

I. Call to Order – 7.08pm

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Special Guest/Speaker: Victoria Blodgett, Assistant Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs

- a. Victoria Blodgett discussed the role of the Graduate School staff and the Graduate Initiatives Fellows (GIFs). She highlighted the role of Melanie Chenette, the Graduate Student Advocacy Officer, who serves as a resource for both staff and particularly for graduate students. She stated that the Graduate School intends to contact academic departments in UConn to see how they are helping graduate students. She stated that they are setting up a Graduate Newsletter which they will send to faculty which shall also contain information about national trends, concerns and issues affecting graduate students. She also mentioned that the Graduate School would like to establish an equivalent of UConn's First Year Experience program for new graduate students and offer some credit-bearing courses. She stated that they would like to use focus groups to get some graduate input on the kind of courses which would be useful and suit their needs.
- b. Victoria explained how GIFs are funded by a reallocation of money that would have been used for a part-time staff position and that she decided it would be more effective to have graduate students themselves create initiatives to serve their own community. She explained the purpose of GIFs and their role in helping to create a better graduate community, and how this scheme fits in with the broader goal of the Graduate School to work toward a kinder and gentler graduate experience and more inclusive culture. She described the successful events the GIFs had organised so far this semester such as events for graduate students over 35 years old, for graduates who are parents and guardians, for first year Teaching Assistants, and a pumpkin decorating night. She talked about future events such as lunch with Kent Holsinger and also a trip to a comedy night in Hartford. She explained that the GIFs is a new scheme and their webpage will be online soon, and they plan to help organize next year's orientation.
- c. Victoria announced that a housing developer has approached Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs, with the intention of building 200 units of high-density

housing near Tolland to serve graduate students and young faculty members. She announced an opportunity for graduate volunteers to meet with the developers to explain graduate needs. The meeting is scheduled to take place on November 11th and she is looking for a variety of people who could represent the diversity of the graduate community, e.g. single students, couples, international students, out-of-state students, non-car owners, etc.

- d. Jeremy Jelliffe asked about the Graduate School's plans for making travel money more widely available.
- e. Victoria stated that demand for travel funding currently is larger than the funding available but they understand the importance of graduate students being able to travel to conduct and present research.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- a. GSS meeting minutes, 7th October 2015, approved by the GSS Senate
- b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 21st October 2015, approved by the GSS Executive

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Phillip Price proposed an amendment to GSS Bylaw III: Apportionment to the Senate stating that a GSS Senator cannot represent more than one constituency at the same time.
 - i. Senator Ambroselli asked whether this would need to be approved by the Board of Trustees.
 - ii. Phillip explained that only changes to the GSS Constitution require Board of Trustee approval and as this is a Bylaw amendment it only requires a 2/3 majority vote of the senate.
 - iii. There were no objections and the proposed amendment will be voted on next GSS meeting.

VI. New Business

- a. Provost's Library Advisory Committee (PLAC)
 - i. Michael Ambroselli was unanimously voted as the graduate representative for this committee.
- b. GSS Committee elections

- i. The following students were elected to the following GSS Committees through a majority vote:
 - 1. GSS Student Life Committee
 - a. Michelle San Pedro
 - b. Nancy Wong
 - c. Thomas Briggs
 - 2. GSS Policies and Procedures Committee
 - a. Pariksheet Nanda
 - 3. GSS Activities Committee
 - a. Eric Simning
 - 4. GSS Public Relations Committee
 - a. Ross Dardani
 - b. Meera Surendran Nair
- c. Special Allocations Request for GO:MCB – Pariksheet Nanda
 - i. GSS 15/16-4: That the GSS allocate \$117.92 to GO:MCB to cover unforeseen expenses for their “Where can a PhD in Science Take You?” event.
 - ii. Senator Nanda explained the unexpected additional cost arising from GO:MCB being unable to use their normal event room in their department for free and instead having to use a room in the Student Union and pay for Student Union catering.
 - iii. There were no objection to the Special Allocation Request, passed.

VII. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Tony Patelunas
 - i. Funding Cuts to Library Services. Tony explained that the university intends to cut \$1.9 million from Library Services which will affect subscriptions to journal and Inter-Library Loan lending. He stated that this was a big issue for graduate students who rely upon these services. He stated that there has been a letter of protest written by the Head of the Literatures, Cultures and Languages department which has been signed by many faculty and students. Tony believes that it would be most effective for GSS, as one of the five main deliberative

bodies in the university to draft its own letter. Tony also discussed the cuts to University Information Technology Services (UITs) and the negative impact this will also have on graduate students. He described the difficult situation the university is in and how the decrease in funding means that services have to be cut somewhere and the challenge for us is to identify those least critical to graduate students.

