financial Committee's decision regarding the Linguistics Club at UConn's FY13-14 budget allocation request dated March 10, 2013  
**DATE:** March 12, 2013

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We are writing to appeal the decision of the GSS Finance Committee to cut NELS 44 from consideration of the Linguistics Club budget for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. We feel that the Finance Committee has demonstrably mischaracterized the nature of the event, and as such its appropriateness for GSS funding. Whilst the Finance Committee is of course well within its rights to cut budget requests for each application, we should have the right to defend our budget request based on an accurate characterization of the nature of our request.

The following is the justification provided by the Finance Committee in their memo:

*"The primary reason(s) underlying the Committee's decision(s) was/were:*

*(1) Regional conference – The Committee deems the event to be a regional, disciplinary-specific, professional conference that should be solely funded by outside sources, and would therefore be an inappropriate use of GSS funds."*

The above reasoning of the Finance Committee states a number of claims about NELS 44 that we take issue with. Firstly, its classification as a "regional conference" is demonstrably inaccurate. Although the name North East Linguistic Society makes it appear as though it is only for schools in the northeast of the US, NELS has always been meant in a way such that the event will be held in the northeast, but has always been (and continues to be this year when hosted at UConn) open to scholars from all over the United States, North America and the rest of the world. A glance at the programs of last year alone shows presentations from scholars as far away as the University of Milan (Italy), the University of Tromsø (Norway), University of California



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal** 27 March 2013

Santa Cruz, and Yeungnam University (South Korea) and many more. Given that in recent years, around half the talks on average have come from schools in the northeast of America, this should not be seen as a bias towards people from those schools getting presentations but rather a signal of the strength of the schools in the Northeast in the field. We would also like to note at this point that neither of the documents that we were referred to by the Finance Committee expressly precludes the funding of "regional" or other conferences.

Secondly, we also take exception to the characterization of NELS as "disciplinary specific." NELS is a conference whose primary interest is the study of language. Linguistics is today approached from various points of view, encompassing large programs of research not only in theoretical linguistics, but also cognitive science, psychology, genetics, philosophy, mathematics, biology and of course there is considerable interest for the study of modern languages. In fact, the conference this year is already being part-funded from a variety of sources external to the linguistics department including contributions from the cognitive science program and CLAS. We are hosting the conference in collaboration with the IGERT program, a substantial NSF grant awarded to UConn language researchers enabling extensive study into language from the viewpoints of psychology, cognitive science, linguistics, communications disorders, neurobiology, molecular and behavioral genetics, and computational modeling. We are specifically designing the program to include aspects of these various subfields of language study, including having Colin Phillips (University of Maryland) as one of our invited speakers, a leading scholar in the psychology and neurology of language as well as cognitive science. Characterizing NELS as "disciplinary specific" grossly misses the contribution of the conference to all of these fields within the University.

As to the Finance Committee's objection that NELS is a "professional conference that should be solely funded by outside sources," we object to this very strongly. NELS will be unashamedly an academic conference whose sole purpose is to bring together research from the most prominent scholars in the world. NELS is widely known in the field to be the most prestigious linguistics conference in North America, second only to GLOW (Europe) in terms of worldwide prestige, and as such routinely attracts a vast number of submissions from all over the world and from





## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE *University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal** 27 March 2013

those working at the forefront of current language research. Given the reputation and prestige of NELS, hosting it is a great opportunity for the University.

