

Minutes
25 September 2013

- I. Call to Order 7:02 pm**
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker: Jim Wohl, University Ombuds - <http://www.ombuds.uconn.edu>**
 - a. Senator Ambroselli: I am curious since this office just started, how well has it been utilized and how does it compare?
 - b. Ombuds Wohl: We opened the office in May/June, and each year I will keep a report on how everything has gone and also point out broad categories of concern. There are nine categories that all my reporting is furnished. At auburn it was about 120-130 visits per year, since May I have had about 70 visits, kind of brisk, but it is a little hard to really compare. I anticipate 150/160 per year. Typically about 25% of the bunch is graduate students.
 - c. Senator Ford – Prior to office being put into place where did students and faculty go, was it in the department or school?
 - d. Ombuds Wohl: Not sure since I wasn't there, asked the same questions when I came, here is my take on that, this is an office specifically set up for informally resolving conflicts and concerns, without an Ombuds Office it is run through friends, advisors. The work gets done but it is not channeled into one resource. It is important to have office so that you are not on your own when these things occur
- IV. Approval of Minutes: 4 September 2013, minutes are approved**
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
 - a. GSS 13/14-2 That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$1200.00 to the Psychology Graduate Student Advisory Committee for their event “What to do if not going into academia: focus on Quant skilled Grads”
 - i. Senator Flaig motioned, seconded
 - ii. Director Kurian: The purpose of this event is to provide information to graduate students and other quantitative fields. Unfortunately our advisors don't tell us about other options when we finish graduate school and this would be a good opportunity to learn more. The speaker would be Melanie Sinch who works at Harvard. She is really good at helping students with professional development and with advising. We are expecting 50-100 people to come to the event.

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- iii. Senator Tomaszewski: What is our remaining budget for allocations like this?
- iv. Treasurer Beriša: It is 5000 now and the 3000 that was supposed to go into professional development.
- v. Director Kurian: No one is there to run a professional symposium about this. Exec talked about putting those 3000 dollars to other things, and also allow groups to have semi professionalized workshops just like this one.
- vi. Senator Ford: When is the event?
- vii. Anish: It looks like early Spring semester
- viii. Senator Flaig: I have a question about the actual event, is this just a one day speaker - one day, and she goes away, or is this a talk afterwards and talk with her?
- ix. Director Kurian: The purpose of the group dinner was to allow for more intimate talk but Exec cut that out. Now what will happen with adjusted budget is 3:30-5:30 talk, she could arrive earlier to have individual meetings, could get here 10am-11am could have the individual meetings, then a reception for two hours to extend on and people can talk with each other. She genuinely wants to help people
- x. Senator Coleman: I do not remember, did you tell us the speaker's name?
- xi. Director Kurian: Melanie Sinch, you can google her name and Harvard to look her up.
- xii. Senator Doran: Nicole asked my question, but maybe we can plan the event in a different building so that everyone is welcome
- xiii. Director Kurian: We are having it in the Psych building because the Psychology Department is contributing some money and we have a brand new space, the event would be open to everyone.
- xiv. Senator Amponsah: So because we are voting for this, this means professional development scratched
- xv. Vice President Mollmann: The vote to establish the committee has ended and was put down last meeting
- xvi. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: When we allocate funds for these events, events are held, then they bring the receipts and then we reimburse. The figure you see here

