

**I. Call to Order – 7.09pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators**

**III. Special Guest/Speaker**

- a. Matthew Dunn, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, presented on the opportunities available to graduate students looking to start their own company rather than finding jobs in academia or industry. He explained that Accelerate UCONN (AU) is an NSF Grant funded project open to all student, faculty, and alumni teams. It is funded under the NSF I-Corp initiative and runs in Fall and Spring at UConn. The application can be found on <http://accelerate.uconn.edu> and the spring cohort deadline is January 15, 2016. No prior experience or expertise is needed, just teams formed around a start-up idea, and teams of students and faculty are encouraged. If accepted, teams that participate in the Accelerate UCONN program receive 7-weeks of non-credit training in lean start-up methodology and a \$3000 stipend to help with their start-up's customer discovery process. He explained that participating in AU is a regional start to national NSF I-Corp programming where teams can win \$50,000 for their start-up. Connecticut Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CCEI) is sponsoring a summer Fellowship where students that have founded companies or start-up ideas can work in the CCEI Accelerator for the summer on their idea or company. This will be \$15,000 award and will require an application. The Verge consulting program requires prior skills in a business discipline (market analysis, financial analysis, business consulting, web-media, risk analysis, etc.). Students in the Verge program will be deployed to help start-ups in and around to the university get their ideas off the ground by providing assistance from a specific set of skills. This program is not yet launched, and is being developed currently. He explained that other government agencies, National Institutes of Health (NIH) are mirroring the NSF I-Corp program. Thus entrepreneurship as a third option for graduate students is being promoted and supported by other federal agencies.
- b. Monique Golden asked how an “average” graduate student could become involved. She explained that a lot of graduate students like herself would not look to market “tangible” products and would be more likely to create educational, knowledge-based companies.

- c. Matthew explained that there is a broad range of projects that can be proposed and that a panel of judges from outside of the university with a diverse range of expertise and experiences assess the commercial viability of various promising ideas. He explained that the initiative is state-funded as well as having NSF funding, and that UConn is 1 of 36 schools which have been given an Accelerate grant. He stated that the UConn Health and UConn College of Agriculture and Natural Resources are also starting these programs, and they are expanding in other federal departments. He stated that Michelle Cote, the Managing Director of the Connecticut Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, is the new point of contact for any graduates interested in creating start-up projects and encouraged people to contact her for further information at [michelle.cote@business.uconn.edu](mailto:michelle.cote@business.uconn.edu).

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

- a. GSS meeting minutes, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 – approved by Senate  
b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 – approved by Executive

**V. Unfinished Business**

**VI. New Business**

- a. Vice President elections.
- i. Vice Presidential candidate Senator San Pedro gave a speech highlighting her personal skills and previous service. She mentioned GSS's relationship with the graduate union and the graduate school, graduate issues such as housing and healthcare, and the possibility to improve access to public speaking training and legal services to graduates.
  - ii. Vice Presidential candidate Senator Sneed gave a speech highlight her personal skills and previous service. She mentioned the need to increase graduate access to scholarship and funding, to improve coordination of graduate activism with undergraduate activism, quality of life issues such as transport and affordable housing in order to create better futures for graduates.
  - iii. Eric Simning asked how long the candidates aimed to be part of the GSS Executive.
  - iv. Senator Sneed stated that she was interested in creating sustainable change.

- v. The final vote was in favour of Senator San Pedro. Michelle San Pedro was elected the new Graduate Student Senate Vice President.
- b. Special Allocations Request, Political Science GSA – Danielle Wong
  - i. GSS 15/16-7: That GSS allocate \$2,160.00 to provide accommodation, travel, food and refreshments for three prominent political scientist to give a talk or lecture of their choosing (see attached).
  - ii. Morad Behandish and Gayatri Phadke asked for some clarification on the expected attendance, to which Danielle explained there will be attendance from graduates and faculty in the Political Science department, and because of the interdisciplinary appeal of the speakers she also expects about half of the attendees will be graduates and faculty from other departments.
  - iii. Senator Ambroselli asked why they are using university catering which is known to be costly, to which Danielle explained that it is convenient and she has arranged for PSGSA to deliver and set up the food and refreshments themselves which saves on costs. Morad Behandish added that if you use outside catering it can become difficult as it requires obtaining food permits.
  - iv. Monique Golden asked why, as a graduate student in the department of Educational Leadership, she had not heard about this event yet, to which Danielle explained that she did not want to advertise the event until funding had been secured to ensure it can take place. Danielle assured her that it will be sufficiently advertised if the Special Allocations request is granted.
  - v. There were no objections to the Special Allocations requested, passed.

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Tony Patelunas.
  - i. Housing. Tony stated that Michael Gilbert, the Vice President of Student Affairs, had informed him that there will be 80 beds made available to graduate students next year.
    - 1. Victoria Blodgett, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, noted that 80 beds does not necessarily indicate 80 bedrooms.

Tony said that the issue of “transitional” housing is important as graduate students may want to move out after the first semester. He also explained that rent could be paid on a monthly basis rather than on a per-semester basis as is the current situation. He stated that it would be desirable to have UConn graduate-only on-campus housing that can meet the needs of graduate students and that GSS needs to play a significant role in making this happen.

2. Gayatri Phadke added that Hillside residences do not have a building that has only 80 beds therefore it seems unlikely that there will be any building assigned for graduate-only accommodation. She suggested that there be a section on the off-campus website for transitional housing and housing on bus-lines that will appeal to students without a car.
- ii. Parking. Tony stated that parking is still a major issue.
  1. Gayatri Phadke added that there is an issue regarding the allocation of parking spaces at the new Hartford Campus.
- iii. Graduate training. Tony stated that the university is looking into Active Shooter training and currently looking into fitting deadlock bolts to the inside of classroom doors.
  1. Gayatri Phadke added that there was a terror alert two years ago but in that case many people were still left unaware and walking the area at risk.
- iv. UConn Co-op. Tony explained that UConn has placed a Request for Purchase (RFP) for the UConn Cooperative Bookstore which means that an outside company may want to buy it. He stated that it may be replaced by a for-profit corporation. He explained that currently we have four graduate students who sit on the board of the Co-op Bookstore which is run by students and faculty. He stated that we will be discussing this pressing matter in the Issues Forum and would be interested in hearing people’s opinions.
- v. GSS Short Term Loans. Tony explained that he had met with representatives from the Bursar’s Office, International Student and Scholars Services (ISSS), and the Student Activities Business Office (SABO) to discuss the procedures of the

loans as all those offices at some point play a part in the processing of them. He hopes to update the policies and procedures on the loans and change the GSS Bylaws accordingly. He stated that the Bursar's Office is amenable to graduate students wishing to set up payroll deductions in order to pay off their loans.