Furthermore, as to the decision that NELS is inappropriate for GSS funds, we note that not only will the event benefit graduate students in bringing together research from all over the world, to be presented here at UConn, we have specifically made it our mission to truly open up the event to graduate students. The registration fees for NELS in previous years have been unreasonably high, and have proved a deterrent to the participation of graduate students who cannot afford to pay upwards of \$75, rising as high as \$100. Students who aren't presenting will be responsible for the complete cost, unable to be reimbursed by their home institutions. With a conference the size of NELS, it is difficult to have too much leeway with registration fees, but we are determined to have graduate students pay less. Right now, the registration fee for graduate students in our planning is \$45, and we do not anticipate this raising any, and certainly not above \$50. This 'discount' is in part offset by faculty members paying a higher fee (though much smaller than in previous years), but we still depend on outside funding to enable us to do this. This is clearly something that GSS should be interested in getting involved with. What is more, if we receive GSS funding, we could be able to further reduce the registration costs for UConn graduate students and/or waive a number of registration fees for them. Finally, we should add that this conference is being entirely organized by UConn graduate students. This is a major bonus for the CVs of all the involved students and provides invaluable experience for their future careers.

We are therefore surprised by the Finance Committee's representation of the event in question since it contains gross inaccuracies and misrepresentations as to what the nature of the event is; especially since some of the facts that were misrepresented by the Finance Committee can be found in the description of the event submitted as part of the Linguistics Club at UConn's budget request. We appreciate the fact that the Finance Committee does not have accurate knowledge of all conferences, but we would have been more than willing to provide any clarifications had we been asked to do so. According to the facts presented above, NELS 44 fulfills all of the requirements for funding set forth in both of the documents referred to by the Finance Committee that they claim led them to their decision, namely, the *Finance Policies and*



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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### **Addendum: Linguistics Club Appeal**

27 March 2013

*Procedures*, and the *Overview of the GSS Budgeting Process & Funding Guidelines*. What is more, we believe that the original description that we provided with the budget submission does the same. We would also like to note that the event in question does not violate any provisions set forth in both the *Finance Policies and Procedures* (especially Section 4.2 of them) and the *Overview of the GSS Budgeting Process & Funding Guidelines*. We therefore believe that we have the right to appeal the decision of the Finance Committee under both sections 5.7.1.1 and 5.7.1.2.



# GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

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## Addendum: Proposed Amendments to Finance Policies and Procedures 27 March 2013



# Graduate Student Senate

*University of Connecticut*

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Finance Policies and Procedures  
Ratified by the Graduate Student Senate on September 26, 2012

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## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Proposed Amendments to Finance Policies and Procedures 27 March 2013

#### Section 1. General Philosophy and Guidelines

- 1.1. Mission Statement.** The Graduate Student Senate is the primary source of funding for University of Connecticut graduate student organizations and clubs that have limited opportunities to receive funds from the University of Connecticut.
- 1.2. Purpose of Events.** Events funded by the Graduate Student Senate should contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and/or professional capital of the graduate student body. Preference will be given to events that have an appeal which extends beyond the members of one academic discipline.
- 1.3. Graduate Student Activity Fee.** The Graduate Student Senate is funded by the Graduate Student Activity Fee, which is paid by University of Connecticut graduate students. The Graduate Student Senate will not fund organizations whose members are not predominantly University of Connecticut graduate students, or events whose primary benefices are not graduate students paying the Graduate Student Activity Fee.
- 1.4. Accessibility.** Events funded by the Graduate Student Senate will be open and accessible to all graduate students. The Finance Committee, Executive Committee, and the Senate will give priority, with regard to funding decisions, to the number of graduate students that will be served by the use of Senate funds.
- 1.5. Non-Discrimination Policy.** Organizations, groups, or individuals using University of Connecticut funds or facilities cannot intimidate, interfere, or discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, physical handicap, or political activity.
- 1.6. Content Neutrality.** In accordance with the University of Connecticut's Division of Student Affairs Student Activities guidelines, the Graduate Student Senate shall adhere, at all times and in all circumstances regarding funding, to the principle of content neutrality. Funding decisions will not be based on the content of the ideas being expressed by an organization, only the degree to which an event or activity will benefit the graduate student community.
- 1.7. Outside Funding.** Organizations are encouraged to obtain outside sources of funding for events, and those organizations that do will be given preference during the budgeting process.
- 1.8. Fiscal Year.** The Graduate Student Senate's fiscal year shall adhere to that of the University of Connecticut, beginning on the July 1 prior to the school year start and concluding on the June 30 after the school year end. This definition shall hold for any mention of "fiscal year" for the remainder of this document.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Proposed Amendments to Finance Policies and Procedures 27 March 2013