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- is a maximum figure, if this passes and event comes under budget then we retain differences, and you as senators can amend this if this should or should not include dinner after
- xvii. Treasurer Beriša: You can also allocate less
- xviii. Shawn Washart: My question is about advertising are you only using the Graduate list serv?
- xix. Director Kurian: We could post to facebook, could make flyers but not in our budget, do you have recommendation?
- xx. Shawn Washart: To print 100 fliers is not that expensive, I feel like if we are going to spend 1200 then we need to be aware of it
- xxi. Director Kurian: We could also use graduate coordinators and ask them to forward to department list serv
- xxii. Shawn Washart: Another thought, where did you get this figure on costs? Did you look up lodging and hotels and look up quotes?
- xxiii. Director Kurian: I run a lot of activities and have a good idea of what things would cost. For the reception my idea is we would have cheese and crackers, coffee, cookies. As for lodging Nathan Hale rate is 199 a night and in terms of travel we are assuming she will drive and get reimbursed for gas.
- xxiv. Shawn Washart: In the future breaking down these amounts may be useful.
- xxv. Director Kurian: Yes I agree, I know for GSS when the cost is over 1000 we need to get like three different quotes
- xxvi. Senator Pryor: I applaud the initiative to help with career development. We need to make this more of a graduate event, maybe changing grammar in emails, make it more encompassing, and make this for graduate students. How many people are you anticipating?
- xxvii. Director Kurian: In terms of attendance it is hard to say, I would say 75 and I would say 30 or so from the Psych department.
- xxviii. Senator Pryor: Maybe make fliers and use departmental funds to help fund them
- xxix. Director Kurian: I think I can make something work, I am sure the department could absorb 20 dollars.
- xxx. Michael Hutson: I move to end discussion and vote, seconded, passes

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- b. Finance Committee – We need 5 people, at least one non-senator, and we cannot have more than one person from one constituency
 - i. Senator Flaig: Can you list the departments currently on the committee?
 - ii. Treasurer Beriša: There is currently no one on the committee, only me and Ian. Since Ian is a voting member there can be no more people from psychology. Because I am a nonvoting member people from linguistics can join.
 - iii. Senator Bowman: What is the time commitment for this semester?
 - iv. Treasurer Beriša: It depends on the committee, most of the work is next semester, and the main goal of the committee is dealing with the budget
 - v. Senator Bowman: So it is about 2 weeks?
 - vi. Treasurer Beriša: It is more than two weeks, we need to have budget hearings, and then need to decide on the final budget, it will be over the span of the semester
 - vii. Vice President Mollmann: Last year we had three separate hearing dates, they were about 2ish hours, and we also had short preplanning meetings, and one wrap up meeting
 - 1. Michael Ambroselli nominates himself
 - 2. Derek Doran nominate himself
 - 3. Chris Tomaszewski nominates himself
 - 4. Matthew Bowman nominates himself
 - viii. Senator Molo: We need diversity
 - ix. Vice President Mollmann: It depends on who stands up
 - x. Vote passes, everyone elected to the Finance committee
- c. At-large Senator Elections – We have 4 open seats because 2 are currently filled
 - 1. Michael Ambroselli nominates Derek Doran, Derek accepts
 - 2. Kobby Amponsah nominates Dickens Molo, Dickens accepts
 - 3. Claire Coleman nominates Karen Piantek, Karen accepts
 - 4. Kobby Amponsah nominates Tanesia Beverly, Tanesia accepts
 - ii. Vote passes, everyone elected to At-large Senators
- d. External Committees

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- i. Senator Molo: We really need diversity and to present it on these committees.
We need to change this moving forward.
 - ii. Vice President Mollmann: Motion to approve appointments to external committees
 1. Chris Tomaszewski – Scholastic Standards
 2. Danielle Wong – Faculty Standards
 3. Brandon Benevento – Parking Committee
 4. Nichole White – Distinguished Professor
 - iii. Senator Rodriguez – I am very pro diversity but when forcing people to be in positions they do not want to be then it is not fair or equal or right.
 - iv. President Charrette: I understand that our committee representation should reflect the way we look but we are short on committee representation and we need people to volunteer. I am asking people to volunteer.
 - v. Senator San Pedro: I would like point out that the University Diversity Committee has an open administration spot if you are interested you are welcome to join.
 - vi. Senator Piantek: Is GEOC still open? I am part of administration would it be a conflict of interest?
 - vii. Vice President Mollmann: Yes
 - viii. Shawn Washart: Can any graduate student be on these committees?
 - ix. President Charrette: The approval needs to go through the Senate but any graduate student can do it.
 - x. Treasurer Beriša : Nine committees are already essentially filled according to the bylaws
 - xi. Vice President Mollmann: The vote on external committees has been made, motion carries and is approved.
- e. Senator: Amponsah: I would like to consider an identical motion to the one we discussed at last meeting , it was important and I would like to talk about it some more
- i. Treasurer Beriša: The money in special allocation is for professional development

