

- I. Call to Order** at 7:02pm
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 30 October 2013 – minutes are approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Graduate Student Unionization
    - i. President Charrette: presentation
    - ii. Motion to do the resolutions 13/14 – 8
      1. That the Graduate Student Senate supports the formation of a union to represent Graduate Assistants (including Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants) at the University of Connecticut.
      2. That the Graduate Student Senate form a Special Committee for facilitating Graduate Assistant unionization, as per Article V, Section 2 of the GSS Constitution. This committee will be responsible for formulating a consistent message for unionization, contacting graduate students, and establishing voting commitments. The committee will be chaired by the GSS president who will have discretion to organize this committee as necessary. The committee will have an open membership.
      3. That the Graduate Student Senate authorize a budget allocation to the Special Committee in the amount of \$250 out of the special allocation budget for FY 2013-2014
    - iii. Leland Aldridge: Are we allowed legally under the bylaws to use fee money to help with organization attempts?
    - iv. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: Yes I would recommend to the Senate for the time being amend this motion to strike the last bullet point and then we can reconsider it after we have more information
      1. Senator Hutson: I motion to remove bullet point from the motion
      2. Vote to amendment carries

- v. Senator Amponsah: Would the union only be for the GAs or is this only for the whole body?
- vi. Vice President Mollmann: It would only be for GAs since they are employed by the university
- vii. Laura Wright: Everyone pays fees, so the union has the opportunity to still be able to affect health care and fees.
- viii. Senator Amponsah: if GSS can negotiate on behalf of students then how come we need a union?
- ix. Laura Wright: A union can negotiate something that is legally binding
- x. President Charrette: to be completely honest no GSS representative can do anything to bind anything with the university., GSS will never be able to be more effective than a union regarding, fees, stipends, and health care
- xi. Senator Reeds: How exactly would the task force work together with a GSS committee?
- xii. Laura Wright: They would work together, the task force is in agreement with Jason's plan and the goals are very similar
- xiii. Senator Flaig – Can we talk about the complications again? Is there any reason for us not to do this?
- xiv. President Charrette: Well there would be inflexibility, dues, it would be 1.15% of our fees. But it is important to note that the union pays for ourselves, from 2004 fees has increased 11%, yes the union would be an upfront cost, but I think it would be worth it, also there may be some inflexibility of departments
- xv. Laura Wright: There is some inflexibility but during the collective bargaining it is something we can renegotiate depending how long the contract is 1-2 years. The University of California took a couple years, and it could take a while
- xvi. Senator Fisher: In addition to it taking time, one of the complications for the union – unions need to be maintained, once it started dues will pay for maintenance, need to sign people up
- xvii. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: Right, quick point regarding how GSS would work in tandem to the task force, if we form this committee will work together very well

with each other and make sure to meet and also the work can be successfully divided up.

- xviii. Senator Ambroselli: What fraction of us needs to sign on to successfully unionize?
- xix. Vice President Mollmann: 50% of GAs + 1
- xx. Senator Reeds: the dues we are paying will pay for itself. It will save us time in the future; at some point those who cannot afford to pay won't be able to get another job, which will take time and energy. This is a chance to be part of something significant and meaningful
- xxi. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: Another point, once you organize the local chapter will have resources through the dues, the union has the potential to be able to offer a 10-15 hour per week position to someone who's primary responsibility would be to help retain and recruit members
- xxii. Senator Tomaszewski: If we get 50+1 is membership going to be mandatory for all TAs?
- xxiii. Laura Wright: It depends on the agreement we strike with the union, most are open shops, depends on the models
- xxiv. Senator Tomaszewski: so would we be doing an open shop model?
- xxv. Laura Wright: It will depend on the percentage of the dues payment, it reflects the fact that others may not join but still may get the benefits
- xxvi. Senator Tomaszewski : so it still may be an open shop question?
- xxvii. Laura Wright : yes that is correct
- xxviii. Senator Cordeauz: When we need to get signatures – is that to unionize, or do we need to know which unions were going to be choosing?
- xxix. Laura Wright: That is something we would want to discuss further, we have been meeting with some unions. We are talking to these people and then we will share these opinions
- xxx. Senator Hutson: if we agree then we are bound to the terms the union is able to negotiate?