## Section 2. Budget of the Graduate Student Senate

### 2.1. Adopting the Budget

- 2.1.1. The budget for the following fiscal year will be presented by the Treasurer to the Senate and voted on at the last meeting of the academic year.
- 2.1.2. A two-thirds majority vote of the Senate is required to adopt the proposed budget.
- 2.1.3. If the Senate does not approve a proposed budget, it must amend the budget and vote again.

### 2.2. Organization of the Budget. The budget will include:

#### 2.2.1. Allocations for:

- 2.2.1.1. General operations of the Graduate Student Senate and its office.
- 2.2.1.2. Stipends for members of the Executive Committee.
- 2.2.1.3. Salary and benefits of the Administrative Assistant.
- 2.2.1.4. Events organized by the Activities Director or the Executive Committee in collaboration with the Activities Director (hereafter, the Activities Budget).
- 2.2.1.5. Funds for Special Allocations.
- 2.2.1.6. Budgets of Tier II Graduate Organizations.

2.2.2. Unappropriated funds. This account will be used to hold the funds of the Graduate Student Senate that have not been appropriated by the Senate.

2.2.3. A summary of income received to date, as well as a forecast for the next fiscal year.

2.2.4. A report on the financial status of the Short-Term Emergency Loan Fund.

### 2.3. Changing the Budget

#### 2.3.1. Executive Privilege

- 2.3.1.1. The Executive Committee has the right to reappropriate money within and across the budget allocations for general operations and the salary and benefits of the Administrative Assistant by a majority vote. Notification of changes made must be announced by the Treasurer at the next Senate meeting.

**Comment [H1]:** Revised language to make clear that the Activities Director is involved with all events in the Activities Budget.



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

### Addendum: Proposed Amendments to Finance Policies and Procedures 27 March 2013

**2.3.1.2.** The Activities Director has the discretion to reallocate amounts within the Activities Budget to different expense codes within the existing allocation, provided that, in doing so, the total percentage of money per each expense code is approximately the same as that which was approved by the Senate. Within the Activities Budget, the Activities Director may reallocate a maximum of 20% of his or her total allocation among expense codes. Any reallocation beyond this amount must be approved by the Executive Committee and be announced by the Treasurer at the next Senate meeting.

**2.3.1.3.** In the event that funds for a Special Allocation must be allocated before the next meeting of the Senate, the Executive Committee has the right to allocate the funds itself by a two-thirds vote. Notification of the changes made must be announced by the Treasurer at the next Senate meeting.

**2.3.2.** The Executive Committee, the Activities Director, and any Tier II Graduate Organization may request additional funds from the Graduate Student Senate via Special Allocation by following the procedure outlined in Section 6 of the Finance Policies and Procedures.

**2.3.3.** Organizations receiving a budget allocation (or Special Allocation) have the discretion to reallocate amounts to different expense codes within the group's existing fiscal year allocation (or Special Allocation), provided that, in doing so, the total percentage of money per each expense code is approximately the same as that which was approved by the Senate. Within a fiscal year budget allocation or Special Allocation, an organization may reallocate a maximum of 10% of its total allocation among expense codes. Any reallocation beyond this amount must be approved by the Finance Committee.

**Comment [H2]:** Revised language based on the results of the Exec vote. Also, I've made it such that the Activities Director is the sole person who shall take the initiative of re-allocating Activities Budget funds.



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#### Section 3. Finance Committee

##### 3.1. Purpose

**3.1.1.** The primary function of the Finance Committee is to act as the primary decision-making body with regards to the recommendation to the Senate for approval of a budget of Senate monies. The Finance Committee therefore has the authority to alter any and all requests, subject to the guidelines in Section 5.3. Creation of Senate Budget. All Finance Committee decisions are subject to confirmation of the Senate.