1. Gayatra Phadke stated that there may be a problem regarding the Bursar's Office placing holds automatically on the accounts of students who have taken out loans. Tony stated that if this problem does occur he can talk to the Bursar's Office to sort it out.
- b. Treasurer – Greg Treich
  - i. GSS Executive Payment compliance. Greg explained that the Student Employment Office told him that the GSS Executive Officers are exempt from minimum wage labour laws. He said that the wording of the GSS Constitution and Bylaws is acceptable and does not need to be changed. In order to be made exempt from minimum wage laws GSS needs to submit an exemption to the Student Employment Office each year.
  - ii. GSO budget information sessions. Greg informed the GSS that the first budgetary information session for Graduate Student Organisations will be held tomorrow on 6-7pm, 10<sup>th</sup> December in the Student Union Room 307. He will run two more information sessions in January 2016. He stated that the deadline for submitting a budget to GSS for next year will be 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.
  - iii. Event sign-up sheets. Greg reminded Senators of the importance of having sign-up sheets for events. He stated that he has looked into electronic swipe-card machines that can swipe students' Husky One-Cards to keep attendance. He stated that they cost \$300 a year to rent or \$25 per event. GSS will rent one which it can provide to GSO's who wish to use it for events (whenever it is not needed by GSS).
    1. Morad Behandish added that swipe cards will greatly assist in the running of large GSS Events like the Food Truck Festival.
  - iv. Budget reallocation. Greg notified the GSS that the GSS Executive had unanimously agreed to reallocate \$300 from the GSS supplies budget to the

promotional items budget in order to cover the cost of this years' promotional items.

1. Senator Sneed asked what was the GSS budget and how much is left for Special Allocations, to which Greg replied that it would be best for her to send him an email of visit him at the GSS Office where he can provide her with the exact figures.
- c. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
- i. Attendance
  - ii. GSO Logo. Tom stated that UConn Branding had said that GSS was not eligible to create an additional logo for their retractable banner and should only use the official UConn GSS Wordmark.
    1. Danielle Wong stated that, as the previous Communications Director, she had provided the official UConn GSS Wordmark to Thomas in the transition folder, which Tom confirmed.
    2. Monique Golden stated that the Graduate Students of Colour Association had created an additional logo for their retractable banner and that she could send Tom their work as an example which GSS could emulate.Tom stated that he will continue to look into this and ask UConn Branding to allow them to use the name “Graduate Student Senate” on their banner separate to the official wordmark, similar to those of GSCA and the Asian American Cultural Centre.
  - iii. Student Life Committee. Tom stated that Senator San Pedro will give the report for the GSS Student Life Committee as he was unable to attend its last meeting.
  - iv. University Senate report. Tom stated that Provost Choi gave a report outlining increases to student tuition and freshmen enrollment as part of the plan by UConn to make up for decreased stated funding. He stated that Laura Cruickshank the University Architect gave a report on projects, design and planning.
    1. Tony Patelunas added that there will be an increase next year in building and construction work on campus that will lead to further disruption for

parking. He also stated that the extension to North Hillside Road will help alleviate traffic congestion coming in and out of Storrs campus.

Tom also stated that the Vice President of Communication Tysen Kendig, gave a report promoting the new TV studio with a “green-screen” set-up in the basement of the Homer Babbidge library that is available 24 hours a day, 7 day a week, enabling university experts to appear on TV and boost UConn’s public presence. Tom suggested graduate students may be able to take advantage of this new facility and boost their media training.

d. Activities Director – Morad Behandish

- i. Thanksgiving report. Morad reported that the final results of the Thanksgiving survey showed that the majority of graduate students were in favour of keeping it the same.
- ii. Happy Hours. Morad reported that the happy hours have started and are popular.
- iii. Co-sponsored events. Morad stated that the Funny Bone event is approaching and that it is free for graduate students and there is a heavily subsidized 70% discount for plus ones.
- iv. Orientation planning. Morad stated that he has met with Victoria Blodgett from the Graduate School about how best to run the graduate orientation next Fall. He explained that GSS helped ISSS with the Resource Fair and did the Food Truck Festival this year, and welcomed ideas from the GSS regarding how to improve the orientation.
  1. Senator Sneed asked about the cost of the Food Truck Festival, to which Morad replied that they had budgeted around \$8,000 for GAIN but he had brought the price of the Food Truck Festival down to \$6,200, and 900 people attended so it worked out at just over \$6 per person.
  2. Gayatri Phadke commented that some people felt that it was not good to separate the Resource Fair from the Food Truck Festival, by having them on different days, to which Victoria Blodgett replied the Resource Fair was still well attended and Danielle Wong added that previous GAIN events, where both the BBQ and Resource Fair were combined, suffered

from the problem that graduates did not visit the Resource Fair and tended to remain by the BBQ. Morad stated that there was a post-orientation survey where people did make similar complaints regarding the separation of the two events.

3. Victoria Blodgett stated that the overall goal should be toward providing a holistic orientation experience for graduates where GSS could be a major partner in a large organizing committee. Gayatri Phadke commented that there is a need to coordinate events across the university because, for example, this year the Chemistry Department held its BBQ on the same day as the Food Truck Festival. Morad stated that thanks to Victoria's involvement, more people across the university are involved and there is less chance of conflicting schedules.

e. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price

i. Treasurer's and President's Pay

1. Treasurer's and President's pay remains the same.

ii. Executive Board Stipend.

1. Phillip Price stated that only serving Executive Officers can receive stipends and as such the previous Vice President cannot receive a stipend.
2. Eric Simning suggested that it may be helpful to amend the GSS Bylaws to make it clear regarding what should happen to an Executive Officer's pay should they resign before the end of the semester.
3. The Senate voted to give the Parliamentarian, Activities Director and Communications Director their stipends, passed.

iii. Joint Elections Committee report. Phillip explained the process for online elections for Senators-at-large.

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee report (see attached). Alternate Senator Ross D'ardani gave a report on behalf of Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso. He informed the GSS that Associate Professor Shareen Hertel of the Department of Political Science and the



Human Rights Institute was voted by the committee as the recipient of the award for her outstanding commitment to graduate mentoring.