- ii. Parking update. Tony has met with the following UConn staff to discuss the issue of parking on campus:
 - 1. William Wendt, the Director of Logistics Administration
 - 2. Dwight Atherton, Parking Manager
 - 3. Janet Freniere, Transportation Services Administrator
 - 4. Tanya Husick, Transport Planner

Tony was unable to make progress regarding parking on the S Lot, however Dwight Atherton did state that it was one of the most complicated parking lots on campus. Dwight Atherton said construction vehicles should not be parking there but there is not much that can be done beyond ticketing vehicles parked without permits. Tony also stated that nearby buildings are to be extended into S Lot in Spring. Tony said that the parking by EO Smith is all available for GAs. Tony stated his dissatisfaction that many decisions are not being actively brought to the attention of graduates. He was also concerned that the university's Master Plan considers any open parking lot as potential space for new building.

- iii. Bus service. Tony stated that the UConn Transportation department does not receive any state funding and is funded through the Transit Fee paid by students. UConn Transport told him that they collect ridership data in the form of the number of people who take buses each hour, however they do not record whether those riders are undergraduates, graduates or staff. Tony stated that UConn Transport is concentrating on long-term plans for a bus link to Hartford within the next 5 years.
 - 1. Victoria Blodgett asked if there is a Transport Advisory Committee.

2. Brandon Benevento stated that he currently sits on the University's Parking and Transportation Advisory Committee but it does not have decision-making power. He stated that it is good to bring people together though.
3. Tony stated that he asked William Wendt about the committee who informed him that it has not met this semester.
- iv. Housing and Transport survey. Tony stated that he has passed on the raw data from last year's survey to the relevant committees now.
- v. State of University address. Tony stated that he felt it was more of an exercise in public relations and did not represent a substantial engagement with students. He stated that he asked President Herbst a question about the effects of increased undergraduate enrollment on the graduate community to which he did not receive a clear answer. His question did not get reported in the Daily Campus.
- b. Vice President – Vanessa Lovelace
 - i. Student Life Committee. Vanessa will email the members of the committee to arrange their first meeting.
- c. Treasurer – Greg Treich (absent)
- d. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
 - i. Attendance. Tom reminded senators to ensure they write the constituency they represent on the attendance sheet as it is used to check that Graduate Student Organisations fulfill their budget obligations.
 - ii. GSS website updates. Tom stated that the list of current GSS Senators is on the website, and the list of committee members shall be on the webpage shortly.
 - iii. University Senate Report (see attached). Tom presented his report from the last University Senate meeting he and Tony Patelunas attended. Tom briefly talked about the university's recruitment and diversity performance and policies, and the role of the University Senate meeting as a forum in which Senate Committees report (most of which have graduate representatives).
 1. Victoria Blodgett added that the university is currently searching for a Chief Diversity Officer.

- e. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
 - i. Halloween. Morad stated that the budget has been doubled for Halloween this year so there will be more food and he is using professional decorators. He is taking on board feedback from the Food Truck Festival and is making the sign-in process simpler.
 - ii. Happy Hours. Morad stated he intends to start these as soon as Nathan Hale Inn responds.
 - iii. New trips. Morad offered to collaborate with the comedy trip being organised by the GIFs. He can allocate \$550 to rent a bus for the trip and also try to increase the number of graduates who can attend the trip.
- f. Parliamentary – Phillip Price
 - i. President and Treasurer pay
 - 1. The President and Treasurer pay remains the same.
 - ii. University Student Recreation Advisory Committee Report (see attached). Phillip reported that the committee is supposed to oversee the development of the new Student Recreation Centre and ensure it is suitable for students' needs (including graduate students). However, there are two new sub-committees being formed and there is a danger that these will decrease graduate input into the new Recreation Centre unless we can get graduates to sit on these committees as well, which is difficult given the limited time graduates students possess. Having noted these concerns, Phillip then requested for any volunteers willing to sit on these sub-committees to contact him. Phillip also stated that the new location of the Recreation Centre will be on the site where Connecticut Commons currently stands, and that there had been discussion about pedestrianising Gilbert Road and making Whitney Road the main artery for vehicles through campus.
 - iii. Graduate Faculty Council Report (see attached). Phillip presented his report and stated that they discussed the weekend bus service to the depot campus which affects the Fine Arts students based there. He also reported on the recommendation of the library archivist for new UConn dissertations to be stored

digitally rather than retaining hard copies which are expensive to produce and store. He also reported on possible changes to the process for dismissal hearings.