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- ii. Senator San Pedro: I was on the committee last year and graduate students have been asking for professional development. It depends on what you want to charge this committee with. The question came up to whether or not GSS should create it and that's where a lot of the disagreements laid
- iii. President Charrette: I took part in the vote, If you create separate and a permanent budget item then it begins to get a larger share of resources over time. That makes me worry because GSS has had a trend of giving less money to tier II organizations. We want to give more money and what the psychology department did to create professional development is something other departments can do. They know better than me what is needed.
- iv. Senator Flaig: Can you repeat about what you just said, so the committee hasn't been made. I agree with Kobby that departments need help, but it should not be the graduate students helping with professional development. Maybe we should propose a committee that doesn't have budget and works with individual budgets to help departments set up professional development. I do not believe this is something for GSS.
- v. Senator Molo: initial presentation, based on presentation, psychological department, agreed to be beneficial for all graduate students, not biased to psychology students, can bring to students to GSs
- vi. Secretary Wong: We have 8000 dollars right now for professional development. Other departments can do what the psychology department has done. Also we can go above the 8000 that is allocated. It is important to have the right people doing professional development rather than forcing students who do not understand other departments.
- vii. Shawn Washart: We are talking about giving money back to tier II. Professional development is something the graduate school should do. We should push the graduate school to do this
- viii. Senator Amponsah: From what I have read I think we should not under estimate the power of GSS and should propose a committee to at least be in charge of advertising and try and get information out to the student body

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- ix. Senator Flaig: If this is based upon a few months of research, why was this committee brought up?
- x. Vice President Mollmann: This was the previous president's pet project. She wanted to have GSS help with it.
- xi. Director Kurian: I was on exec with her, her thinking was that before this year there was a professional development workshop but only 40 people attended, and last year more people came but it was only 100. Her thinking was that professional development is something GSS should be thinking more of. Part of the issue was that if we have a committee and person where do we get the budget from, and GSS doesn't have ton of money. It would come from activities, and is this committee worth compromising other things. Graduate departments should be responsible for putting these events together.
- xii. Senator Ford: Along with background research – I am wondering if there is a venue to express to the graduate school that we want more professional development
- xiii. Shawn Washart: If we went we to career services they would implement something for us, it is because we do not go why they do not offer anything
- xiv. Senator Ford: Are resources now being used? Does the graduate school know?
- xv. Senator Doran: The Graduate School is doing professional development workshops maybe we can invite them to come and we can talk to them
- xvi. Senator Doran move to vote, seconded
- xvii. Senator Amponsah move to postpone until next meeting for more information
- xviii. Senator Doran: What new information do we need
- xix. Senator Amponsah: I want the report from last meeting
- xx. Sebastian Barraza: Also to talk to someone from the graduate school
- xxi. Motion fails
- xxii. Vote to create special committee, motion fails

VII. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Jason Charrette
 - i. Fee Campaign – There has been no decision on the rec center. Right now I am looking at what other universities pay as our peer universities. The fee committee

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is trying to get information from other committees and we are doing this because we want to create a resolution in GSS to introduce in the University Senate. We also want to get faculty on board. It is important to get our foot in the door and be part of the process, if you could think of other ideas of how we can try and influence fee battle into our favor please contact me

- ii. External Committees – need more people for external committees
- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
 - i. Student Life Committee – If you would like to please join my committee
 - ii. Graduate Stipend and Fees – Jason pretty much covered everything that has been going on
 - iii. Health insurance change – I am looking into ways we can figure out how to stay involved moving forward. I am meeting with the director of health insurance on Friday.
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
 - i. GSS FY 2012/2013 End-of-Year Budget Presentation – presentation is attached
 - 1. Senator Tomaszewski: We now have \$20,000, what number do we want to have it get down to before the university takes it?
 - 2. Treasurer Beriša: We generally get about \$20,000 and then spend down and get more as time moves forward. Right now we are good.
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
 - i. Public Relations Committee – My committee is filled but you can still join. I am looking into possibly getting coffee travel cups
 - ii. External Committee Report Form- If you are on an External Committee make sure you fill out the committee report form which is online and email to me within 7 days of meeting
 - iii. Attendance – please write legibly
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
 - i. Activities Committee – I met with my committee to talk about ideas for the fall. We were thinking about having a Halloween party and a social mixer.
 - ii. Ted’s Social Night recap – It was great and had a good number of people come

