

- I. Call to Order** at 7:04 pm.
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 12 March 2014 approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
  - a. Finance Committee Elections
    - i. No one was nominated or elected.
- VI. New Business**
  - a. GSS Executive Board Elections
    - i. Parliamentarian Gutierrez suggests a committee of senators to help count the ballots. Nominations are open until the voting of Senators, senators will have a chance to ask the candidates questions
    - ii. All of the candidates gave speeches and questions were asked of some candidates. The final results are
      1. President – Jason Charrette
      2. Vice President – Erin Eighan
      3. Treasurer – Christopher Tomaszewski
      4. Secretary – Danielle Wong
      5. Activities Director – Nicole Flaig
      6. Parliamentarian – Patrick Butler
  - b. ICOU Special Allocation Request
    - i. A representative from the ICOU described the purpose of their event to the senate, expecting about 70 people. Senator Tomaszewski. motioned to amend the request to strike the band from the special allocation request. Whether or not to strike the band was discussed. The band will be playing for about 30-45 minutes. The group spoke to a professor in sociology and they did not promise but suggested that they may help with funding. The option to charge for tickets was discussed, but the representative mentioned how that would hurt the attendance of the event. It is possible for there to be more special allocations to be brought. Senator He brought up the concern of how music relates to cultural and why the

money needs to be used. The question was then discussed. The funding is being entirely funded by GSS and came late, President Charrette and Senator Tomaszewski brought up the question if GSS passes this if this is going to be giving a hazard precedence. The request was not late, but for the amount of money it seemed late. For the lateness, there was a miscommunication about the treasurer and GSS (Treasurer Beriša explained that he was in contact with the treasurer so this was not the case). Also there is about 3,000 dollars left in the special allocations budget. If there is extra money, it goes back to GSS, and we can use it during the summer.

- ii. GSS 13/14 - 18 - that the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$2880.00 to the Iranian Cultural Organization of UConn for their event, "A life toward peace and love: A symposium on Rumi's life and works."

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Jason Charrette
  - i. Update – we have increased the loan fund which is great because now people can withdraw more money and it has been approved.
- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
  - i. Tax Presentation, went well, had good feedback, video on GSS website, notes in UCONN drop box
  - ii. Final meeting John Armstrong the Director of Off Campus Student Services, finally solved the bussing problem to Northwood
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
  - i. Budget Cuts – University has budget cuts happening and we will see moving forward where this money will be coming from.
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
  - i. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
  - i. Activities Committee
- f. Parliamentarian – Ian Gutierrez
  - i. BOT Election - Jeremy Jelliffe has become

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. Graduate Student Career Counselor Search Committee – Steven Mollmann
  - i. Going to be renewing the search, but for a different position, hopefully we can get a qualified candidate
- b. General Educational Oversight Committee – Michelle San Pedro
  - i. If you are teaching a 1000,2000,3000 you will get reevaluated, need to send syllabus, how to make syllabi better, concern about writing and general education

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. BOT Trustee – Jeremy Jelliffe
  - i. Introduced himself and gave what he we would like to see moving forward with the senate and communication
- b. 48<sup>th</sup> House District – Jason Paul
  - i. introduced himself, addressed the senate, wants to listen and be here for you
- c. Off Campus Director for Student Services – Eileen Rodriguez
  - i. Can give tough questions, plug 2 events, Tuesday April 8, off campus housing fair in SU ballroom 10am-3pm, know anyone who is looking for smaller scale program, luncheon Wednesday SU304C union 12-3
- d. Art Department Auction – Claire Colemand
  - i. Two important things coming up, 2<sup>nd</sup> year thesis show April 5-11<sup>th</sup> in the Benton, artist talk on April 22, Tuesday 1-4pm, first year MFA art auction, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the art building, artwork from faculty, grad students donated, work and show for undergrad,

**X. Adjournment 9:36pm**



**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
*University of Connecticut*

**Minutes**  
2 April 2014

**General Education Oversight Committee**  
**March 27, 2014**

<i>Chair:</i>	Michael F. Young Education Michael.f.young@uconn.edu	<i>Representative:</i>	Michelle San Pedro GSS Senator michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu
<i>Website:</i>	geoc.uconn.edu	<i>Committee Type:</i>	GSS External

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? No  
Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- W-course syllabi recommendations
- GEOC will provide formal statement to University Senate about allocating more resources towards W-courses. Faculty are concerned about the diminishing quality and support for undergraduate writing.