- i. Victoria Blodgett added that the celebration of the award is a prestigious event and is to be held at the Alumni Centre from 5.00-6.30pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December.
- b. Senate Student Welfare Committee report (see attached). Michelle San Pedro reported about the shortage of graduate housing and also guest housing on campus. She also reported that the committee discussed emergency preparedness training. She said that, given the other mandatory trainings that graduate students have to take, it would not be desirable to make it mandatory at this point but that they should make students aware of training already made available by the Office of Emergency Management and UConn Police Department.
  - i. GSS Student Life Committee. Michelle reported that they had discussed transitional graduate student housing and non-GA needs. She also reported that Nancy Wong said it was difficult to make progress on parking issues on the Senate Student Welfare Committee last year.
- c. Provost's Library Advisory Committee report (see attached). Michael Ambroselli reported that in the Spring Semester the library will be reviewing which journal subscriptions they can cut with the least disruption to graduate research services. He suggested the possibility that Patrick Carr, Associate University Librarian for Collections and Discovery, speaks to GSS next semester. He reported that the level of Document Delivery and Interlibrary Loans is higher at UConn than most similar institutions in the US, that the majority of these requests come from students, and that the library is looking into ways of improving the cost effectiveness of this service. He reported that the library has applied for funding from the open access textbook initiative from the Davis Foundation. He reported that the library has been having as many as 10,000 students using the workspace every day and that space in the library has become limited, especially compared to similar institutions.

- i. Senator San Pedro added that staffing cuts in the library means that there could be health and safety issues regarding unsupervised undergraduates in an overcrowded workspace, especially at night.

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Association of Graduate Advocates (AGA). Monique Golden gave a presentation explaining the role of the newly formed group which aims to support graduates in University-led investigations. She explained how graduate students are a potentially vulnerable group who need support regarding information on their rights, processes, and resources available to them. She explained how graduate students can get involved and the upcoming activities planned by the AGA to promote this service.
  - i. Gayatri Phadke added that AGA will also help graduate students outside of the university, for example with graduates experiencing housing issues who may need legal advice and support, or graduates who need directing to Counselling and Mental Health Services (CMHS), etc.
- b. UConn Cooperative Bookstore. Cera Fisher asked GSS to support the Resolution in Support of the UConn Co-op (see attached GSS 15/16-8). She explained that, as a graduate student, she is a member of the board of directors of the UConn “Co-op” Cooperative Bookstore. She explained that the Co-op is run by faculty and graduates in the interest of students, and is a not-for-profit company whose primary purpose is to keep the costs of books as low as possible and it has a comparative advantage over for-profit companies as it does not need to charge extra in order to create profit to pay shareholders. She explained that the university has placed a Request for Purchase which means the Co-op may be taken over by a for-profit company which would be to the overall detriment of students.
  - i. Senator Parent asked if it was the cost of building the new Co-op Bookstore that has effected the Co-op’s profitability.
  - ii. Joseph Sweet, Procurement Analyst at UConn Co-op, confirmed that this was the case. He explained that for the past 40 years the UConn Co-op has been financial sustainable for 38 of those years. He explained that they recently opened a new store in the new downtown Storrs Centre to serve the student population there, as

requested by the university, which has affected their financial situation.

However, he said that despite this initial hit on costs, he expects the Co-op will be breaking-even again soon. He added that the Co-op runs small bookstores on regional campuses in order to serve student needs there which for-profit companies tend not to do.

- iii. Greg Treich asked what would be the benefits of a for-profit company taking over the Co-op. Greg stated that the Co-op could work on improving its website as it was not particularly user-friendly, and explained that websites by for-profit companies are better. He also explained that for-profit companies benefit from economies of scale.
- iv. Joseph Sweet replied that there is convincing evidence in favour of the not-for-profit Co-op rather than a for-profit company running campus bookstores. Joseph explained that they had conducted a study based on the most popular textbooks used by UConn students and the Co-op's prices were on average 9.7% lower than the prices charged by Barnes and Noble, a for-profit company. He added that the Co-op has more generous buy-back and returns policies than Barnes and Noble. He also explained that for-profit companies use some of their profits, generated from selling books to students at higher prices, to give money to universities as an incentive to permit them to run bookstores on campus. He explained that, in this regard, it is like the university is placing an indirect fee upon students through higher book prices, part of which does not even go to the university but instead goes to the private managers and owners of the for-profit company.
- v. Morad Behandish asked about the aim of the resolution, to which Tony Patelunas explained that the Request for Purchase lasts 6 weeks and that the official decision takes place in Spring Semester 2016. Tony explained how this was inconvenient timing as GSS will not meet again in time to support this resolution, and so it would be best for a decision should be reached in this meeting. He explained that the goal of the Resolution is to show that graduate support the Co-op and do not support it being replaced by a different company.

- vi. Senator San Pedro stated that the Co-op supports initiatives like the open access textbook initiative that for-profit companies like Barnes and Noble would not.
- vii. Senator Britton suggested an amendment to the resolution to correct a syntactical error. GSS 15/16-8: Amendment to proposed Resolution in Support of the UConn Co-op (see attached).
  - 1. The GSS voted unanimously to correct the error.
- viii. GSS 15/16-9: GSS Resolution in Support of the UConn Co-op (see attached).
  - 1. The GSS voted unanimously to support the resolution, passed.

