

**I. Call to Order 7.06pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators**

**III. Special Guest/Speaker**

- a. Ross Dardani, Graduate Student Senate Administrator, presented on a meeting he recently attended on behalf of GSS Treasurer, Greg Treich, with the Student Employment Office regarding student organisations complying with federal and state minimum wage legislation. He explained that GSS needs to ensure that the stipends awarded to GSS Executive Officers are in compliance with this legislation. He stated that the university are looking into ways for student organisations to ensure that they are in compliance with this legislation, and that GSS should play an active role to ensure that its Executive stipends do not violate minimum wage laws.
- b. Senator Ambroselli stated that the issue seems to be about ensuring the language regarding stipends conforms to legal requirements.
- c. Tony Patelunas agreed that the issue seems to be one of semantics, and that the GSS should alter its Bylaws accordingly once we know what is required.
- d. Senator Greenberg suggested that we could change the pay for the President and Treasurer to allocate it as a lump-sum at the end of the semester, similar to the payment of other Executive Officers.
- e. Morad Behandish expressed concern regarding potential changes preventing international students from participating in GSS because of their visa restrictions placed upon the number of hours they are permitted to work per week.
- f. Senator Parent emphasized the importance of GSS adhering to university policies regarding this issue.
- g. Ross Dardani explained that at the meeting he attended the university were unable to provide us with the necessary language to use. However, he recommended GSS continue to liaise closely with the university to ensure we are compliant with the law.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. GSS meeting minutes, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015, approved.
- b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015, approved.

**V. Unfinished Business**

- a. GSS 15/16-5: Amendment to GSS Bylaw III: Apportionment to the Senate stating that a GSS Senator cannot represent more than one constituency at the same time (see attached).
  - i. Phillip Price proposed the bylaw which required a 2/3 majority vote of the senate.
  - ii. The proposed amendment passed.

**VI. New Business**

- a. Vice President resignation and call for nominations
  - i. Tony Patelunas announced that the current Vice President, Vanessa Lovelace, had submitted her resignation via email (see attached), therefore the GSS needs to elect a new Vice President. He explained that last week the GSS Communications Director, Thomas Briggs, had emailed this announcement to graduate students informing them that official nominations to this vacant position shall take place at this GSS meeting. He explained that nominees can only be nominated by GSS Senators or Executive Officers.
  - ii. The following graduates were nominated for the position of Vice President:
    - 1. Ameya Akkalkotkar
    - 2. Chriss Sneed
    - 3. Michelle San Pedro
  - iii. Elections for the GSS Vice President shall take place at the next GSS meeting on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.
- b. Special Allocations Request for UConn Student Association for School Psychology (SASP) – Ashley Boyle
  - i. GSS 15/16-6: That the GSS allocate \$1,800.00 to SASP to cover expenses for the Centre for Behavioural Education Research (CBER) Graduate Student Symposium event (see attached).
  - ii. There were no objections to the Special Allocations request, passed.

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Tony Patelunas
  - i. SOLID training and posters update. Tony explained that he met with Christine Wilson, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities, and her team is looking to develop more appropriate leadership

training for graduate students. He said she understand that graduate students have limited free time available therefore they need to ensure that training is appropriate and useful. He said that training will be one-time only and that SOLID training was only compulsory for all student leaders this year because the whole training process had been completely overhauled.

1. Senator Parrill who has experience working in the Student Activities Leadership Office confirmed that training process had been completely overhauled this year.
- ii. Parking. Tony stated that he is still in dialogue with the university regarding parking and the problem with construction vehicles using S-Lot parking.
- iii. Room change for remote meetings. Tony stated that he has been liaising with IT services and next semester GSS meeting will take place in a room which has broadcasting capabilities which will allow us to broadcast GSS meetings remotely to regional campus locations.
- iv. Trustees, Administration, Faculty and Students (TAFS) Committee report. Tony stated that the most recent TAFS meeting he attended, alongside was a lot more productive than the previous meeting. He stated that diversity is a “hot issue” for the university and they are taking serious attempts to increase the diversity of faculty, and there is currently a search to recruit a Chief Diversity Officer for the university.
  1. Jeremy Jelliffe, the graduate representative to the Board of Trustees, explained that he also attends the TAFS Committee meetings, and that the university were seriously trying to develop a coherent strategy about how to hire more diverse faculty rather than merely state it as a desirable goal.
- v. Graduate student distribution. Tony showed the Senate figures of the number of graduate students at different campuses, pursuing different types of degrees, studying full-time or part-time, and with assistantships (see attached). He stated that such information enables us to more fairly represent the graduate body’s interests.