**Detailed Report**

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W-COURSE CRITERIA. The W subcommittee is having significant issues getting completed and adequate forms and syllabi for review. It was suggested that this is because faculty do not read instructions and do not turn things in on time. On the syllabus, W-courses should:

1. Require that students write a minimum of fifteen pages that have been revised for conceptual clarity and development of ideas, edited for expression, and proofread for grammatical and mechanical correctness.
2. Address writing in process, require revision, and provide substantial supervision of student writing. (The structure of revision and supervision may vary, including in-class writing workshops, individual consultation, substantial formative commentary on drafts, and so on.)
3. Have an enrollment cap of nineteen students per section.
4. Make explicit the relation between writing and learning in the course.
5. Articulate the structure of supervision of student writing.
6. Explain the place and function of revision in the course.
7. Detail how the page requirement will be met.
8. Require [and explicitly state in the syllabus] that students must pass the writing component in order to pass the course.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- Please distribute to senators to encourage improved W-course syllabi, and raise awareness about a university subcommittee stance on writing

**Attachments\***

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Do you have any attachments? Yes Should they be displayed during your report? No

**GEOC Statement of Concern about Writing and General Education**

In 2004, UConn undertook a transformative, faculty-led general education initiative aimed at creating a strong undergraduate curriculum across all majors. Over the last decade – and under faculty guidance from across the University – UConn has implemented robust curricular changes and created two faculty-led centers (W and Q) to support student and faculty development in areas identified as particularly crucial to the success of general education monitored by the University Senate’s General Education Oversight Committee.

Looking to national standards of academic excellence, UConn faculty proposed and developed a writing component that moves from an extended writing seminar taken in the first year (FYW), to discipline-specific “W” courses distributed throughout a student’s major. The seminar-style format shared by these courses reflects accepted best practices for writing pedagogy and supports UConn’s retention goals and external rankings. In addition, the FYW course is *the one course that fulfills the general education computer and information literacy requirements*, a requirement that will be increasingly important to the STEM and digital technologies initiatives outlined in the current academic plan.

However, since FYW requires many sections to deliver, of all the general education components this one course has been most vulnerable to financial pressures. In 2009, CLAS allowed Advanced Placement scores to be used as a way of exempting students from FYW, an allowance that was meant to be a temporary measure in response to the funding exigencies of that moment. But the AP score exemption has not been removed. Currently, about a quarter of first-year students have been exempted from the first-year writing requirement. Recent financial plans reveal that as enrollment increases with the NextGen initiative, enrollment in FYW is expected to remain at current rates or even decrease.

*GEOC is concerned that eliminating FYW for a substantially larger cohort of students removes a crucial component of the writing curriculum, as well as the only course that fulfills the information literacy requirement.* Moreover, many of the exempted students might not take a writing course until their junior or even senior

year, which works against the development of an important skill and the spirit of the general education curriculum. For this growing cohort of exempted students, UConn cannot certify its general education claims.

While we would prefer that funding levels allow all incoming students access to the FYW course, we are most concerned with the distribution of writing-intensive seminars across the duration of a student's time at UConn. **GEOC recommends that students exempted from FYW be required *in their first year* to take a 1000- or 2000-level W course. We urge that the provost and deans provide resources to ensure a sufficient number of these W courses.**

## ICOU Special Allocation Request

<i>Organization:</i> <i>Event:</i> <i>Proposed date:</i> <i>Contact person(s):</i> <i>Date submitted:</i> <i>Exec. Cmte. Approval:</i> <i>Presented to Senate:</i>	Iranian Cultural Organization of UConn A life toward peace and love: A symposium on Rumi’s life and works 4/11/2014 Iman Noshadi and Tahereh Jafari 3/26/2014 4 in favor, 2 opposed 4/2/2014
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### Budget proposal

Code	Description	Proposed	Outside Revenues	Exec. Cmte. recommendation
<i>603 Gifts</i>	Gifts	<b>\$50.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>606 Printing</i>	Posters	<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$50.00</b>
<i>612 Advertising</i>	Shuttle bus advertisement	<b>\$100.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<i>615 Contractual Services</i>	Honorarium	<b>\$1000.00</b>		<b>\$1000.00</b>
<i>615 Contractual Services</i>	Classical music band	<b>\$600.00</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>
<i>620 Refreshments</i>	Persian pastries	<b>\$480.00</b>		<b>\$480.00</b>
<i>623 Rental</i>	Dodd Center rental	<b>\$150.00</b>		<b>\$150.00</b>
<i>624 Travel</i>	Presenter travel	<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>
<i>624 Travel</i>	Presenter hotel	<b>\$300.00</b>		<b>\$300.00</b>
<i>631 Miscellaneous</i>	Miscellaneous	<b>\$200.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$3480.00</b>		<b>\$2880.00</b>

### Summary

This special allocation request was presented to the Executive Committee by Iman Noshadi (ICOU COO). The Executive Committee was of the opinion that, overall, the event was of the kind that should be funded by the Graduate Student Senate. The Executive Committee, however, was not unanimous in deciding to what monetary extent the event should be funded, considering especially the substantial amount request. The decision of the Executive Committee with 4 in favor and 2 opposed is ***that the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$2880.00 to the Iranian Cultural Organization of UConn for their event, “A life toward peace and love: A symposium on Rumi’s life and works.”***