- xxxi. Laura Wright: We enter into the collective bargaining, if we all agree then it signs then becomes law, if the university violates then the union will sue
- xxxii. Senator Hutson – we will have input?
- xxxiii. Laura Wright– correct, the union needs to be renewed each year so if we don't like them then we could go through the process of finding another
- xxxiv. Senator Merceron – is there any potential backlash that can happen with departments?
- xxxv. President Charrette: what is stopping your department from getting rid of you, there is nothing holding you, the offer letter is conditional upon the whims of your department, there would be no backlash that you can face than you already do now, my personal belief is that it's the best worst option, I don't see us making progress unless we happen to get lucky and that is all I have seen since I've been here, just bad luck
- xxxvi. Parliamentarian Gutierrez : it is about changing the culture now and into the future
- xxxvii. Laura Wright: The UAW has been here before and it has been discussed, reason now it is different it now the graduates seem to be unified now on fees and health insurance, we are committed and it seems like we can really work together and the political climate seems like we can do it. Right now there is 1061 faculty and 2100 graduate assistant students, we outnumber them and it is easy for them to change us, even the adjuncts are unionized
- xxxviii. Senator Reed – In a recent study it was found that those who are unionized are more likely to be looked at more professionally than those who were not.
- xxxix. Senator He: have you looked into the ratio for international students and have you thought about the place international students may have with the unions
- xl. Laura Wright: I haven't asked for demographic information – but international students can also unionize, this is something that will need to be thought about
- xli. Senator He: I do know that the ratio for Chinese students is higher here, the goals of the union may deviate from the goals that international students may have?

- xlii. President Charrette: I think unions are most important for international students, they need protection more than anyone else, you're on a visa, and based on your university, and if it changes then you have to go home, international students are particularly vulnerable and need protection
- xliii. Senator Tomaszewski - what is the need for international students, fees, compensation, money is a language is we all speak
- xliv. Senator He: I agree money is common, but it is really a dilemma, we need to make sure that our positions don't get terminated, we have no time to speak to our own position, It is the dilemma we have and it is hard to balance
- xlv. Senator Amponsah: I second the dilemma for graduate students, most of my constituent is international and only 10% are funded by the school, most of them are unfunded and they need to pay fees this union will be leaving out international students that are paying fees
- xlvi. Vice President Mollmann: Yes the union would leave out unfunded students
- xlvii. President Charrette: This is the debate we had in exec about us getting involved since we represent all graduate assistants, we can argue for all graduate students but the unfunded students will become free riders, they would get access perhaps, to different healthcare opposed to standard student even though they do not have to pay the fee for a union. The reason why we decided was thought to benefit all graduate students, the biggest benefit that would be difficult to measure is that we are not a protected class – this union would say that we can't push graduate students around anymore, everyone would benefit, and international students, would also have the benefit from this, I think this would really help them a lot
- xlviii. Senator Piantek: We did the fee statistics and now UConn is number 5 and fees is now a number of concern and we should see of those other universities which of them have unions
- xlix. President Charrette: I haven't gotten around to that but that is something that I would like to do
  - 1. Laura Wright: In response to the question about the role of international students, we have been interviewing unions who are familiar with dealing with these

concerns and they have in the past brought in lawyers to help deal with this. They have even offered money to students to help act as translators to make sure nothing gets lost in translation.

- li. GS13/14-8 passes
  - 1. That the Graduate Student Senate supports the formation of a union to represent Graduate Assistants (including Teaching Assistants and Research Assistants) at the University of Connecticut.
  - 2. That the Graduate Student Senate form a Special Committee for facilitating Graduate Assistant unionization, as per Article V, Section 2 of the GSS Constitution. This committee will be responsible for formulating a consistent message for unionization, contacting graduate students, and establishing voting commitments. The committee will be chaired by the GSS president who will have discretion to organize this committee as necessary. The committee will have an open membership.

- b. EGSA Special Allocation
  - i. Senator Reeds: the professional development committee would like to invite everyone, have several each semester, presentation, q&a, and event has a theme, Monday is a poetics theme and we have two speakers
  - ii. Vice President Mollmann: what is the money being spent on?
  - iii. Senator Reeds: in previous years we offer light refreshments and snacks
  - iv. GSS 13/14-7: that the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$40.00 to the English Graduate Student Association for their event, "Poetics COR Talk."
- c. GSS 13/14-6: That the Graduate Student Senate reallocate \$500.00 from General Operations to the Special Allocations budget.