- b. Treasurer – Greg Treich
  - i. Graduate Student Organisations (GSO's) budgets. Greg explained that next semester GSO's will have to submit their budgets to GSS. He stated that 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016 is the deadline for GSO's submitting their budget requests. He will run two informational sessions in December for leaders of GSO's about how to submit budget requests to GSS, and possibly there will be one or two in January. These will be sent out via the Grads Announcement listserv.
- c. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
  - i. Attendance.
  - ii. Student Life Committee. Tom explained that this committee briefly met with him acting as temporary Chair. The committee agreed that its purpose is to bring together the most important issues affecting graduates so we can work on solutions and communicate them to the university. Tom stated that input from senators is vital so the committee is well informed regarding issues that concerns their constituents. The committee will meet once again with Tom as acting-chair in December and then it will come under the remit of the new Vice President.
  - iii. University Senate report. Tom stated that the University Senate heard reports from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Scott Jordan, about the University's Budget and that it was interesting to see a breakdown of the university's income and expenditures. He suggested that Scott Jordan would be a good guest speaker at a future GSS meeting. He stated that the University Senate also heard reports from the UConn Foundation Chief Financial Officer, Jerry Gantz, about how it tries to increase revenues to UConn through increased private donations and investing those donations in the stock market via a capital investment firm in Houston, Texas.
  - iv. Housing developer meeting. Tom stated that he, Michelle San Pedro, Senate Student Welfare and Life Committee representative, and another graduate student met with Victoria Blodgett, Assistant Dean to the Graduate School, John Armstrong, Director of Off-campus Services, Michael Gilbert, Vice President of Student Affairs, and 5 housing developers regarding a proposed housing complex

near Tolland targeted at graduate students and visiting professors. Tom stated that it was good to be included in the meeting and to provide graduate opinions on the potential development. He also stated that, having discussed the meeting afterwards with Senator San Pedro, future graduate input would be more effective if conducted more specifically as focus groups, such as there being only one non-graduate researcher present or providing a list of questions in advance.

1. Monique Golden stated that she would like the accommodation to be affordable on a UConn graduate's budget.

d. Activities Director – Morad Behandish

- i. Halloween. Morad presented his Activities report (see attached) starting with information about the successful Halloween event which was attended by over 350 graduates and that there was enough food to feed all attendees.
- ii. Happy Hours. Morad informed the Senate that he has set the schedule for Happy Hours and that Senators should encourage graduates to attend.
- iii. Thanksgiving. Morad explained that Thanksgiving will be taking place tomorrow at the new venue in the Rome Ballroom which is slightly more expensive to hire than the Student Union where it used to be held. He brought to the attention of the Senate that he found the GSS Thanksgiving lunch was not good value and was a lot more expensive than other events. He stated that the main problem was the monopoly UConn catering has on on-campus events and that they charge high prices which he is unable to bargain down. He stated that he can get a 10% discount from UConn catering but even this is a fixed policy that cannot be changed. He presented the results of the survey he sent out to graduates with the Thanksgiving registration email which showed a fairly even three-way split between people who wanted to cancel thanksgiving, keep it as it is, or to spend less money on it.
  1. Senator Parent explained that the survey results would have been biased because Morad had prefixed it with his own opinion against the current Thanksgiving event and sent the survey out before the event took place.

2. Morad explained that he understood that the survey results were not as rigorous as they could have been, but that he was more interested in the useful comments that he received in the comments section.
  3. Senator Yuste Alonso explained that some graduates cannot attend the Thanksgiving Lunch because of their busy schedules and that perhaps an evening event may have wider appeal
  4. Greg Treich stated that a Thanksgiving event in the evening may continue for longer and provide better value as well.
- iv. Co-sponsored events. Morad explained that he is co-sponsoring a trip with the Graduate Initiative Fellows to the “Funny Bone” comedy night in Hartford on 16<sup>th</sup> December. However, he has strict criteria regarding the co-sponsoring of events between GSS and other GSO’s and that Special Allocations requests are still the most appropriate form of GSS funding for GSO events.
- e. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price
- i. President and Treasurer pay
    1. President and Treasurer pay remains the same
  - ii. Graduate Faculty Council (GFC) report. Phillip explained that the GFC are looking to make changes to the graduate student course catalogue.
    1. Senator Greenberg stated that a lot of programs do not allow you to enter in the Spring semester which should be taken into account when the GFC recommends these changes.
- Phillip also reported that all Graduate Assistants (GA’s) will have to take mandatory Sexual Harassment Training next year.
2. Senator Jaynes asked if this was compulsory for all GA’s, to which Phillip confirmed that it was.