VIII. External Committee Reports

- a. Senate Student Life and Welfare Committee report (see attached). Senator San Pedro presented her report. She discussed issues regarding international students who arrive to UConn prior to orientation and the services available to them or lack thereof. She suggested the possibility of a mentoring system to help new arriving student. She also reported on the shortage of short-term housing for guests, visiting professors, and transitional housing options for newly arriving students.
- b. Senate Scholastic Standards Committee report (see attached). Kacie Davis presented her report. She reported that nothing on this committee was relevant to graduate students and that a lot of its work was delegated to other committee or postponed for a later date.
- c. Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Students (TAFS) Committee. Jeremy Jelliffe prompted Tony Patelunas to briefly present a report from the TAFS Committee meeting they had both attended. Tony reported that this committee has been recently reinstated after 5 years since being disbanded, and apparently it had previously been a useful committee. Tony said the committee discussed concerns about the administration asking groups to “rubber-stamp” decisions that had already been made to grant them post hoc legitimacy.
 - i. Jeremy Jelliffe also made the broader point that if the university wishes to present a coherent message/vision to the community outside of UConn then it also needs to ensure its internal communication is coherent; internal and external communication should not be treated separately.
 - ii. Jeremy also stated that in his opinion “Staff” should be also added to the list of stakeholders in the TAFS(S) committee.

IX. Issues Forum

- a. Public Speaking training
 - i. Senator San Pedro stated that there was a need for training in public speaking for graduate students as part of their professional development. She explained that many other graduate programs at other institutions offer such training and that it

would benefit graduate students greatly. She has looked into this issue and is willing to share her ideas further with the GSS Executive.

- ii. Jeremy Jelliffe said that the International Teaching Assistant training program helps new international students with public speaking in the classroom, but there is still a wider need for training aimed at public speaking to larger audiences beyond the classroom and also for graduates who already have English as their first language but nonetheless struggle with public speaking.
- iii. Victoria Blodgett said that the Institute for Teaching and Learning could be able to assist in this training.

b. Promoting events for Graduate Student Organisations (GSOs)

- i. Senator Yuste-Alonso spoke about the difficulty for GSOs to promote their events if they are subject to the same rules that apply to Undergraduate Student Organisation. She explained that most events put on by GSOs are different in kind to other registered student organisations (RSOs) and as such should be subject to different rules. She explained that her GSO, the Languages Graduate Student Association (LANGSA), are putting on an academic conference on Friday 6th November, and are finding it challenging to promote it because their posters have to compete for space with the far more numerous undergraduate student organisations. She argued that there should be a separate place to promote graduate events but as such no place exists. She explained that currently they post on the doors of the graduate office but she is uncertain that this is even allowed according to RSO rules and guidelines. She noted that GSS is asking for more appropriate, graduate-specific, training for GSO leaders, and asked that the rules regarding promoting events could also be made more suitable to graduate needs.
- ii. Tony Patelunas said that he is meeting with Christine Wilson, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities, and he will bring up this issue with her.
- iii. Senator Parent suggested that certain notice boards around campus could be designated for postings about graduate events only.

- iv. Nancy Wong said that there is a graduate lounge where GSOs should be able to post promotional posters.
- v. Jeremy Jelliffe mentioned that Scott Jordan, Chief Financial Officer of UConn, had asked in a meeting why there are not more posters around campus. One of the reasons given was that they can represent a fire hazard.
- vi. Victoria Blodgett suggested creating an online calendar.
- vii. Senator Simning suggested that the calendar on the GSS website could be used more effectively to promote such events.
- c. Avery Point parking
 - i. Senator Sun gave a presentation on the problem Avery Point students are having with the changes to their parking permits (see attached). Currently they get free parking permits for Avery Point released from the campus police department and can use that permit for Area 3 parking when visiting Storrs. This is changing so they have to buy Regional Campus Parking Permits, yet they can only park in C Lot when visiting Storrs which is really far away from the centre of campus. He suggested either not changing the parking system, or halving the cost of the Regional Campus Permit for GAs and permitting them to use the same parking at Storrs that is available to other GAs. He also asked the GSS if they could offer any further solutions or help.
 - ii. Tony Patelunas explained that he brought this issue to the attention of UConn Parking Services. Tony explained that Area 3 parking is being phased out but it is being “grandfathered out” meaning that current Area 3 permit holders can keep them until they finish, but new students entering the program will not be able to get them. He sympathized with the Avery Point students as a lot of the regional campuses are being negatively affected by plans to centralize UConn, such as the switch to a common schedule.
 - iii. Jeremy Jelliffe asked Senator Sun how much Regional Campus Parking Permits cost to which he replied that they were \$110.
 - iv. Nancy Wong asked if there is a taskforce regarding such issues affecting regional campuses.