**3.1.2.** The Senate or the Executive Committee may assign the Finance Committee other responsibilities as needed.

##### 3.2. Membership and Organization

**3.2.1.** The Finance Committee will consist of the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, and five elected members.

**3.2.2.** One of the elected members must not represent a specific constituency, and therefore must be either an at-large Senator or a non-Senator. There cannot be more than one elected non-Senator on the Finance Committee, but there is no restriction on the number of at-large Senators.

**3.2.3.** The Treasurer will serve as the non-voting chair of the Finance Committee. The Treasurer may elect to vote to break a tie.

**3.2.4.** The Parliamentarian will serve as chair if the Treasurer is unavailable to meet.

**3.2.5.** Each fiscal year, the Finance Committee shall include at least two elected members who did not serve on the Finance Committee for more than a semester during the previous fiscal year.

**3.2.6.** There may not be more than one voting member from the same constituency.

**3.2.7.** The Treasurer may remove any member of the committee (except the Parliamentarian) for failure to fulfill duties and obligations, subject to a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee. If the Parliamentarian is unable to fulfill his/her duties, either the President or the Secretary shall serve in his/her stead, subject to a two thirds vote by the Senate.

##### 3.3. Elections

**3.3.1.** Finance Committee elections will be held at the second Senate meeting of the academic year.



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- 3.3.2.** Nominations will open immediately before the election. Any Senator or Officer may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are permissible. Seconds are not required.
- 3.3.3.** Elections will be conducted by closed ballot. Each Senator will have a number of votes equal to the number of open seats. The top nominees with a plurality will be elected.
- 3.3.4.** If a vacancy opens in the Finance Committee, an election to fill that vacancy will be held at the next Senate meeting.
- 3.3.5.** Terms of members of the Finance Committee expire on the last day of the Spring Semester.

#### **3.4. Operations**

- 3.4.1.** Members of the Finance Committee must attend all meetings if due notice has been provided by the Treasurer and provide timely feedback when solicited. All members are required to attend the Budget Hearing.
- 3.4.2.** The chair of the Finance Committee may call for a vote via e-mail if a meeting of the committee is deemed impractical or unnecessary.
- 3.4.3.** During the Summer, if action is required from the Finance Committee, the Executive Committee may act in its stead, with the Treasurer still serving as non-voting chair.

**Comment [H3]:** In Section 5, the Budget Hearing is referenced as a singular entity, so I changed it here for consistency.





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#### Section 4. Funding of Tier II Graduate Organizations

##### 4.1. Requirements for Funding

**4.1.1. University Registration.** An organization requesting a fiscal year budget allocation (or Special Allocation) must be fully registered as an “active” Tier II Student Organization and be in good standing with the Department of Student Activities by the last day of the Fall Semester (or at the time of request, for a Special Allocation). An organization must be fully registered, “active”, and in good standing with the Department of Student Activities in order to access funds from its fiscal year budget allocation or Special Allocation.

**4.1.2. Regulations.** Organizations must comply with the State of Connecticut Comptroller’s Office’s guidelines, as described in the Accounting Procedures Manual for Trustee Accounts, Graduate Student Senate Finance Policies and Procedures, and the policies of the University of Connecticut’s Division of Student Affairs Department of Student Activities.

##### 4.1.3. Academic and Non-Academic Organizations

**4.1.3.1.** The Graduate Student Senate will fund both organizations whose members correspond to the members of a graduate degree program (“academic” organizations) and those whose members transcend multiple degree programs (“non-academic” organizations).

**4.1.3.2.** Academic organizations seeking funding shall correspond to or be a subset of constituencies of the Graduate Student Senate.