#### **VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee report (see attached). Senator Yuste Alonso reported that the committee finally met but due to scheduling problems only half of the members were able to attend therefore the voting process is ongoing and being conducted electronically at her suggestion. Senator Yuste Alonso stated that the committee needs to

improve its organizational processes as she received the 25 page long nomination packages only three days before the committee met which did not give her enough time to review them sufficiently. She explained that the other details of the committee were confidential.

- i. Morad Behandish asked what the deadline was for submitting nominations. He also asked how often the committee met. He also asked whether only graduated students were able to nominate faculty.
  - ii. Senator Yuste Alonso said she was uncertain she could fully answer those questions without accidentally jeopardizing the confidentiality of the committee as most of the information she has received has been from the confidential details of the committee's working.
  - iii. Tony Patelunas explained that the Marth Mentorship Award rewards outstanding mentorship of graduate students by UConn faculty.
- b. Senate Diversity Committee report (see attached). Senator Sneed reported that the committee has not be able to specify exactly the meaning of important terms such as "diversity," "proactive" or "responsive." She reported that only 2 out of 200 new faculty hires were black women. She stated that UConn needs to work towards a more sustainable idea of diversity rather than the "shake hands and be friends" diversity which is the university's current rhetoric.
  - i. Jeremy Jelliffe, the graduate representative to the Board of Trustees, commented that the TAFS committee discussed the issue of diversity very seriously during their last meeting, and that certain departments in the university excel in their commitments to diversity. He mentioned the need, however, to address the issue of how the university should benchmark a standard for diversity, and ways to go beyond this.
- c. Provost's Library Advisory Committee report (see attached). Senator Ambroselli described the cuts the library is making and that they face another \$1million cuts next year. He explained that part of the reason is that the cost of subscriptions to academic journals have been increasing. He explained that the library has made available details of their service review about what parts of the collection are being cut:

<http://lib.uconn.edu/services/collections/uconn-libraries-collections-review/> He stated that the committee would like GSS to produce a letter of support for library services. He also explained that the cost for interlibrary loans of journals/articles can be very expensive and may be less efficient in the long-run than subscription costs.

- i. Senator Akkalkotkar asked if graduate students will have any input into what services are cut. He asked why the university administration are able to pay \$1million for an external lawyer to bargain with the AAUP yet are cutting funds for the library.
- ii. Senator Greenberg expressed dissatisfaction that the President and athletic coaches receive such high pay when core university services such as the library face such cuts.

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Funding Cuts to Library Services.
  - i. Tony Patelunas stated that GSS should draft its own letter regarding cuts to library services. He stated that the letter would have the most impact if it contained data regarding the cuts and illustrating their danger to the university's core academic mission. He also stated that the letter could not just focus on the cuts to library services but other services vital to graduate research.
  - ii. Greg Treich asked if the cuts to library services could be off-set by a separate "library fee."
  - iii. Tony Patelanus warned that this could lead to a slippery slope where basic university services had to be paid for by private fees.
  - iv. Senator Akkalkotkar stated that the university did not cut a \$700 fee on the basis that it was supposed to help safeguard against state cuts to UConn.
  - v. Latanya Brandon stated that she was willing to help collaborate on a draft letter that GSS can create.
  - vi. Senator Parent stated that it was clear that we all support the library and are against cuts to the service.
- b. Tarang constituency. Vignesh Vasu, the representative for Tarang, the South Asian Students Association, stated that Tarang should have a non-academic constituency seat in



GSS. He explained that they should meet the necessary criteria as its membership is not a subset of an academic constituency and its members belong to a diverse range of academic constituencies. He also stated that Tarang is one of the largest student organisations and put on many events that benefit the wider graduate community. He asked how they can apply for a non-academic constituency seat.