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- iii. Breakfast with the President, Tuesday, October 1, 8-9am, Student Union TBD –
The graduate school is in charge of setting up. I do not know which room it is in yet, reservation tentatively 3rd floor, nothing definite though. Steve will be moderating, and will have gavel. We are currently sorting through topics and question requests to bring up as a senate to the president. We will let people ask questions pertaining to those topics. Some of the topics that were received were more relevant to the graduate school so we will save those questions for another time. The president also does have office hours tomorrow from 1-3.
- iv. GSS “Thanksgiving Dinner” Lunch – Wednesday, November 20, 12-2pm,
Student Union Ballroom 330/331
- v. Grad Prom – We have a date it will be Friday February 21
- vi.
- vii. Motion to extend meeting, Senator Ambroselli motion, seconded
- viii. Motion fails

VIII. Adjournment at 9:09pm

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Agenda

Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	President
Steve Mollmann	steve.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Vice President
Safet Beriša	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Treasurer
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Secretary
Anish Kurian	anish.kurian@uconn.edu	Psychology	Activities Director
Ian Gutierrez	ian.guttierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Parliamentarian
Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Yes
Ajith Pattammuttel	ajith.pattammuttel@uconn.edu	Tarang Rep.	No
Amy Gaesser	amy.gaesser@uconn.edu	Counseling Education	yes
Andrew Collins	andrew.j.collins@uconn.edu	MCB	No
Andrew Petsche	andrew.petsche@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	Yes
Asif Rehan	asif.rehan@uconn.edu	GSA, CEE	Yes
Brando Benevento	jbbenevento@gmail.com		No
Cara Cordeaux	cara.cordeaux@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
Carmen Britton	carmen.britton@uconn.edu	HDFS	No
Chanee Ford	chanee.ford@uconn.edu	HDFS/GSCA	Yes
Chen Wang	chen.wang@uconn.edu	Education	No
Christopher Tomaszewski	christopher.tomaszewski@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Yes
Claire Coleman	claire.coleman@uconn.edu	Art (visual)	Yes
Colin Jin	chenhao.jin@uconn.edu	SAGE, CEE	No
Derek Doran	derek.doran@uconn.edu	Computer Science and Engineering	At Large
Dickens Molo	dickens.molo@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	At Large
Eileen Rodriguez	eileen.rodriguez@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	Yes
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Gabriella Marino	gabriella.marino@uconn.edu	Langsa	Yes
Harish Kumar	hanish.kumar@uconn.edu	IMS	No
Heidi Obaeh	heidi.obaeh@uconn.edu	Sociology	No
Huili Tang	huili.tang@uconn.edu	Math	No
Jeffrey Makray	jeffrey.makray@biz.uconn.edu	Business School	No
Jing Jin	jing.jin@uconn.edu	Material Science	No
Karen Piantek	karen.piantek@uconn.edu	Communications	At Large
Kobby Amponsah	kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	Yes
Laura Van Derzee	laura.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Sociology	Yes
Luke Pryor	john.pryor@uconn.edu	Kinesiology	Yes
Matt Bowman	matthew.bowman@uconn.edu	Art History	Yes
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	No
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpredro@uconn.edu	Anthropology/MAF	Yes

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Mike Murdrick	michael.mudrick@uconn.edu	Ed Leadership/NGSA	Yes
Mike Robillard	michael.robillard@uconn.edu	Philosophy	At Large
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Yes
Nicole Flaig	nicole.flraig@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
Nicole White	nicole.2.white@uconn.edu	Langsa	Yes
Partick Butler	pbutler9148@gmail.com	Medieval Studies	Yes
Rivkah Rosen	rivkah.rosen@gmail.com	Educational Psychology	Yes
Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Sebastian Barraza	sebastian.barraza@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
Shawn Washart	shawn.washart@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
Song Li	song.li@uconn.edu	Chemistry	Yes
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Tanesia Beverly	tanisia.beverly@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	At Large
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Zhen Cao	zhen.cao@uconn.edu	SPE	Yes