##### 4.1.4. Attendance of Senate Meetings

**4.1.4.1.** A constituency organization receiving a budget must send at least one representative (either a Senator or a member of that organization’s Executive Committee) to all meetings of the Senate. A constituency may not miss more than two meetings per semester.

**4.1.4.2.** Non-constituency organizations receiving a budget must send a representative to two meetings per semester.

**4.1.4.3.** At the end of each semester, the Parliamentarian will review the Senate attendance of all funded organizations to verify that they have met the requirements in Sections 4.1.4.1 or 4.1.4.2. If an organization fails to meet said requirements in the Spring semester, its budget for the upcoming fiscal year will be cancelled. If an organization fails to meet said requirements in the Fall semester, it will not be eligible for

**Comment [H4]:** Here I updated the document name and made the UConn unit name more specific.



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reimbursement for events held in the Spring semester. These organizations shall still be eligible for Special Allocations.

**4.1.5. Advertisement.** Events funded by the Graduate Student Senate must be advertised to the entire graduate student population and to relevant subsections thereof. This includes using the graduate student listserv, but additional advertising should also be undertaken if applicable. Advertisements must provide all pertinent information regarding the event, and be sent in advance of the event by enough time such that anyone wishing to attend could, if desired, make arrangements to do so.

**4.2. Inappropriate Uses of GSS Funds.** In accordance with the State of Connecticut Comptroller's Office, as described in the Accounting Procedures Manual for Trustee Accounts, and the University of Connecticut's Division of Student Affairs Department of Student Activities, the Graduate Student Senate will not fund:

**4.2.1.** Any activity or event that is not open and accessible to all current graduate students. The organization(s) responsible for the event must not only take all reasonable steps to physically accommodate guests, but also ensure, in so far as is practically possible, that the event be conducted in such a manner so that every graduate student who wishes to attend feels comfortable doing so.

**4.2.2.** Any activity or event where the primary purpose is social interaction within an academic organization, program, or department; that is, events or activities which are department-centric, or should, in the judgment of a reasonable person, be supported by a specific department or other University group that has independent access to an alternative source of funds. Similarly, the Graduate Student Senate will pay for food at events that "contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and/or professional capital of the University's graduate student body" (see Section 1.2), but not events whose sole purpose is the consumption of food, or the facilitation of interaction primarily amongst individuals from within a specific department or academic discipline.

**4.2.3.** Travel for individual graduate students, conference registrations, donations to clubs or other groups, or other requests that benefit only the individual receiving funds, except in so far as the Graduate Student Senate acts as the mechanism by which donations are collected for a specific group or cause and then distributed accordingly.

**4.2.4.** Capital equipment purchases for Tier II Graduate Organizations.

**4.2.5.** The purchase of alcohol.

**4.2.6.** Budgets for organizations whose members are entirely a subset of an existing funded organization of the Graduate Student Senate. These groups



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remain eligible for Special Allocations. Separate academic organizations comprising one constituency may apply for separate budgets.

- 4.3. Special Consideration.** Organizations whose membership consists primarily of graduate students not based on the Storrs campus who pay the Graduate Student Activity Fee will be exempt from sending representatives to meetings of the Senate. When considering social events in the budgets of these organizations during the Budget Hearing, the Finance Committee will take into consideration the relative accessibility of Storrs-campus social events. All events must be open to all graduate students and advertised to graduate students on the Storrs campus.



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#### Section 5. Budgeting Process Procedure

**5.1. Information Sessions.** The Treasurer and the Finance Committee will hold multiple information sessions during the fiscal year to keep Tier II Graduate Organizations informed on the budgeting and reimbursement processes, and provide general information regarding the Finance Policies and Procedures. At least one session will be held each semester. The GSS Office will announce the time, date, and location of the information session to the graduate population at least one calendar week in advance.