- i. Jeremy Jelliffe stated that it seems Tarang have as good a claim as other currently existing non-academic constituencies.
- ii. Phillip Price explained the process to apply to create a new constituency seat, and that once Tarang has made a convincing case to the GSS Procedures Committee, it needs to be approved by a majority vote in a GSS meeting. He advised Tarang to contact him for more information should they wish to apply.

**X. Meeting adjourned 9.01pm**

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
JEREMY JELLIFFE	jjelliff@uconn.edu	TRUSTEE	N
LEXY PARRILL	alexis.parrill@uconn.edu	EDLR	Y
Brandon Benavato	jbenavato@gmail.com	English	Y
Laura Godfrey	laura.godfrey@uconn.edu	English	Y
Katelyn Jaynes	katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu	English	Y
Kiefer Rodriguez	kieferrodriguez1988@gmail.com	S.A.C.W.A.S	N
Karla Arias	Karla.arias@uconn.edu	Chemistry	Y
Danielle Heichel	danielle.heichel@uconn.edu	Polymer Science/SPE	Y
Ashley Boyle	ashley.boyle@uconn.edu	Educational Psych.	Y
Matthew Parent	matthew.parent@uconn.edu	Political Science	Y
Shariq Mohammed	shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu	Statistics	Y
David Baldwin	david.baldwin@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Y
Vignesh Vasu	vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu	TARAN G	N
Erica MacDonald	erica.macdonald@uconn.edu	Political Sci	N
KEVIN KEEGAN	KEVIN.KEEGAN@UCONN.EDU	ECOLOGY AND EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY	Y
Claire Galvin	claire.galvin@uconn.edu		
Laura Snider	laura.snider@uconn.edu	LING	Y
Julia Drouin	julia.drouin@uconn.edu	SLHS	Y
Mohsen Erfanzadeh	mohsen.ertanzadeh@uconn.edu	Iranian Cultural Organization of UConn	Y At large

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Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Jeremy Jelliffe	<a href="mailto:Jeremy.jelliffe@uconn.edu">Jeremy.jelliffe@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Trustee	N
Lexy Parrill	<a href="mailto:Alexis.Parrill@uconn.edu">Alexis.Parrill@uconn.edu</a>	Educational Leadership	Y
Brandon Benevento	<a href="mailto:Jbbenevento@gmail.com">Jbbenevento@gmail.com</a>	English	Y
Laura Godfrey	<a href="mailto:Laura.godfrey@uconn.edu">Laura.godfrey@uconn.edu</a>	English / Medieval Studies	Y
Katelyn Jaynes	<a href="mailto:Katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu">Katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu</a>	English	Y
Kiefer Rodriguez	<a href="mailto:Kiefferrodriguez1988@gmail.com">Kiefferrodriguez1988@gmail.com</a>	S.A.C.N.A.S	
Karla Arias	<a href="mailto:Karla.arias@uconn.edu">Karla.arias@uconn.edu</a>	Chemistry	N
Danielle Heichel	<a href="mailto:Danielle.heichel@uconn.edu">Danielle.heichel@uconn.edu</a>	Polymer Science / Society of Plastic Engineers	Y
Ashley Boyle	<a href="mailto:Ashley.boyle@uconn.edu">Ashley.boyle@uconn.edu</a>	Educational Psychology	Y
Matthew Parent	<a href="mailto:Matthew.parent@uconn.edu">Matthew.parent@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	Y
Shariq Mohammed	<a href="mailto:Shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu">Shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu</a>	Statistics	Y
David Baldwin	<a href="mailto:David.baldwin@uconn.edu">David.baldwin@uconn.edu</a>	Philosophy	Y
Vignesh Vasu	<a href="mailto:Vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu">Vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu</a>	Polymer Science	N
Erica MacDonald	<a href="mailto:Erica.macdonald@uconn.edu">Erica.macdonald@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	N
Kevin Keegan	<a href="mailto:Kevin.keegan@uconn.edu">Kevin.keegan@uconn.edu</a>	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Y
Claire Galvin	<a href="mailto:Claire.galvin@uconn.edu">Claire.galvin@uconn.edu</a>	N/A	N/A
Laura Snider	<a href="mailto:Laura.snider@uconn.edu">Laura.snider@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Y