- v. Senator Simning asked how often regional campus students need to attend Storrs campus.
- vi. Kacie Davis noted that the ratio at Kansas State University was 1.72 students to every parking spot.
- vii. Tony Patelunas stated that UConn has approximately 1 parking spot for every 1.2 parking permits issued. He stated that it would be interesting to have more detailed data for UConn's student to parking spot ratios, and referenced the Kansas State University Master Plan for Transportation and Planning (available here: https://www.k-state.edu/facilities/projects/planning/master_plans/2025_plan/KSUTransportationParking_Final%20Report.pdf. Also see attached graph).

X. Meeting adjourned 8.46pm

Register

28th October - GSS meeting

Name	Email	constituting idea	Senator?
Thomas Briggs	thomas.briggs@uconn.edu	Political Science	No
Jeremy JELLIFFE	JEREMY.JELLIFFE@UCONN.EDU	GRAD TRUSTEE	NO
Katelyn Jaynes	katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Laura Godfrey	laura.godfrey@uconn.edu	English	yes
Brandon Benevento	bbenevento@gmail.com	English	yes
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Yes
Nancy Wong	nancy.m.wong@uconn.edu	ED Leadership	No
Shariq Mohammed	shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu	Statistics	Yes
Suvash Dhakal	suvash.dhakal@uconn.edu	FERT	Yes
Arunab Roy	arunab.roy@uconn.edu	LANGSA	Yes
Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	No
Matthew Parent	matthew.parent@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
Hector Contreras-Mora	hector.contreras@uconn.edu	Psy-Behavioral Neuroscience	No
Karla Arias	Karla.arias@uconn.edu	Chemistry	yes
Danielle Heichel	danielle.heichel@uconn.edu	SPEI Polymer Science	yes
Vignesh Vasu	vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu	"	no
David Baldwin	David.baldwin@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Yes
KEVIN KEEGAN	KEVIN.KEEGAN@UCONN.EDU	ECOLOGICAL AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY	YES
Carmen Britton	Carmen.britton@uconn.edu	HDFS	YES
Sercan CANBOLAT	Sercan.canbolat@uconn.edu	Pol Sci	No
Sajad	sajad.mirzaei@uconn.edu	Iranian Cultural	No
KACIE DAVIS	KACIE.DAVIS@UCONN.EDU	GAA	NO
KALEIGH RUSSELL	KALEIGH.RUSSELL@UCONN.EDU	GPA	YES

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator
ELZA, NEELIMA MATHEW	elza.mathew@uconn.edu	IFTSA	<i>Aparajita</i>
Meera Surendran	meera.nair@uconn.edu	ANSC	<i>John</i>
Eric Simning	eric.simning@uconn.edu	ARE	Yes <i>SS</i>
PARIKSHEET NANDA	pariksheet.nanda@uconn.edu	GO: MCB	Yes
Qiang Sun	qiang.sun@uconn.edu	DMS	Yes
Latanya Brandon	Latanya.branden@uconn.edu	EDCI	No
Monique Golden	monique.golden@uconn.edu	EDUR	NO
Michael Aubrun	aubrunli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Y
<i>deepthi.varghese</i>			
Deepthi Varghese	deepthi.varghese@uconn.edu	Tayang	No
Ruth 2. Guste Alonso	ruth.guste@uconn.edu	LANSA	Y