#### 5.2. Tier II Graduate Organization Budget Submission

**5.2.1.** An organization must register two financial points-of-contact (the organization Treasurer and one other member of the organization's Executive Committee) with the Senate by the end of September. If the organization becomes active in the Senate after this time, it must register the points-of-contact immediately. The Senate Treasurer will disseminate all budgeting process information to these points-of-contact. The organization is responsible for keeping the GSS Office apprised of any changes to this information.

**5.2.2.** Organizations must submit their proposed budgets for the following fiscal year to the Treasurer by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on January 31. Budgets will be submitted in a standard format, as determined by the Treasurer and freely available on the Graduate Student Senate website, organized by event/activity and University of Connecticut expense codes.

**5.2.3.** Any organization that submits its budget late shall not be eligible for the budget process. Such an organization is still eligible to apply for Special Allocations.

#### 5.3. Creation of Senate Budget

**5.3.1.** The Treasurer shall be responsible for determining, subject to Senate approval, the total Senate budget amount. This will include a maximum allocation for the Activities Budget and the total budgets of Tier II Graduate Organizations. The Treasurer will inform the Activities Director and the Finance Committee of the maximum allowable expenses for each of the six items described in Section 2.2.1.

**5.3.2.** The Finance Committee does not have the authority to exceed the budget limits provided by the Treasurer. The limits may only be altered by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate.

**5.3.3.** The Activities Director will submit the Activities Budget for the following fiscal year by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on the last day of February.



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**5.3.4.** The Treasurer will examine all submitted budgets for compliance with the Finance Policies and Procedures and any pertinent State or University guidelines, rules, statutes, or laws.

**5.3.5.** The Treasurer will compile all budget information into a uniformly-formatted packet for the Finance Committee and distribute said packet to all Committee members in a timely manner.

#### **5.4. Finance Committee Review**

**5.4.1.** The Finance Committee will review all information submitted by the Treasurer, verifying that requests comply with the Finance Policies and Procedures.

**5.4.2.** The Finance Committee may request further information from requesting organizations at its discretion.

**5.4.3.** If needed, the Finance Committee may develop additional guidelines for funding for the duration of a fiscal year by a two-thirds vote, provided such guidelines comply with the Finance Policies and Procedures and any pertinent State or University guidelines, rules, statutes, or laws.

#### **5.5. Budget Hearing**

**5.5.1.** The Budget Hearing is to be held during the month of March. The Budget Hearing may be split into multiple events if necessary.

**5.5.2.** All requesting organizations will send 1-2 representatives to the Budget Hearing to explain the merits of their request. Each organization will be allotted ten minutes for presentation, with an additional ten minutes for questions. The Activities Director will also present the Activities Budget to the Finance Committee.

**5.5.3.** The Budget Hearing will be open to the public. The GSS Office will advertise the general dates and times of the Hearing by the end of January.

**5.5.4.** Any organization that does not send a representative to the Budget Hearing will have its request for an allocation for the next fiscal year removed from consideration.

**5.5.5.** If no member of the requesting organization is able to make the Budget Hearing as scheduled without undue inconvenience, the Treasurer may alter the previously announced schedule after consultation with all other parties potentially affected by the change.

#### **5.6. Creation of Final Budgets**



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- 5.6.1.** Using information from the Budget Hearing and obtaining additional input if needed, the Finance Committee will recommend changes to the organization budgets to ensure that they fit within the amount allotted to Tier II Graduate Organizations by the Treasurer.
- 5.6.2.** Requesting organizations will be informed of modifications to their submitted budgets by the end of March.
- 5.6.3.** The Senate will vote on the Finance Committee's recommended budget as per Section 2.2.1.
- 5.6.4.** All Senate-approved budgets for requesting organizations shall be valid for the fiscal year in which the budgets were allocated. Any unused funds remaining in an organization's budget at the conclusion of a fiscal year will be considered unappropriated funds for the following fiscal year.