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Julia Drouin	<a href="mailto:Julia.drouin@uconn.edu">Julia.drouin@uconn.edu</a>	Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences	Y
Mohsen Erfanzadeh	<a href="mailto:Mohsen.erfanzadeh@uconn.edu">Mohsen.erfanzadeh@uconn.edu</a>	Iranian Cultural Organization	Y
Kacie Davis	<a href="mailto:Kacie.davis@uconn.edu">Kacie.davis@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Art Alliance	N
Kaleigh Rusgrove	<a href="mailto:Kaliegh.rusgrove@uconn.edu">Kaliegh.rusgrove@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Art Alliance	Y
Qiang Sun	<a href="mailto:Qiang.sun@uconn.edu">Qiang.sun@uconn.edu</a>	Marine Sciences (Avery Point)	Y
Chriss Sneed	<a href="mailto:Chriss.sneed@uconn.edu">Chriss.sneed@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Students of Colour Association	Y
Ordoitz Galilea	<a href="mailto:Ordoitz.galilea@uconn.edu">Ordoitz.galilea@uconn.edu</a>	Sociology	Y
Monique Golden	<a href="mailto:Monique.golden@uconn.edu">Monique.golden@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Students of Colour Association	N
Ameya Akkalkotkar	<a href="mailto:Ameya.akkalkotkar@uconn.edu">Ameya.akkalkotkar@uconn.edu</a>	Senator-at-Large	Y
David Greenberg	<a href="mailto:David.greeberg@uconn.edu">David.greeberg@uconn.edu</a>	Economics	Y
Latanya Brandon	<a href="mailto:Latanya.brandon@uconn.edu">Latanya.brandon@uconn.edu</a>	EDCI/Neag	N
Michael Ambroselli	<a href="mailto:ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu">ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu</a>	Physics	Y
Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso	<a href="mailto:Ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu">Ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu</a>	Literatures, Cultures, and Languages	Y
Mengfang Li	<a href="mailto:Mengfang.li@uconn.edu">Mengfang.li@uconn.edu</a>	Chinese Student and Scholar Association	N
Sercan Canbolat	<a href="mailto:Sercan.canbolat@uconn.edu">Sercan.canbolat@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	N

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
  - a. Ross Dardani, Graduate Student Senate Administrator
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
  - a. GSS meeting minutes, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (*to be approved by Senate*)
  - b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (*to be approved by Executive*)
- V. Unfinished Business**
  - a. Bylaw amendment – Phillip Price
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Vice President resignation and call for nominations
  - b. UConn Student Association for School Psychology (SASP) Special Allocations Request – Ashley Boyle
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
  - a. President – Tony Patelunas
    - i. SOLID training and posters update
    - ii. Room change for remote meetings
    - iii. Graduate student distribution
  - b. Treasurer – Greg Treich
    - i. GSO budgets
  - c. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
    - i. Attendance
    - ii. Student Life Committee
    - iii. University Senate report
    - iv. Housing developer meeting
  - d. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
    - i. Halloween report
    - ii. Happy Hours
    - iii. Thanksgiving
    - iv. Co-sponsored events

- e. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee report – Ruth Yuste-Alonso
- b. Senate Diversity Committee – Chriss Sneed
- c. Provost’s Library Advisory Committee – Michael Ambroselli

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Funding Cuts to Library Services
- b. Tarang constituency – Vignesh Vasu

**X. Adjournment**

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## 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 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 1 seat.
  - iii. Constituencies within roughly the 50<sup>th</sup>-to-75<sup>th</sup> percentile of the distribution of constituency enrollments should receive 2 seats.
  - iv. Constituencies above roughly the 75<sup>th</sup> 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

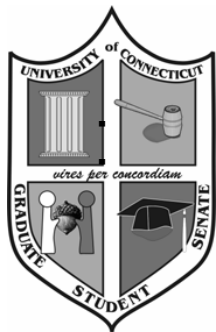
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**Vanessa Lovelace** <vanessa.lovelace@uconn.edu>

Wed, Nov 4, 2015 at 8:20 PM

To: Anthony Patelunas <anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu>

I quit.