- i. Motion carries

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Jason Charrette
  - i. Update - I was not able to attend the most recent senate exec meeting, it was mostly about title ix

- ii. Unfortunately the joint committee with undergrads failed, they for some reason backed out on us
- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
  - i. Next Semester Meeting Schedule – 7pm in Whetten 200
    - 1. January 29<sup>th</sup>
    - 2. February 19<sup>th</sup>
    - 3. March 12th (nominations open)
    - 4. April 2nd (elections)
    - 5. April 23rd (budget approval)
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
  - i. Finance Committee- the finance committee met on 11/8, the report is attached, the main thing I want said is that there will be three budgeting workshops: next week (doodle poll to tier 2 POCs will be sent out soon), last week of classes this semester and first week of classes in Spring. I will also attend my first (albeit orientational) SASFAC meeting on Friday. Ian: since you were at the FC meeting feel free to add any other stuff you think everyone would be interested in knowing at this point.
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
  - i. New External Committee Report Form
  - ii. Attendance
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
  - i. Social Mixer Recap – pretty good
  - ii. GSS “Thanksgiving Dinner” Lunch – Wednesday, November 20, 12-2pm, Student Union Ballroom 330/331
  - iii. Grad Prom Save the Date February 21, 2014
  - iv. I have been looking into getting a professional speaker who would specialize on how to give talks to nonacademic audiences, I also have an interest in collaborating with the grad school
- f. Parliamentarian – Ian Gutierrez

- i. BOT Elections – elections happening march 5 and march 10, online voting, as elections voting website will be updated (vote.uconn.edu)
- ii. Joint Elections Committee: Talked about schedule leading up to elections – will be having two elections – at large senator election and then election for graduate student trustees that sits on board of trustees – we elect that person every two years
  1. February 7 need to submit intent to run
  2. Feb 21 – application will be due at 12
  3. Campaign begin at 5pm the same day (doesn't apply to us)
  4. Voting open march 5- close 5pm march 10
- iii. Student trustee committee – manages election of student trustee – state legislature passed that a student trustee needs to be enrolled for full time, unfortunately if you are in a terminal 2 year MA program you can't be a trustee, the committee is still trying to work out the glitches

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. University Senate – Steve Mollmann
  - i. Community Dialogue on Violence, Culture and UConn – Monday, November 18, 5:00pm – Wilbur Cross North Reading Room
    1. Senate executive board is worried about stem disciplines over emphasized over other disciplines

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. President Charrette: before every BOT have breakfast of BOT Rep, and dean, most often in the past the BOT trustee has not come from Storrs, most often it has come from the law school or the med school. They are not on the listserv they don't pay the same fees, don't have the same interests at heart, and communication is often difficult. GSS should put up a candidate for BOT. We should think and decide who we want represented on the BOT. They vote on important matters, and can get a lot of information that a lot of us cannot get sitting on the committees. We need to have someone who has a serious concern for graduate students, maybe it would be a good idea to mobilize a person
- b. Parliamentarian Gutierrez : also if that interests you will look good on CV



- c. Secretary Wong: but it should not just be someone who wants a CV fluffer it needs to be someone who cares and can really help us
- d. Senator Lovelace: regarding the community dialogue on the violence and culture how come we haven't sent it out to the list serv?
- e. Vice President Mollmann: I have tried to get the information from Ed, USG President, about the details and I have yet to hear anything back because I did want to announce it to grad students
- f. Senator Lovelace: is it possible to do something as a graduate population that can be graduate run?
- g. President Charrette: if you want it to be an issue then it can be an issue
- h. Senator Lovelace: It has been done it in women's studies – but it is always separated – seems to be an issue needs to be addressed by graduate students, undergraduates, professors and faculty
- i. President Charrette– I haven't focused so much on it but if it is something that you think should be done then we should probably do something and put it on our radar, we can bring in someone or do something bigger in partnership with the graduate school, I can work with Sandy and Charmanne
- j. Vice President Mollmann: I will bump it to the student life committee and see if we have any other ideas