**X. Adjournment 9.27pm**

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? Y/N
Thomas Briggs	Thomas.Briggs@uconn.edu	N/A	N
Michael Ambroselli	ambroselli@uconn.edu	Physics	Y
Matthew Dunn	matthew.dunn@uconn.edu	CCEI	N
Monique Golden	monique.golden@uconn.edu	GSCA	N
Gayatri Phadke	gayatri.phadke@uconn.edu	Chemistry	N
Chris Sneed	chris.sneed@uconn.edu	GSCA	Y
Qiang Sun	qiang.sun@uconn.edu	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Y
KEVIN KEEGAN	KEVIN.KEEGAN@UCONN.EDU		Y
Carmen Britton	Carmen.britton@uconn.edu	HDFS	Y
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Laura Snider	laura.snider@uconn.edu	LING	Y
Nick Monto	nicholas.monto@uconn.edu	SLHS	Y
Julia Drouin	julia.drouin@uconn.edu	SLHS	Y
Iliana Meza-Gonzalez	iliana.meza-gonzalez@uconn.edu	psychology	N
Shariq Mohammed	shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu	Statistics	Y
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Danielle Heichel	danielle.heichel@uconn.edu	Polymer Science/SPE	Y
Derek Hargrove	derek.hargrove@uconn.edu	AAPS (american association of pharmaceutical scientists)	N
Sercan CANBOLAT	sercan.canbolat@uconn.edu	Pols	N
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ENG Simning	esimning@gmail.com	ARE	Y
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Matthew Parent	matthew.parent@uconn.edu	Political Science	Y
Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	N
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David Baldwin	david.baldwin@uconn.edu	Philosophy	Y
Katelyn Jaynes	katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu	English	Y
Laura Godfrey	laura.godfrey@uconn.edu	Eng 132	Y
Alexy Parrill	alexis.parrill@uconn.edu	ED. Leadership	Y
Ashley Boyle	ashley.boyle@uconn.edu	Ed Psych.	Y
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology	Yes

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Michael Ambroselli	<a href="mailto:ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu">ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu</a>	Physics	Y
Matthew Dunn	<a href="mailto:Matthew.dunn@uconn.edu">Matthew.dunn@uconn.edu</a>	Connecticut Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation	N
Monique Golden	<a href="mailto:Monique.golden@uconn.edu">Monique.golden@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Students of Colour Association	N
Gayatri Phadke	<a href="mailto:Gayatri.phadke@uconn.edu">Gayatri.phadke@uconn.edu</a>	Chemistry	N
Chriss Sneed	<a href="mailto:Chriss.sneed@uconn.edu">Chriss.sneed@uconn.edu</a>	Graduate Students of Colour Association	Y
Qiang Sun	<a href="mailto:Qiang.sun@uconn.edu">Qiang.sun@uconn.edu</a>	Marine Sciences (Avery Point)	Y
Kevin Keegan	<a href="mailto:Kevin.keegan@uconn.edu">Kevin.keegan@uconn.edu</a>	Ecology and Evolutionary Biology	Y
Carmen Britton	<a href="mailto:Carmen.britton@uconn.edu">Carmen.britton@uconn.edu</a>	Human Development and Family Studies	Y
Meera Nair	<a href="mailto:Meera.nair@uconn.edu">Meera.nair@uconn.edu</a>	Animal Science	Y
Laura Snider	<a href="mailto:Laura.snider@uconn.edu">Laura.snider@uconn.edu</a>	Linguistics	Y
Nick Monto	<a href="mailto:Nicholas.monto@uconn.edu">Nicholas.monto@uconn.edu</a>	Speech, Language and Hearing Studies	Y
Julia Drouin	<a href="mailto:Julia.drouin@uconn.edu">Julia.drouin@uconn.edu</a>	Speech, Language and Hearing Studies	Y
Iliana Meza-Gonzalez	<a href="mailto:Thrilliana.meza-gonzalez@uconn.edu">Thrilliana.meza-gonzalez@uconn.edu</a>	Psychology	N
Shariq Mohammed	<a href="mailto:Shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu">Shariq.mohammed@uconn.edu</a>	Statistics	Y
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Arun Kumar M. K.	<a href="mailto:Arun.mannodi-kanakkithodi@uconn.edu">Arun.mannodi-kanakkithodi@uconn.edu</a>	Material Sciences and Engineering	N
Danielle Heichel	<a href="mailto:Danielle.heichel@uconn.edu">Danielle.heichel@uconn.edu</a>	Polymer Science	Y
Derek Hargrove	<a href="mailto:Derek.hargrove@uconn.edu">Derek.hargrove@uconn.edu</a>	American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences	N

Name	Email	Constituency	Senator? (Y/N)
Eric Simning	<a href="mailto:Eric.simning@uconn.edu">Eric.simning@uconn.edu</a>	Agricultural and Resource Economics	N
Danielle Wong	<a href="mailto:Danielle.wong@uconn.edu">Danielle.wong@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	N
Matthew Parent	<a href="mailto:Matthew.parent@uconn.edu">Matthew.parent@uconn.edu</a>	Political Science	Y
Ross Dardani	<a href="mailto:Ross.dardani@uconn.edu">Ross.dardani@uconn.edu</a>	LANGSA (Alternate Senator)	Y
Karla Arias	<a href="mailto:Karla.arias@uconn.edu">Karla.arias@uconn.edu</a>	Chemistry	Y
Svetlana Gelpi	<a href="mailto:Svetlana.gelpi@uconn.edu">Svetlana.gelpi@uconn.edu</a>	Chemistry	N
Arnab Roy	<a href="mailto:Arnab.roy@uconn.edu">Arnab.roy@uconn.edu</a>	Literatures, Cultures, and Languages	Y
David Baldwin	<a href="mailto:David.baldwin@uconn.edu">David.baldwin@uconn.edu</a>	Philosophy	Y
Katelyn Jaynes	<a href="mailto:Katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu">Katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu</a>	English	Y
Laura Godfrey	<a href="mailto:Laura.godfrey@uconn.edu">Laura.godfrey@uconn.edu</a>	English / Medieval Studies	Y
Lexy Parrill	<a href="mailto:Alexis.parrill@uconn.edu">Alexis.parrill@uconn.edu</a>	Educational Leadership (HESA)	Y
Ashley Boyle	<a href="mailto:Ashley.boyle@uconn.edu">Ashley.boyle@uconn.edu</a>	Educational Psychology	Y
Michelle San Pedro	<a href="mailto:Michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu">Michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu</a>	Anthropology	Y



- I. Call to Order**
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
  - a. Matthew Dunn, Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
  - a. GSS meeting minutes, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 (*to be approved by Senate*)
  - b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2015 (*to be approved by Executive*)
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
  - a. Vice President elections
  - b. Special Allocations Request, Political Science GSA – Danielle Wong
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
  - a. President – Tony Patelunas
    - i. GSS Short Term Loans
  - b. Treasurer – Greg Treich
    - i. GSS Executive Payment compliance
    - ii. GSO budget information sessions
  - c. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
    - i. Attendance
    - ii. GSO Logo
    - iii. Student Life Committee
    - iv. University Senate report
  - d. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
    - i. Thanksgiving report
    - ii. Happy Hours
    - iii. Co-sponsored events
  - e. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price
    - i. Joint Elections Committee report
- VIII. External Committee Reports**
  - a. Senate Student Welfare Committee report – Michelle San Pedro