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Jeremy Jelliffe	Jeremy.jelliffe@uconn.edu	Graduate Trustee	N
Katelyn Jaynes	Katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu	English	Y
Laura Godfrey	Laura.godfrey@uconn.edu	English / Medieval Studies	Y
Brandon Benevento	Jbbenevento@gmail.com	English	Y
Michelle San Pedro	Michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Y
Nancy Wong	Nancy.m.wong@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	N
Shariq Mohammed	Shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu	Statistics	Y
Suvash Dhakal	Suvash.dhakal@uconn.edu	Earthquake Engineering and Research Institute	Y
Arnab Roy	Arnab.roy@uconn.edu	Literatures, Cultures, and Languages	Y
Ross Dardani	Ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	N
Matthew Parent	Matthew.parent@uconn.edu	Political Science	Y
Hector Contreras-Mora	Hector.contreras@uconn.edu	Psychology Behavioural Neuroscience	N
Karla Arias	Karla.arias@uconn.edu	Chemistry	N
Danielle Heichel	Danielle.heichel@uconn.edu	Polymer Science / Society of Plastic Engineers	Y
Vignesh Vasu	Vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu	Polymer Science	N
David Baldwin	David.baldwin@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Y
Kevin Keegan	Kevin.keegan@uconn.edu	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Y

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Carmen Britton	Carmen.britton@uconn.edu	Human Development and Family Studies	Y
Sercan Canbolat	Sercan.canbolat@uconn.edu	Political Science	N
Sajad Mirzaei	Sajad.mirzaei@uconn.edu	Iranian Cultural Organisation	Y
Kacie Davis	Kacie.davis@uconn.edu	Graduate Art Alliance	N
Kaleigh Rusgrove	Kaliegh.rusgrove@uconn.edu	Graduate Art Alliance	Y
Elza Neelima Mathew	Elza.mathew@uconn.edu	International Food Technologists Student Association	N
Meera Surendran Nair	Meera.nair@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Y
Eric Simning	Eric.simning@uconn.edu	Agricultural and Resource Economics	Y
Pariksheet Nanda	Pariksheet.nanda@uconn.edu	Molecular and Cell Biology	Y
Qiang Sun	Qiang.sun@uconn.edu	Marine Sciences (Avery Point)	Y
Latanya Brandon	Latanya.brandon@uconn.edu	EDCI/Neag	N
Monique Golden	Monique.golden@uconn.edu	Graduate Students of Colour Association	N
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu	Physics	Y
Deepthi Varghese	Ddepthi.varghese@uconn.edu	Tarang	N
Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso	Ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu	Literatures, Cultures, and Languages	Y

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
 - a. Victoria Blodgett, Assistant Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
 - a. GSS meeting minutes, 7th October 2015
 - b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 21st October 2015
- V. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Bylaw amendment – Phillip Price
- VI. New Business**
 - a. Provost’s Library Advisory Committee (PLAC) election
 - b. GSS Committees election
 - c. GO: MCB Special Allocations request – Pariksheet Nanda
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
 - a. President – Tony Patelunas
 - i. Funding Cuts to Library Services
 - ii. Parking update
 - b. Vice President – Vanessa Lovelace
 - i. GSS Student Welfare Committee
 - c. Treasurer – Greg Treich (absent)
 - d. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
 - i. Attendance
 - ii. GSS website updates
 - iii. University Senate report
 - e. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
 - i. Halloween
 - ii. New trips
 - f. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price
 - i. Recreation Student Advisory Committee report
 - ii. Graduate Faculty Council report

VIII. External Committee Reports

- a. Senate Student Life and Welfare Committee report – Michelle San Pedro
- b. Senate Scholastic Standards Committee report – Kacie Davis

IX. Issues Forum

- a. Public Speaking training – Michelle San Pedro
- b. GSO posters and advertising policies – Ruth Yuste Alonso
- c. Avery Point parking – Qiang Sun

X. Adjournment

BYLAW III: Apportionment of the Senate

1) Establishing Constituencies

- A. Academic constituencies based on upon fields of study recognized by the Graduate School and/or academic departments of the University having graduate degree programs shall form the basis of the Senate.
- B. Non-academic constituencies of graduate students may be recognized by the Senate upon the recommendation of the Procedures Committee.

2) Apportionment of the Senate based upon Constituencies

- A. At the first meeting of the Spring Semester of alternate academic years, the Procedures Committee shall determine the constituencies to be represented in the Senate and the apportionment of seats among those constituencies, to take effect at the beginning of the Fall Semester of the next academic year.
- B. The apportionment of academic constituencies shall be based upon the enrollment figures found in the most recent Graduate School Enrollment Report.
- C. Apportionment shall meet the following conditions:
 - i. The minimum numbers of graduates student in any constituency is 1
 - ii. All academic constituencies shall be entitled to at least 1 seat.
 - iii. The GSS officers shall not count as a Senator against their constituency's apportionment, nor shall they count against the apportionment of at-large Senators.
 - iv. Academic constituencies shall be apportioned at least three-fourths of the total number of seats apportioned, including at-large seats but not including the GSS officers.
 - v. Academic and non-academic constituencies shall be apportioned separately.
- D. While the Procedures Committee shall have flexibility in apportioning seats in the Senate amongst the academic constituencies, the following guidelines should be used:

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- i. Thresholds for each level of representation (1, 2, or 3 seats per constituency) should correspond to natural breaks in the distribution of constituency enrollments.
 - ii. Constituencies below roughly the 50th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 1 seat.
 - iii. Constituencies within roughly the 50th-to-75th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 2 seats.
 - iv. Constituencies above roughly the 75th percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 3 seats.

E. To be represented in the Senate, a non-academic constituency:

- i. Will only have 1 seat.
- ii. Must have a membership that is not a subset of an academic constituency. Its members must belong to a diverse range of academic constituencies.
- iii. Must demonstrate to the Procedures Committee a need for representation that is not being met by the existing constituencies.

F. At any given time each graduate student may hold one and only one senate seat giving them voting rights to officially represent one and only one constituency, academic or non-academic.

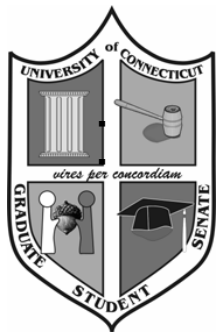
G. The Senate shall approve the apportionment of the Senate by majority vote.

H. Once the Senate has approved the apportionment, the representation of each constituency shall remain set, regardless of changes in enrollment, until the Senate approve a new apportionment.

I. The procedures for electing or appointing constituency Senators and setting their term lengths shall be at the individual discretion of the constituencies.

J. Changes in Apportionment

- i. Should an unrecognized constituency emerge after apportionment and petition for representation, the Procedures Committee shall review the petition and recommend to the Senate how the apportionment of the Senate should be changed, if at all.
- ii. Should a recognized constituency petition for changes in its representation, the Procedures Committee shall review the petition and



GSS 15/6-4: *Special Allocation* *Request Form*

University of Connecticut Graduate Student Senate

Phone: (860) 486-3907
Fax: (860) 486-0203
Email: gssuconn@gmail.com

Student Union, Room 213
2110 Hillside Road, U-3061
Storrs, CT 06269-3008

www.gss.uconn.edu

For Office Use Only:

☐

Approved

☐

Not Approved

GSS Executive
Committee Meeting: ____ / ____ / ____

GSS Meeting: ____ / ____ / ____

Proposition #: _____

Organization: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Is your organization a fully registered and active Tier II organization with the Student Activities Office? Yes
No

Name of Proposed Event: _____

Date(s) of Proposed Event: _____

Location of Event: _____

Please describe the event ***and*** provide an estimate of the anticipated number of total and graduate student attendees:

How do you plan on advertising your event to the graduate student body? (select all that apply)

Graduate student listserv

Facebook

Other email/distribution lists

Please describe: _____

Flyers around campus

Announcements

Other

Please describe: _____

Please list any contributors to the event (note their financial contributions on the back under the "Revenues" section):

BUDGET**Requested:****Allocated:**

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2.			
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5.			
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9.			
10.			
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13.			
14.			
15.			

Total Expenses:

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REVENUES**Expected:**

1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Total Revenues:

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Total Requested:

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University Senate Meeting
October 12th, 2015

Chair: Chris Clark
History

Representative: Thomas Briggs
GSS Communications Director
Thomas.briggs@uconn.edu

Anthony Patelunas
GSS President
Anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu

Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/>

Committee Type: Senate

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- New Innovation and Partnership Building being built
- Recruitment and diversity
- Dropping classes

Detailed Report

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Presented by Provost Choi)

- New Innovation and Partnership Building has started to be built and will be completed by 2017.
- Dodd Prize for Human Rights – Bill Clinton will speak.
- Recruitment and Diversity

During past year UConn hired 41 tenure-track faculty and 12 faculty in residence, of whom 1 is African-American, and 2 are Hispanic. Of the assistant professor in residence appointments, 1 is African-American and none are Hispanic.

UConn plans to hire 70 faculty (including new and replacement hires) for the coming year. Aim to consider how new hires contribute to diversity.

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Professor Gary English spoke about academic freedom and how free speech has to be distinguished from verbal abuse (content, ideas, manner of communication) and understanding what constitutes public discourse.