**X. Adjournment 8:23**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Senator</b>
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	President	President
Steven Mollmann	steven.mollmann@uconn.edu	Vice President	Vice President
Safet Berisa	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Treasurer	Treasurer
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Parliamentarian	Parliamentarian
Anish Kurian	anish.kurian@uconn.edu	Activities Director	Activities Director
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Secretary	Secretary
Abigail Thornton	abigail.thornton@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Yes
Alexandra Merceron	alexandra.merceron@uconn.edu	GSCA/Communications	No
Andrew Petsche	andrew.petsche@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	Yes
Asif Rehan	asif.rehan@uconn.edu	GSA, CEE	Yes
Cara Cordeaux	cara.cordeaux@uconn.edu	Psychology	Yes
Cera Fisher	cera.fisher@uconn.edu	EEB	Yes
Christopher Tomaszewski	christopher.tomaszewski@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Yes
Dawn Savage	dawn.savage@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	No
Eileen Rodriguez	eileen.rodriguez@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	Yes
Eleanor Reeds	eleanor.reeds@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Gabriella Marino	gabriella.marino@uconn.edu	Langsa	Yes
Jeffrey Makray	jeffrey.makray@biz.uconn.edu	Business School	No
Josh Green	joshua.2.green@yconn.edu	Psychology	No
Jun He	jun.he@uconn.edu	Economics	Yes
Kobby Amponsah	kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	Yes
Laura Van Derzee	lauren.van_derzee@uconn.edu	Sociology	Yes
Laura Wright	laura.wright@uconn.edu	English	No
Leland Aldridge	leland.aldridge@uconn.edu	Physics	No
Luke Pryor	john.pryor@uconn.edu	Kinesiology	Yes
Matt Bowman	matthew.bowman@uconn.edu	Art History	Yes
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Yes
Michael Hutson	michael.hutson@uconn.edu	EEB	Yes
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology/MAF	Yes
Mike Murdrick	michael.mudrick@uconn.edu	Ed Leadership/NGSA	Yes
Mike Robillard	michael.robillard@uconn.edu	Philosophy	At Large Senator
Mike Winder	mhwinder@gmail.com	Physics	Yes
Morad Behandish	mobehandish@engr.uconn.edu	ME, CSE, SAGE	No
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



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

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

**Minutes**  
13 November 2013

Rivkah Rosen	rivkah.rosen@gmail.com	Educational Psychology	Yes
Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Tanesia Beverly	tanesia.beverly@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	At Large Senator
Thomas Briggs	thomas.briggs@uconn.edu	Political Science	No
Vanessa Lovelace	vanessa.lovelace@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes

**Instructions:** Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to [danielle.wong@uconn.edu](mailto:danielle.wong@uconn.edu) with the subject header "Committee Report Form" and the date of the next GSS meeting at which it will be presented (i.e., "Committee Report Form 11-7-12"). To fill out the form, click on the editable fields and enter the specified information.

**Student Union Partners**  
**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

*Chair:* Monica Rudzik  
Director, Student Union  
monica.rudzik@uconn.edu

*Representative:* Steven Mollmann  
Vice President GSS  
steven.mollmann@uconn.edu

*Website:* <http://www.studentunion.uconn.edu/index.html>      *Committee Type:* External

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential?

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- N/A

**Detailed Report**

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TRICK OR TREAT AT THE U

This happened; it was a success.

BREAK HOURS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

These were distributed via e-mail after the meeting.

BUILDING PROJECTS OVER THANKSGIVING (OR CHRISTMAS)

If we have any requests, now's the time.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- N/A

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**Student Union Board of Governors Student Union Policy Council**

**7 November 2013**

<i>Chair:</i>	Connor Scott	<i>Representative:</i>	Steven Mollmann
	Vice President for Policy, SUBOG		Vice President, GSS
	connor.scott@uconn.edu		steven.mollmann@uconn.edu
<i>Website:</i>	<a href="http://www.subog.uconn.edu/">http://www.subog.uconn.edu/</a>	<i>Committee Type:</i>	External

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? NO

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- n/a

**Detailed Report**

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**PLACEMENT OF BANNERS IN THE NORTH LOBBY**

The Policy Council recommended that organizations with office space in the Union (i.e., cultural centers, &c.) be allowed to place advertising banners in the Union North Lobby where the Homecoming banners are, when the space is not being used for Homecoming banners.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- n/a

**Instructions:** Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to [danielle.wong@uconn.edu](mailto:danielle.wong@uconn.edu) with the subject header "Committee Report Form" and the date of the next GSS meeting at which it will be presented (i.e., "Committee Report Form 11-7-12"). To fill out the form, click on the editable fields and enter the specified information.