- b. Provost's Library Advisory Committee report – Michael Ambroselli
  - c. AAUP Marth Mentorship Award Committee report – Ruth Z. Yuste Alonso
- IX. Issues Forum**
  - a. Associate of Graduate Advocates – Monique Golden
- X. Adjournment**

**Michelle San Pedro**

This is my fourth consecutive year as senator for Anthropology and a tier II organization. I am an older out-of-state student, second-generation Asian-American, a registered nurse. In previous years, I represented GSS on the university committees for Diversity (2012-2013) and General Education Oversight (2013-2014), GSS Professional Development Special Committee (Spring 2013), and the Recreation Advisory Student Committee (Spring 2015). With this experience, I have a good working relationship with Tony, Tom, and Phil from the executive board. I currently meet with the university Student Welfare Committee to address grad student concerns. Although GEU-UAW represents the interests of TAs and RAs, GSS can further define our goals for all grad students.

For the remainder of the year, I would like to continue to work with Victoria Blodgett (Grad School) and Kay Gruber (Career Services) on spring programming for the public speaking workshop. Although open to all grad students, the target audience is for beginning grad students who may not have identified their dissertation topic, but still want to learn how to speak clearly, confidently, persuasively. Facilitators from the School of Fine Arts and Communication would help students learn strategies to manage speech or performance anxiety. We could all use tips for improving the delivery, organization, engagement with the audience.

I am also in the process of crafting guidelines to improve future focus groups with off-campus developers. From our recent meeting on November 12, it seems that developers should first meet with Victoria and Frank (Off-Campus Housing) to discuss grad student demographics and university resources. I would offer developers a list of suggested questions, and request that they share a portion of their questions in advance with students. Students may need more time to think about their responses. We should remind students that they can choose to skip questions if they feel uncomfortable. Developers need to be aware of the gender dynamics in focus groups. In order to take advantage of this opportunity to shape the future of the university, we should create an ideal forum to present our opinions.

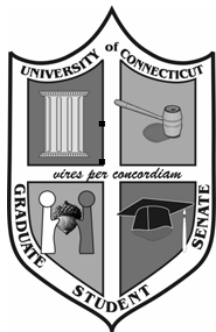
I'm familiar with the duties of the VP as stated in the GSS Constitution. My leadership style is more cooperative. I try to be sincere. I value input from peers. I'm strategic in choosing battles. I'm willing to work to have results in a timely basis. Thanks

**Chriss Sneed**

Graduate Student, Sociology (PhD) + Feminist Studies & Human Rights

Senator, GSCA + Graduate Rep to the University Diversity Committee

Tonight, I write to you all with the hope of becoming the Vice President of GSS. This role attracts me for several reasons. As a Sociologist and scholar-activist, I am interested in the ways that we, as social actors, can collectively strive towards making a fairer world for our communities. In this moment, UCONN is constantly undergoing change – both on the administrative level and in practice. Not only do I think of the increased dialogs about diversity and inclusion on campus, but also the ways in which the campus is expanding intellectually and physically through increased enrollment, hiring, and structural adjustments. Additionally, the recent formation of the graduate student union offers another example of the ways our university is changing all around us. All of these moments create an excellent climate for transformative discourse and action. As the GSS Vice President, I would anchor my work in centering the needs of graduate students on campus. In particular, I would like to amplify student concerns related to 1) work and scholarly initiatives/funding access and 2) quality of life – on and off campus – for all graduate students regardless of citizenship status, race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class or research field. While much work is needed, I am hopeful that we can reach new possibilities together.



# GSS 15/6-7: 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):

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

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
15.			

**Total Expenses:**

--	--

**REVENUES****Expected:**

1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

**Total Revenues:**

--

**Total Requested:**

--

**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.

**Senate Executive Committee**  
**11/20/15 and 12/4/15**

*Chair:* Gary English  
UConn Affiliation

*Representative:* Tony Patelunas  
GSS  
[anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu](mailto:anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu)

*Website:* URL Address

*Committee Type:* GSS  
U Senate

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential?

**Part of the meetings**

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

**Detailed Report**

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**11/20/15**

G. English announced that Provost Choi rescinded the hiring policy last Monday. The Deans have been advised. Provost Choi thanked the SEC for their discussion and input.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Torrington/Waterbury campus Senate constituencies. Currently, there is only one Senate-eligible faculty member from Torrington. We could propose a by-law change that would combine the two regional campuses. The remaining senate seat could go to CAHNR as they are currently under-represented at the 30:1 ratio prescribed in the by-laws. G. English to gather input from P. Bramble who was not able to attend today's meeting.

G. English asked for feedback on the recent TAFS meeting. The conversation at TAFS was wide-ranging and the faculty was outspoken. The frequency of the meetings may be increased.

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TAFS meeting was well attended. L. Renfro was commended for presenting the idea related to post docs. There is support for more TAFS meetings and shared governance may be the topic at a future meeting.

H. Freake presented the proposed changes to the admissions by-laws. Discussion followed. H. Freake will note the questions and concerns to bring back to committee. He then introduced the second SSC motion. The change involves reinstating a sentence that was removed at the last Senate meeting. Should not be any push back related to this change. C. Galli was asked to distribute any SSC motions to both SEC and Committee Chairs in advance of meetings so that all may be familiar with the proposals.

H. Freake shared that the MOU between Ratcliffe Hicks and the Dean of Students Office is current in Vice Provost Reis' office. The SSC is also working on some topics related to the Registrar's Office. Specifically, by-laws related to grade change should become consistent with current practice and clearly state faculty authority over grades.

The SSC has two other items for potential discussion including two majors proposed across schools and colleges and a discussion on the academic misconduct policy. K. Bresciano noted the existing policy is problematic. It is written in a way that faculty members may act on a perceived violation and put a sanction in place without speaking with the student. Further discussion ensued. K. Bresciano would like to further discuss the topic in committees and suggested a joint effort with Scholastic Standards and Student Welfare.

G&D has met twice welcoming Kent Holsinger and Martha Bedard in separate meetings. L. Renfro noted the need for clarification on graduate student travel funds (how they are subsidized) and fees with graduate students. After some discussion, L. DiGrazia clarified that graduate student fees being disputed go through the Registrar's Office. She noted that some have taken longer to resolve this year due to the changes in the federal regulations. A discussion also followed on the state of the library budget. J. Caira shared that the library group met recently and is working on budgetary remediation.