### **5.7. Appeal of Tier II Graduate Organization Budgets**

- 5.7.1.** At any point during the budgeting process, any requesting organization wishing to appeal a decision of the Treasurer or the Finance Committee must submit an appeal in writing (inclusive of e-mail) to the Vice President within five days of being informed of that decision. The appeal must state a dollar amount being requested for each specific activity or event. Additionally, the organization submitting the appeal must be able to demonstrate one of the following:
  - 5.7.1.1.** That an action or actions of the Treasurer or Finance Committee was not consistent with the Finance Policies and Procedures, which resulted in the organization's request not receiving due consideration based on the guidelines described herein.
  - 5.7.1.2.** That materially relevant information is available now that was not available at the time of the decision.
- 5.7.2.** After verifying that the appeal is consistent with the Finance Policies and Procedures, the Vice President will present the appeal to the Executive Committee at its next meeting. The Executive Committee will vote as to the validity of the appeal. The Executive Committee may modify the amount of the appeal.
- 5.7.3.** If two-thirds of the Executive Committee approves the appeal, it will be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Senate. Appeals must be voted on prior to the voting on the budget as a whole. A member of the appealing organization will explain the validity of the appeal. The Treasurer will explain



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the ruling of the Finance Committee. The Senate may modify the amount of the appeal.

**5.7.4.** If two-thirds of the Senate approves the appeal, it will be added to the budget. The Senate's vote on the appeal shall be final.

### Section 6. Special Allocations

**6.1. Purpose.** The Graduate Student Senate will use Special Allocations to fill one-time requests from the Executive Committee or Tier II Graduate Organizations for events that will benefit the graduate student community, consistent with Sections 1 and 4. Organizations do not need to have a budget to be eligible for Special Allocations.

#### **6.2. Procedure**

**6.2.1.** All required information for requests for Special Allocations from graduate organizations must be submitted to the Treasurer in writing (inclusive of e-mail) at least two weeks (fourteen days) prior to the meeting where the vote will take place.

**6.2.2.** After verifying that the request is consistent with the Finance Policies and Procedures, the Treasurer will present the request to the Executive Committee at its next meeting. A representative of the requesting organization may attend the relevant portion of the meeting to answer questions about the request. Following the presentation, the Executive Committee will vote on the request.

**6.2.3.** If the Executive Committee approves the request, it will be added to the agenda of the next meeting of the Senate. It is subject to approval by a majority vote of the Senate, which may opt to alter the amount of the request. The Senate's vote on the request shall be final.

**6.3. Past Events.** Special Allocations may not be used to fund events which have already transpired except in extraordinary circumstances. Organizations are responsible for submitting their requests with sufficient lead time to prevent this from happening.



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#### Section 7. Paying of Bills

**7.1. Maintenance of Guidelines.** The GSS Office will maintain, in a publicly accessible location, an up-to-date set of guidelines and information resources regarding the documentation required for reimbursement and direct payment requests.

**7.2. Submission of Information.** After an event has occurred, the organization responsible must submit all necessary and required information and documentation to the Treasurer.

**7.3. Payments in Cash.** The Graduate Student Senate will not process any reimbursement request for expenses incurred by Tier II Graduate Organizations in the amount of \$100 or greater if the expense was paid in cash. Exceptions to this policy will only be made should the Treasurer and the Student Activities Business Office approve the cash transaction prior to the expense being made.

**7.4. Summer Events.** The Graduate Student Senate will not process any reimbursement or direct payment request for expenses incurred by Tier II Graduate Organizations between May 15 and August 15 without prior authorization of the expenses by the Finance Committee. Should a Tier II Graduate Organization event fall within this time period and have been given in an approved fiscal year budget request or Special Allocation request, the expenses made for that event will be considered to have had such prior authorization.

**7.5. Disbursement of Funds.** Disbursement of Senate funds will occur in the form of checks. All disbursements of Senate funds will be made according to policies set forth by the Student Activities Business Office and any additional pertinent State or University guidelines, rules, statutes, or laws. This includes any limits on time between expense and submission of all necessary and required information and documentation.