**University Senate**

**11 November 2013**

<i>Chair:</i>	Gary English	<i>Representative:</i>	Steven Mollmann
	Moderator		Vice President, GSS
	<a href="mailto:gary.english@uconn.edu">gary.english@uconn.edu</a>		<a href="mailto:steven.mollmann@uconn.edu">steven.mollmann@uconn.edu</a>
<i>Website:</i>	<a href="http://senate.uconn.edu/">http://senate.uconn.edu/</a>	<i>Committee Type:</i>	External

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? NO

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- The Senate Executive Committee is discussing the recent emphasis of STEM disciplines over "non-STEM" ones.
- Rules for course syllabi are coming, but not yet.
- There was sort of a non-answer about how ongoing budget difficulties would affect graduate students.

**Detailed Report**

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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Herbst gave her monthly update. She spoke to the current Title IX civil complaint against the University only to say that she could not discuss an ongoing legal situation. A report is, however, coming within the next month from the President's Task Force on Civility and Campus Culture. She also discussed the Obama administration's intention to rank U.S. universities on a cost-benefit analysis; she suspects UConn will rank highly. Finally, she mentioned that UConn is expanding its ties with a number of Israeli universities.

REPORT OF THE SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In its meetings over the past month, the SEC discussed promoting academic and scholarly achievements of UConn students *in addition* to athletic (Senator Zirakzadeh indicated it did not have to be zero-sum game), actions by students to stop sexual discrimination and misogyny on campus, the continued emphasis on STEM disciplines over “non-STEM” ones, the recent water alert, the placement of security cameras, Provost Choi’s promotion of diversity recruitment, the challenges of the 2015 budget, and the so-called “Committee of Three” (which “functions in faculty dismissal and grievance procedures,” especially PTR). The expansion of University By-laws about course syllabi is still under discussion.

#### COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON VIOLENCE, CULTURE, & UCONN

The Undergraduate Student Government is hosting this event on November 18th at 5:00pm in the Wilbur Cross North Reading Room. It will be a moderated discussion with questions being asked of the attendees. They hope for participation from across the University community. Dress casual and “check” your title at the door. Refreshments will be served.

#### ANNUAL REPORT ON THE UCONN FOUNDATION

The 10-weeks new director, Joshua Newton, gave a brief report. He is looking at improving communication, both within the University (he’d like to have better interaction with the Alumni Association) and with donors. Traditional wisdom is that endowments have a few people who give a lot, but UConn has a lot of people who give a little, and it’s not really working out for them—there’s no seven-digit investment. In Q&A, he spoke to the recent *Courant* story about the house that the Foundation bought in Hartford for the President, stressing that the house was 1) for the office of the President forever, not Susan Herbst specifically, 2) the money used was donated for this express purpose as far back as 2007, and 3) none of those donations were instead of other donations, they were all additional donations from big donors.

#### REDUCTION OF CREDITS THAT CAN BE TRANSFERRED BY MATRICULATED FRESHMEN

There was a vote scheduled to reduce this, but the vote was postponed pending refinements from the Scholastic Standards Committee.

#### REVISED DEFINITION OF GROUP ONE GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

After much wrangling over the meaning and wording of one sentence, and a couple procedural difficulties, a revised set of definitions was adopted to bring the definitions in line with actual practices.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER ON THE UNIVERSITY’S BUDGET

Next year's enrollment target is 3,550 new freshmen at Storrs, which is lower than the amount enrolled this year. Most of the presentation focused on the difficulties of doing everything the University is supposed to do (pay higher benefit rates, give raises, enroll more students, give more financial aid) when it seems like State aid is always dwindling. Senator Zirakzadeh beat me to the punch in asking about graduate students, but there was not much of an answer. The guidelines for additional investments in graduate students will become clear after the new [Academic Plan](#) comes out. You can see the whole PowerPoint presentation [here](#).

**Action Items for Senate**

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- n/a