# GSS 15/6-6: Special Allocation Request Form

University of Connecticut Graduate Student Senate  
Phone: (860) 486-3907 Student Union, Room 213  
Fax: (860) 486-0203 2110 Hillside Road, U-3061  
Email: gssuconn@gmail.com 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):

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

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
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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Campus	Level of Study				Total
	NON-DEGREE	CERTIFICATE	MASTERS	DOCTORAL	
AVYPT	4		19	24	47
HRTFD	125	25	1563	18	1731
OFF	12				12
STMFD	85	12	439		536
STORR	161	266	1432	2329	4188
UCHC	7	15	154	152	328
WTBY	12		88		100
Total	406	318	3695	2523	6942

Campus	NON-DEGREE		CERTIFICATE		MAS
	non-GA	GA	non-GA	GA	non-GA
AVYPT	4				10
HRTFD	125		25		1482
OFF	12				
STMFD	85		12		437
STORR	161		257	9	1034
UCHC	7		13	2	145
WTBY	12				88
Total	406	0	307	11	3196

This is a headcount, from the fall 2015 frozen census file. Students with multiple enrollments (i.e. sim are counted only once in the degree and campus of their highest enrollment.

TERS	DOCTORAL				
GA	non-GA	partial GA	GA	Total	
9	5		19	47	
81	16		2	1731	
				12	
2				536	
398	692	1	1636	4188	
9	19	1	132	328	
				100	
499	732	2	1789	<b>6942</b>	

ultaneously enrolled in both a doctoral and a certificate program)

GSS and SAGE present the 2015

# Halloween Party



**GSS** *Social Nights* 2015-16



# Activities Budget

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes	\$250.00 \$ 200	<del>\$250.00</del>
615 Contractual Services	\$2,845.00 \$ 2,900	<del>\$2,495.00</del>
620 Refreshments	\$35,420.00 \$35,600	<del>\$31,920.00</del>
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs	\$200.00 \$ 800	<del>\$200.00</del>
623 Rental	\$1,800.00 \$ 1,750	<del>\$1,800.00</del>
624 Travel	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
625 Equipment (<\$1k)	\$1,000.00 \$ 500	<del>\$1,000.00</del>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$42,715.00</b>	<del><b>\$37,665.00</b></del> <b>\$ 41,550</b>



# Halloween Budget

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes	\$100.00	\$100.00
615 Contractual Services	\$400.00	<del>\$400.00</del>
620 Refreshments	\$1,200.00	<del>\$1,200.00</del>
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs	\$100.00	<del>\$100.00</del>
623 Rental		
624 Travel		
625 Equipment (<\$1k)	\$300.00	\$300.00
Total	\$2,100.00	<del>\$2,100.00</del>

# Social Nights Budget

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes		
615 Contractual Services		
620 Refreshments	\$1,600.00	<del>\$1,600.00</del>
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs	\$ 3,000	
623 Rental		
624 Travel		
625 Equipment (<\$1k)		
Total	\$1,600.00	<del>\$1,600.00</del>

# Thanksgiving Budget

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes		
615 Contractual Services	\$200.00	\$200.00
620 Refreshments	\$12,500.00	<del>\$12,500.00</del>
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs		
623 Rental		\$ 400
624 Travel		
625 Equipment (<\$1k)		
Total	\$12,700.00	<del>\$12,700.00</del>

## GSS Thanksgiving Luncheon -- Replacement?

The catering for "GSS Thanksgiving Luncheon" this year costed around **\$13,600** total aiming to serve 600 people (**\$23 per person**), **\$10,800** of which was solely for the turkey meal (**\$18 per person** for a couple of slices). The University Catering Services is the only option due to UConn policies when the event takes place in Rome or Student Union Ballrooms, and many other venues on campus. The prices have increased from last year, and unlike the case with other food vendors, there is almost no room for negotiations. When I compare the budget of this event with that of the others, it turns out that one could do (either of) 2 and a half food truck festivals, 10 Halloween Socials, or 30+ social nights using the same amount of money!

It is not clear whether the value received for that price for the Thanksgiving Luncheon is justified. The Thanksgiving Luncheon is a week before the real Thanksgiving; it's a lunch not a dinner, and doesn't seem to replace the real thanksgiving dinner for those who are not able to spend the Thanksgiving with their families -- You might disagree with me, so do let me know below if that's the case! I think what usually happens for most people due to the limited time slots is a simple grab-and-go free food event with little socializing opportunity.