SENATE SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Senate voted to amend the bylaws regarding dropping courses after the “first ten days of classes” of semester.

Senate voted to amend the bylaws regarding who was eligible to sit on advisory committees for undergraduates in the University Scholars program

Action Items for Senate

N/A

Attachments*

Minutes available on senate website

Instructions: Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to thomas.briggs@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.

Uconn Recreation Student Advisory Committee
10/6

<i>Chair:</i>	Cynthia Costanza Executive Director Uconn Recreation cynthia.costanza@uconn.edu	<i>Representative:</i>	Phillip Price Graduate Student phillip.price@uconn.edu
<i>Website:</i>	N/A	<i>Committee Type:</i>	External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Not really

Detailed Report

In reaction to the new location of the rec center there is debate about changing Gilbert road to a pedestrian-only avenue and transforming Whitney Road into a main avenue through campus.

There will also be new committees, a Steering committee and a Programming Committee. I think these will be more active in detailed construction plans regarding the new center. Ms. Costanza expressed the desire to draw student representatives to these committees from those currently in this committee.

Action Items for Senate

None

Attachments*

None

Instructions: Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to thomas.briggs@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.

Graduate Faculty Committee
10/21

<i>Chair:</i>	Richard Bass Faculty, Dept. of Music N/A	<i>Representative:</i>	Phillip Price Graduate Student phillip.price@uconn.edu
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Website: <http://grad.uconn.edu/faculty-staff/graduate-faculty-council/>

Committee Type: University

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

Discussion about shifting library storage away from physical copies towards entirely electronic archive of theses.

Issue of lack of weekend bus service to depot campus.

Possibly change dismissal cases to more asymmetric model.

Detailed Report

The library archivist gave a presentation urging Uconn to shift from storing physical copies of theses to only keeping electronic copies of theses for record keeping purposes. This issue is becoming more pressing as space is running out in the Dodd Research Center in addition to cuts to library funding.

Dean Holsinger brought to our attention an issue primarily affecting Masters of Fine Art students in that there is no Uconn shuttle service to the depot campus on the weekends. Uconn



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Transportation has said altering current bus routes will affect the “substantial ridership” these buses have on weekends and so this solution is unfeasible.

There is also a possible change to the way dismissal hearings are carried out. Currently both sides are given time to argue their respective cases with the other side present. One case recently heard, in which this simultaneous presence was not possible, supposedly went much better for both sides and so there is discussion of making separate inquiries for each involved party.

Action Items for Senate

None

Attachments*

None

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University Senate Student Welfare Committee
10/14/2015

<i>Chair:</i>	Karen Bresciano Assistant Dean of Students Karen.bresciano@uconn.edu	<i>Representative:</i>	Michelle San Pedro GSS Senator michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu
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Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/student-welfare-committee/> *Committee Type:*
External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes

- Open Textbook Initiative resolution passed at University Senate
- Student Welfare Taskforce to examine ways regional students may excluded from main campus
- Regional campus students and faculty, especially at Stamford, frustrated with Spring 2016 conversion to Common Schedule
- Student Welfare Committee to advocate for dedicated transitional housing for university guests and graduate students
- Ongoing construction effects parking and potentially classrooms

Detailed Report

OPEN TEXTBOOK INITIATIVE – Faculty to consider low-cost, affordable options for students. License will be free to students, but NOT to university. Although library budget has decreased, staff will need to investigate potential copyright issues associated with this change.

STUDENT WELFARE TASKFORCE – to examine if students at the five regional campuses “feel like UConn students.” Multiple surveys and focus groups will include reflections from students who initially transfer to Storrs, adjusted students, non-degree students. Generally these students feel like outsiders. They do not understand why they receive snow cancellation delays when weather in Storrs differs from Avery Point etc. They tend to fail when they transfer to Storrs campus. They would like increased communication between the main and regional campuses.