Jc Beall shared that three charges have been received by the SEC. All three are being reviewed by FSC subcommittees. There are no reports available at this time. Jc Beall noted that there is some concern in the way the term "university" is being used in the AAUP contract negotiations. G. English acknowledged that the SEC has discussed this issue and the point has been made aggressively to both administration and the AAUP.

P. Bedore reported that the General Education Assessment Task Force is up and running. It was noted that several General Education courses have pre-requisites or recommendations. C&C has asked the task force to review this area. G. English announced that a new GEOC Chair is needed. The Nominating Committee and SEC will welcome nominations by email.

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K. Bresciano reported that the regional task force continues their work and plans to have a focus group in spring semester. This group will develop test questions. The Student Welfare will discuss active threat training with the UConn Department of Public Safety on 1/13/2016. On 2/10 they will welcome Kent Holsinger and Dan Weiner to discuss undergraduate and graduate student issues. Pam Schipani and Bev Woods will attend the 3/9/2016 meeting to discuss housing issues. The SEC has asked the Student Welfare Committee to review Greek Life on campus. G. English will provide K. Bresciano with a charge for the committee.

M. Desai has been invited to serve on the search committee for the new Chief Diversity Officer. A discussion followed and concerns regarding the lack of budget for the office were expressed. The CDO will be at the Associate Vice President level. The Diversity Committee would like to publish a response to the Diversity Task Force. G. English asked that the response be channeled through the SEC who will forward to the President and Provost. M. Desai reported that the committee is working on by-law changes to make the by-laws more consistent with ODE language. The committee will vote at their next meeting and will then bring to the Senate floor. M. Desai if she was aware of any discussion on moving the cultural centers to the Office of the CDO from Student Affairs. She was not aware of any such discussions.

**12/4/15**

The Common Schedule Task Force has met three times this semester. They will have a preliminary report to share this month. The committee will continue to meet in the spring semester as they are unable to answer all questions posed in the charge without further information. R. Conboy is meeting with all regional campus student representatives this weekend and will ask for feedback from the group.

A conversation ensued about parking fees and the need to pay twice; Storrs and regionals. Cheryl will provide SEC with information from the Parking website. Will return to this conversation at a later meeting.

J. Caira updated the SEC on the Alumni Faculty Excellence Awards. G. English will announce at the Senate meetings and C. Galli will post link to the Senate website.

M. Choi shared that two town hall meetings were recently held to discuss the proposed tuition plan. Students asked very thoughtful questions. He stressed that tuition increases will not solve the deficit but will help. J. Caira asked if the block grant would happen regardless of the tuition increase. Both M. Choi and S. Jordan replied in the affirmative. R. Conboy noted that there would be a better sense of the student reaction following S. Jordan's presentation to the USG next week. S. Jordan shared the very dismal state budget picture. In response to V. Makowsky's question, S. Jordan noted that fee supported services face the same challenges in their budget. Every funded area

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needs to justify sustained or extended funding. Justifications are provided to a student/staff committee who reviews and discusses all proposals. R. Bansal asked how the tuition increase was arrived at. As it doesn't cover the deficit, what other factors go into determining the \$700 increase? S. Jordan replied that it is done through a negotiation process and considers what is reasonable and what is affordable. When asked about the possibility of any new fees, S. Jordan and M. Choi replied that fees will be discussed in the spring. V. Makowsky reiterated her strong belief that library fees should be part of the student tuition and that adding an additional fee for library use will send the wrong message. R. Bansal asked if the international student population is charged an additional fee. N. Fuerst confirmed that they are not. M. Choi noted that this population pays the full bill, about \$47,000 if they live on campus. Brief discussions on fringe rate and unfunded pension rate followed.

Michael Gilbert distributed a summary of educational programming from the Student Affairs office for the past year. This report is also used for the annual Cleary compliance report. J. Caira asked if there is a feeling that the same students are connected with multiple times through the programming or if they are reaching every student. M. Gilbert explained that they aim to reach every student and that a good amount of the student population will be connected with more than once. P. Bramble noted that the programming was all for Storrs. M. Gilbert agreed and explained that Student Affairs does not keep tabs on regional campus programming but does support them in their endeavors. M. Choi noted that it is important to take best practices and implement on all regional campuses. L. DiGrazia asked if there is talk of including non-degree students in these educational opportunities (about 2000 students). M. Gilbert made note of the suggestion. K. von Hammerstein shared that although on-line pieces may be efficient, the in person opportunities may be more effective.

Jeff Seemann distributed a letter regarding the management and distribution of indirect cost return (IDC) from faculty grants and contracts received for non-research sponsored activities. Asked if the OVPR will benefit from this, J. Seemann acknowledged that his office may need to net-subsidize to make the program work.

### **Action Items for Senate**

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- List any action items that you would like to present to the Senate or another Committee
- Include any points for discussion to be raised during the Issues Forum
- Ask for Senate feedback on particular issues

### **Attachments\***

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



## GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

*University of Connecticut*

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

### Committee Report Form

*\* 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.*

**University Senate Meeting**  
**December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

*Chair:* Chris Clark  
History

*Representative:* Thomas Briggs  
GSS Communications Director  
[Thomas.briggs@uconn.edu](mailto:Thomas.briggs@uconn.edu)

Anthony Patelunas  
GSS President  
[Anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu](mailto:Anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu)

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

*Committee Type:* Senate

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- Tuition increases, increased enrollment
- Increased construction on campus
- New media studio

**Detailed Report**

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**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Presented by Provost Choi)**

Provost Choi reported the university expected a ~\$40m deficit but is waiting to hear from the state regarding the actual budget for next year. They are increasing tuition fees for residential students by \$700, and non-residential students by \$950 for 2016-17 with similar increases over the next few years. Next year increased tuition is expected to bring in an extra ~\$12.8 million leaving a budget gap of ~\$27.4 million. Enrollment has increased from 3,500 to 3,800 freshmen and they are expecting to receive an increase of ~\$5 million from their additional tuition fees and ~\$2.1 million from increased residence and dining hall revenues leading to ~\$7 million additional revenue in total. However, increased number of students will lead to higher on campus costs as well.

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**SENATE SCHOLASTIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT**

The University Senate voted to update bylaws regarding adding/dropping courses and admissions policies and procedures.