On the other hand, one could use the same money to have more interesting events during the Thanksgiving Recess, Winter Intersession, and Spring Recess. Even with adding 3 big events during those breaks (comparable to the Halloween party that costed one-fifth of the Thanksgiving Luncheon), with the money saved from cancelling the Thanksgiving Luncheon there would still remain enough in the budget to change the Social Nights from biweekly to weekly!

But at the end of the day, this is your money and it's your opinion that matters the most. So please let me know what you think below!

November 13th, 2015

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UPDATE: Having received a few great comments from students that emphasized on the importance of the Thanksgiving tradition and the inclusiveness of this GSS event, I'd like to rephrase my proposal a little bit to make it more clear. Please feel free to see the summary of responses to this survey and the comments at <https://goo.gl/7sA4q6>.

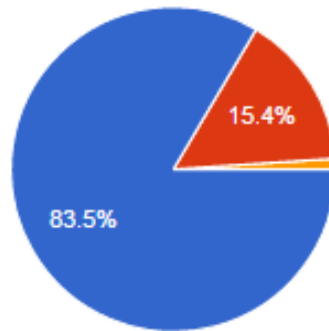
I'd like to emphasize that I'm not dismissing the cultural and social importance of the Thanksgiving tradition, and having lived in the US for 6 years I do resonate with it personally. My point was that UConn Catering Services has a monopoly over critical campus venues and allows them to charge excessively for the value received, and it is probably possible to organize 3 big events -- perhaps including a Thanksgiving dinner at a local restaurant or some campus venue outside the jurisdiction of the UConn Catering Services -- with the saved money. This could include events to celebrate other traditions that are also important, including the winter holidays and New Year's eve. The saving is possible because I could negotiate the prices when there is competition between different catering options. To provide some perspective with an example, the cost per serving in the Food Truck Festival was decreased by about 40% by negotiation with competing vendors, which allowed us to serve more people for two-third of the budget and spend more on the Halloween Social.

As I mentioned before, this is my (perhaps biased) perspective, and this is exactly why I'm taking this survey to understand the points that I'm missing and leave the decision eventually to the grad population at-large.

November 15th, 2015

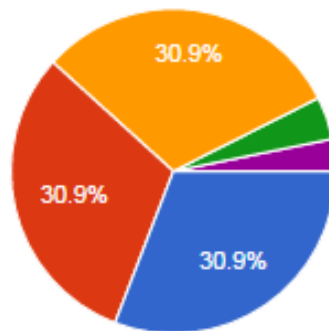
# Feedback Results

## Degree Program



Doctoral Degree Program	157	83.5%
Master's Degree Program	29	15.4%
Other Graduate Program	2	1.1%

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?



Cancel it	58	30.9%
Keep it as is	58	30.9%
Spend less	58	30.9%
Spend more	8	4.3%
Other	6	3.2%

**Instructions:** Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to [thomas.briggs@uconn.edu](mailto: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.

**AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee**  
**Friday, November 13th**

*Chair:*

Kent Holsinger  
Vice Provost for Graduate Education  
and Dean of the Graduate School  
[kent.holsinger@uconn.edu](mailto:kent.holsinger@uconn.edu)

*Representative:*

Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso  
LANGSA  
[ruth.yuste\\_alonso@uconn.edu](mailto:ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu)

Website: <http://grad.uconn.edu/faculty-staff/faculty-recognition/>

Committee Type: GSS  
Internal/

**Overview of Report**

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The details of the meeting are confidential in terms of the nominees, the members comprising the committee, and certain aspects discussed. During the meeting, the members who attended discussed the nominations and agreed on the further actions to be taken in order to make a formal, informed decision towards this year’s awardee.

**Detailed Report**

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**Scheduling and Attendance to the Meeting**

The Committee met on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>. It was relatively challenging to arrange this meeting due to scheduling conflict. It was ultimately scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>, yet only 3 out of 6 members attended eventually.

**Actions taken by Committee Members during the Meeting**

During the meeting, committee members discussed candidates’ nominations and expressed preferences. We made a preliminary top candidates ranking. However, in order to ensure a transparent, democratic decision-making process, we agreed that we would run an on-line voting process. I suggested creating a poll to rank candidates and use the data to reach a consensus.