COMMON SCHEDULE – The Provost spoke with regional campus directors two years ago to announce adding Friday as a class day. Avery Point, Stamford, Torrington, Hartford & Waterbury are not residential campuses and the schedule shift may not be practical. Students cite increased travel time, lower income (due to Fri employment), less opportunity to pursue internships. As a result of this change, some students may transfer to other universities in the area. In order to help students, some professors will offer classes in a hybrid format, with an online component on Fri. However, adjunct professors are forced to change their course structures from 3 or 1.5 hour classes to 1 hour formats. Members speculate that the change may be because legislatures want to use classroom space that is empty on Fridays. Popular media has also highlighted the faculty/student problems with the schedule change:

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/UConn-Stamford-s-new-class-schedule-puts-strain-6540899.php>

TRANSITIONAL HOUSING – faculty would like more outreach beyond individual departments to help international students who come to Storrs in the summer. Their visas allow them to come to campus three months prior to their start date, before Graduate School orientation. They have difficulty activating their netID remotely. According to Professor Hertel, off-campus housing did not have available beds for exchange students. Many Fulbright exchange students decline coming to Storrs in favor of urban locations with more on-campus lodging options. In order to promote UConn as a research institution which hosts conferences, sponsors visiting professors, and serves as a site for review panels (which make money for the university), we need dedicated space for graduate students and university guests. This committee will invite officials from different departments to voice this need.

CONSTRUCTION – I made faculty aware of parking problems in S lot, especially in area 3 because construction vehicles park in those spots. Grad students have not received parking compensation for this activity. Environmental Health & Safety staff informed faculty that they do not need to work in buildings without water, closed washrooms, or with the roof leaking. This may also apply to classroom safety for our students. Student Welfare will further investigate by inviting speakers from different departments.

Action Items for Senate

- Tell Michelle if you have graduate student concerns you would like her to raise at the next meeting
- Can GSS, in collaboration with ISSS and Graduate School, provide summer assistance for international students prior to orientation? Mentorship program? Stay in contact with Prof Shareen Hertel.
- Advocate for dedicated transitional housing for graduate students and university guests at future meetings with faculty and administration

No Attachments. Yes please show report during GSS meeting.

Senate Scholastic Standards Committee
10/22/15

Chair: Hedley Freake
Professor & Undergrad Program Coordinator
Headley.freake@uconn.edu

Representative: Kacie Davis
MFA Candidate
kacie.davis@uconn.edu

Website: <http://senate.uconn.edu/scholastic-standards-committee/>

Committee Type: GSS
Internal/Standing

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? No

- New representative selected to serve as SSSC rep on Honors Committee
- New motions on Adding/Dropping courses and University Scholars; only significant change is to allow non-tenure track faculty to serve on University Scholar advisory committees
- The proposal that students be required to pass the lab component of general education CA3 courses to get credit for the course was discussed; decided to be a matter for GEOC & SCCC
- Katrina Higgins updated the committee on conversations with CLAS CCC on the issue of Biology majors graduating without taking any courses above the 2xxx level
- Lauren DiGrazia updated the committee on the findings of an internal audit of practices within the Registrar's office. Issues of a lack of clear timelines, electronic submissions versus hard paper copies, etc., are to be discussed in a future meeting.
- The request from the Ratcliffe Hicks School of Agriculture for an adjustment to the readmission after dismissal policy for their students was discussed... Katrina Higgins announced that work is under way to create a centralized process for student appeals against dismissal from the University.



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GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

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Detailed Report

(No issues relevant to graduate students; therefore, there is no need to report about any of the topics in full)

Action Items for Senate

n/a

Attachments

n/a

Content:

- Issue descriptions (parking status at Avery Point and at Storrs, past and recent)
- Suggestions to solve the recent parking issue

Qiang Sun
2015.10.28

Issue Descriptions:

	At Avery Point	At Storrs
Past	Free AVPT parking permit released from campus Police Department	With AVPT permit parking at Area 3
Recent	Unclear	With full rate of Regional Campus Permit parking at C lot
Future	??????	??????

Issue Descriptions (recent):

- At Avery Point campus
 - Not being enforced (AP Police vs UCONN logistic)
 - GA/TAs (enough spots to park, parking would not be improved with permit)
- At Storrs campus
 - Inaccessibility of GA/TA, Area 3 etc. permits in online purchasing system
 - Only option is to buy Regional Campus Permit with full price and park at C lot

Suggestions:

- Option 1 (unchanged as past)
 - At AP: police releases the permit for free
 - At Storrs: parking at Area 3
- Option 2
 - At AP: 50% reduction of permit for GA/TA from the full rate of Regional Campus Permit
 - At Storrs: parking at all lots where the GA/TA permit can park (because of infrequency to be at Storrs)

The university currently has a ratio of 1.72 students per parking space for the 13,700 spaces. Figure 7 indicates that only three peer institutions have a lower parking ratio. Thus, while the availability of parking puts KSU well-positioned among its peers today, high demand combined with an increasing demand will present a challenge as the university grows.

Figure 7 - Students per Parking Space