**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**

**UPDATE ON PROJECTS, DESIGN AND PLANNING**

Laura Cruickshank, University Architect, reported on the building work taking place on campus. Construction is due to increase on and around campus next year which will effect parking. Laura explained how funding for capital projects comes from the state raising money through issuing bonds bought by private investors and that money has to be allocated for building projects and cannot be allocated to daily operating costs of running a university. However, the bonds are ultimately bought back by money from the state.

**REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION**

Tysen Kendig presented a report on the new TV studio set-up in the basement of the Homer Babbidge Library which is available 24/7 for academics who are asked to appear in media interviews. The aim is to increase the visibility of UConn's expertise and public engagement.

**Action Items for Senate**

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N/A

**Attachments\***

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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](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**  
**Thursday, December 3rd**

*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/☐ Standing

**Overview of Report**

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The details of the meeting are confidential. However, the committee’s decision is public, and this year’s awardee was made official via an e-mail sent to the graduate community on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Detailed Report**

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After the difficulty to reach a consensus in the meeting held on Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Vice Provost Kent Holsinger sent a poll to run a second voting process on-line so that all committee members could participate. Kent Holsinger shared the poll results, which led committee members to discuss certain discrepancies in order to ensure that the committee could reach an informed decision. Kent Holsinger ran a third voting process, resulting in the recognition of Professor Shareen Hertel as the awardee for the AAUP Marth Mentorship Award 2015.

On behalf of Vice Provost Kent Holsinger, Executive Assistant for the Leadership Office, Kelly Jones, sent to the gradlistserv an official e-mail on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to communicate the name of this year’s awardee (please see attachment).

**Action Items for Senate**

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There are no new action items to report to the GSS in addition to those mentioned in the first report sent on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

**Attachments\***

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from: **Jones, Kelly** <kelly.jones@uconn.edu>  
reply-to: do-not-reply@listserv.uconn.edu  
to: GRADS\_ANNOUNCEMENTS-L@listserv.uconn.edu  
date: Thu, Dec 3, 2015 at 11:54 AM  
subject: 2015 Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award Presentation  
mailed-by: listserv.uconn.edu

Please join us on December 14, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the Alumni Center for the presentation of the 2015 Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award to Shereen Hertel.

The UConn AAUP established the Edward C. Marth Mentorship Award to recognize the leadership and dedication of Edward Marth, former Executive Director of the UConn AAUP Chapter, and to encourage and reward outstanding mentoring of graduate students by UConn Graduate Faculty members. To that end, the nominating committee was extremely impressed by the extent of Dr. Hertel's commitment to mentoring graduate students.

Dr. Shareen Hertel is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Connecticut, jointly appointed with the Human Rights Institute at UConn. Her research focuses on changes in transnational human rights advocacy, with a focus on labor and economic rights issues. Dr. Hertel has served as a consultant to foundations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations agencies in the United States, Latin America and South Asia. She has conducted fieldwork in factory zones along the US-Mexico border, in Bangladesh's garment manufacturing export sector, among NGO networks in India, and in the multilateral trade arena. Dr. Hertel is editor of The Journal of Human Rights, serves on the editorial boards of Human Rights Review as well as Human Rights and Human Welfare, and is co-editor of the International Studies Intensives book series of Routledge.

Dr. Shareen's work is an inspiration to us all.

-Kent Holsinger

Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor

Vice Provost for Graduate Education  
and Dean of The Graduate School [www.grad.uconn.edu](http://www.grad.uconn.edu)

You are receiving this email through the Graduate Student Listserv. To adjust your interactions with this listserv, visit <https://listserv.uconn.edu>

**University Senate Student Welfare Committee**  
**11/11/2015**

*Chair:* Karen Bresciano  
Assistant Dean of Students  
Karen.bresciano@uconn.edu

*Representative:* Michelle San Pedro  
GSS Senator  
michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu

*Website:* <http://senate.uconn.edu/student-welfare-committee/> *Committee Type:*  
External

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes

- Transitional Housing Statement
- Office of Emergency Management website

**Detailed Report**

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TRANSITIONAL HOUSING STATEMENT – The University of Connecticut has made an ambitious commitment to become a more global institution by recruiting an increased number of international students and by fostering greater collaboration with research partners at peer institutions and organizations around the world.

But we face a **significant shortage** of available and suitable housing not only for international graduate students (especially those with families) but also for international researchers on short-term contracts (such as post-doctoral fellows, visiting scholars, et alia). This problem is especially pronounced on the Storrs campus (where space is at a premium given our growing undergraduate population) but is also a reality on our regional campuses.

We also face a **lack of available guest housing** for colleagues who visit UConn to participate in scholarly conferences and/or carry out short-term projects (such as participating in peer-review panels for granting institutions) that take place during the 9-month academic calendar year, particularly on the Storrs campus (given the lack of area hotel space).

UConn is harmed competitively by this shortage: it diminishes our attractiveness to potential graduate and post-graduate researchers and hampers us from hosting the types of dynamic research conferences, symposia and working meetings that peer institutions with fewer space constraints can routinely host.

By dedicating at least one segment of the existing housing stock (for example, the Nathan Hale Inn) as a space for international graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and/or research scholars



as well as short-term visitors, we could create an environment that enhances the experience of this segment of our community while at the same time strengthening the University's appeal as a desirable site for hosting well-organized events even at the height of the academic year.

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - [www.OEM.uconn.edu](http://www.OEM.uconn.edu) Active threat training/facilities issues- Karen spoke about request from SEC that we look at the issues surrounding faculty and other training or ability to keep students safe in their classrooms. It was agreed to invite in members of the UCPD to talk to us about the resources that already exist, what gaps there may be, as well as where can help market useful information.

At next meeting Chief O'Connor (UCPD) will discuss about active threat training for faculty and students, response plans for each classroom and how they might be transmitted to teaching faculty (is there a poster in each room with instructions? A laminated card? An email that automatically gets sent to faculty when assigned a specific room for the next semester?) How can we help get the word out to faculty about the OEM website and the trainings that UCPD already offer.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- Inform constituents about Office of Emergency Management website

**No Attachments. Yes please show report during GSS meeting.**

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**Provost's Library Advisory Committee**  
**12/01/2015**

*Chair:*            *Maureen Croteau*  
                      UConn Affiliation  
                      Email Address

*Representative:*    *Michael Ambroselli*  
                                  Physics  
                                  ambroselli@phys.uconn.edu

*Website:*        URL Address

*Committee Type:* *University*

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential?        no

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?        yes

- Journal subscription cancellations
- Some ILL details / stats
- Open access initiative
- Student / Study space

**Detailed Report**

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**JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION CANCELLATIONS**

During the Spring semester, the library will work with faculty to determine which journal subscriptions are essential to keep and which may be canceled without causing too many problems. I have suggested that graduate students should be involved in this process and we are working on finding the best way to do this. One proposed option, and under consideration right now, is to invite Patrick Carr (Associate University Librarian for Collections & Discovery) who is leading the collections review effort, to speak to the GSS in early Spring.