**Actions taken by the Graduate Representative after the meeting**

After the meeting, I designed the poll and sent it to Kent Holsinger to send it out to all committee members.

**Current Status of the Selective Process**

The decision-making is still on-going, although we hope to select the awardee soon. I am awaiting for further instructions. Once the committee selects the awardee, I will report it to GSS.

**Action Items for Senate**

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GSS should suggest the AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee should work to improve its organizational process to select the awardee and make candidate's information with sufficient time in advance from when the meeting is held.

I received candidates' nomination packages on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, three days prior to the meeting. Each package was 25 pages long, and I did not receive all packages due to technical issues. Although I informed the organizer's secretary regarding this issue, I still did not get all the information. Further, I did not have enough time to study the packages in depth due to my graduate student and teaching duties. Given the limited time I had, it would have been helpful to have access to the information earlier to make a more informed opinion, especially when it comes to recognize the mentoring work carried out by our Faculty.

**Attachments\***

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No attachments available.

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**Official Committee Name**

**Date**

*Chair:* Manisha  
Associate Professor, Sociology  
WGSS  
Manisha.desai@uconn.edu

*Representative:* Chriss Sneed  
GSCA Senator  
Sociology Graduate Student  
Chriss.sneed@uconn.edu

*Website:*

*Committee Type:* University Senate  
Diversity

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential?

- no

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Discussion of diversity task force
- Hiring of chief of diversity officer
- Changing the senate bylaws

**Detailed Report**

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Please report in full on the issues relevant to graduate students. The detailed report should be presented in paragraph form with topic heads for each paragraph. See example below.

**DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS**

As noted in previous reports, the discussions in the Diversity Senate revolve around three major issues: 1) Senate By-Law Language, 2) Diversity Taskforce, and 3) the Search for the Chief Diversity Officer. In this particular meeting, we focused on clarifying the Senate by-laws – which can be outlined if needed – and the rhetoric on Diversity Taskforce on campus. Shying away from neoliberal interpretations of diversity, many on the committee are committed to designing this office in a way that would suggest structural and sustainable change on campus. To address this, I and other members of are



suggesting many amendments to the hiring plan, advising committee and ultimately, the charge of the Chief Diversity Officer (whoever they may be).

**Action Items for Senate**

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**Attachments\***

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Do you have any attachments? Should they be displayed during your report?

*\* Please only include an attachment if the document is not (or will not become) available publically elsewhere AND if you cannot excerpt from it to include in your detailed report AND if it is a necessary accompaniment to your detailed report. Attach it as a .doc file (if possible) separately.*

**Instructions:** Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to [thomas.briggs@uconn.edu](mailto: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.

**Provost's Library Advisory Committee**  
**10/30/2015**

<i>Chair:</i>	Name	<i>Representative:</i>	Michael Ambroselli
	UConn Affiliation		Dept. of Physics
	Email Address		ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu
<i>Website:</i>	/	<i>Committee Type:</i>	University

Internal/Standing

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes

- Library budget cuts
- Interlibrary loans
- Possible library fee
- Open-access initiative

**Detailed Report**

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LIBRARY BUDGET CUTS

The UConn libraries are facing severe budget cuts. For this fiscal year, this meant an approximate \$300k reduction in services, mainly impacting collections, and there mainly journal subscriptions. Further reductions of about \$700k-\$1M are anticipated for next fiscal year. An extensive collections review is underway. Details of this are available at:

<http://lib.uconn.edu/services/collections/uconn-libraries-collections-review/>

This includes details of the reductions already made.

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### INTERLIBRARY LOANS

Due to these reductions, an increase in interlibrary loans (ILL) are anticipated. UConn is already #9 nationally for ILL utilization. This indicates that our collections are already insufficient. Also, ILLs are expensive. For example, an ILL for a journal article can run up to \$40 - \$80 total. This means the library may have to limit ILLs in the future.

### POSSIBLE LIBRARY FEE

USG support a modest library fee ( $\leq \$60$ ). Such a fee is common among peer universities. UConn used to have a library fee, but it was abandoned in favor of increased tuition some time in the past.

### OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE

There is an (currently unfunded) open-access textbook initiative. A chemistry textbook has been created / adapted using open-access resources, and will be used in a class next year. Savings of about \$400k for students are expected.

### **Action Items for Senate**

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- 

### **Attachments\***

---

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