**INTERLIBRARY LOANS**

Document Delivery and Interlibrary Loans (DDILL) overall have decreased slightly over the past few years, while still being at levels above most of the rest of the nation (~56k last year, almost evenly split between DD and ILL). The library currently borrows 30% more than what it lends out to other libraries. ~60% - 70% of ILLs are from graduate and undergraduate students. Current and future reductions of collections may result in an increase. Various costs are associated with ILLs that may cause a single ILL to cost the library up to \$100. These include – postage, copyright charges, licensing charges, membership fees. Copyright and licensing charges are capped at \$40 each. Requests that would exceed these maxima would result in cancellation of

the request. The library currently does not charge any lending fees to other institutions for ILLs, but will review / change this policy to bring it in line with the majority of other libraries.

#### OPEN ACCESS INITIATIVE

The library has applied for and received funding for its open access textbook initiative from the Davis Foundation (although this has not yet been *officially* confirmed). Among other things, this funding may pay for faculty members to test/review/adapt open access / open source textbooks.

#### STUDENT / STUDY SPACE

Library spaces for students have seen a dramatic increase in utilization. Lately, as many as 10k students / day have used library space. The library is at the low end w.r.t. space for students compared to other institutions. There are plans to increase spaces, including graduate student spaces, as funding becomes available.

#### **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.*

# Association Graduate Advocates

GSS Meeting 12/9/15

# What is The AG?

A group of graduate students that aims to support graduate students involved in University-led investigations

Community Standards

Labor Relations

Office of Diversity & Equity

UConn Police

Research Compliance/ Integrity

Academic progress

# Why Do We Need the AGA?

Graduate students are not aware of their rights including what is to be provided, the process, and what resources are available during University led investigations.

Grads are not informed of their right to a support person, as well as who is eligible or capable of fulfilling that role and how much s/he can contribute during an investigation.

Grads often cannot afford legal counsel and may need support navigating potentially legal issues.

Grads may need a peer to accompany them during meetings that they feel unsafe, unsure or uncomfortable facilitating on their own.

International students are a vulnerable population in the instance of sanctions that may interrupt their student VISA status.

International students are a vulnerable population especially if their English is not at a level that is considered conversational.

# What Types of Support?

## Procedural support

What do you need to know about the investigation?

What information are you entitled to have access to?

What decisions can you make?

## Access to a support person

Understand the role of a support person versus an attorney.

Identify someone who can talk through the investigation with you.

## Internal / External resources

# What We Want to Do

- Train individuals to serve as support person.
- Stay as involved as student would like.
- Provide a confidential, supportive and safe space to air discomfort and/or ill feelings.
  - Offer “Graduates Anonymous” drop in, get coffee, gossip, go home.
- Help you address/solve problems.



# How Your Org Can Get Involved

We cannot reach everyone, but with your help we can!

Invite us to make a presentation to your orgs.

Refer students in distress to us.

Participate, especially if you:

- are bilingual

- had a personal experience with a university-led investigation

- interested in preserving students' rights

# Upcoming.. Spring 2016

Weekly/bi-weekly meetings to develop logo, website, etc.

Creating a website (non- UConn) with information/ request form

Non- UConn G-mail account.

Meetings with UConn administration.

Meetings with offices that provide services at UConn to design and develop trainings.

**Thank you**

**Contact us**

**AGTeam@gmail.com**

1                   GSS 15/16-8: Amendment to RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UCONN CO-OP

2

3       WHEREAS for 40 years, the UConn Co-op has provided a range of services and programs for graduate  
4       students including competitively-priced textbooks, apparel, and supplies as well as a range of financial and  
5       educational resources,

6       WHEREAS the UConn Co-op is a co-operative entity, which is owned and operated wholly by the students  
7       of UConn and members of the UConn community, thereby giving direct control over policies and  
8       guidelines to the members,

9       WHEREAS the UConn Co-op is an independent, not-for-profit bookstore whose profits accrue for the  
10      benefit of its members, who can determine how those profits are used in the community,

11      WHEREAS Graduate Students at the University of Connecticut currently hold four of the fifteen seats of  
12      the Board of Directors of the Co-op, thereby giving the Graduate Student body an avenue to direct the  
13      operations of the Co-op in the manner that ~~best serves~~ best serves our needs and the needs of the UConn  
14      community,

15      WHEREAS the University of Connecticut has recently issued a Request for Proposals seeking a new  
16      corporation to run the University Bookstore,

17      AND WHEREAS the Graduate Student Senate believes that no for-profit organization could compete with  
18      the Co-op's flexibility and responsiveness to the UConn community, because of its independent, member-  
19      run, not-for-profit status,

20      BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate is committed to supporting the UConn Co-op as the  
21      bookstore for the University of Connecticut so that it may continue to serve our community for at least  
22      another 40 years.

1                                    *GSS 15/16-9: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UCONN CO-OP*

2  
3        WHEREAS for 40 years, the UConn Co-op has provided a range of services and programs for graduate  
4        students including competitively-priced textbooks, apparel, and supplies as well as a range of financial and  
5        educational resources,

6        WHEREAS the UConn Co-op is a co-operative entity, which is owned and operated wholly by the students  
7        of UConn and members of the UConn community, thereby giving direct control over policies and  
8        guidelines to the members,

9        WHEREAS the UConn Co-op is an independent, not-for-profit bookstore whose profits accrue for the  
10       benefit of its members, who can determine how those profits are used in the community,

11       WHEREAS Graduate Students at the University of Connecticut currently hold four of the fifteen seats of  
12       the Board of Directors of the Co-op, thereby giving the Graduate Student body an avenue to direct the  
13       operations of the Co-op in the manner that best serves our needs and the needs of the UConn community,

14       WHEREAS the University of Connecticut has recently issued a Request for Proposals seeking a new  
15       corporation to run the University Bookstore,

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