

I. Call to Order – 7.07pm

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Special Guest/Speaker

- a. Kay Gruder, Career Consultant for the Graduate School explained her role to the Senate. She explained how her office is based in the Centre for Career Development, however she also works closely with the Graduate School. She outlined how she had developed her role since she was hired in May 2014. She explained how in her first year in the role she worked on raising the profile of the Centre for Career Development among the graduate community, and part of this was developing the Graduate and Postdoctoral Students Career Development webpage, available here: <http://career.uconn.edu/graduate-students/>. She explained that in her 2nd year she worked, with the assistance of a graduate student from the Higher Education And Student Affairs department to develop programs to enhance graduate student's job market competitiveness, especially concentrating on developing skill-sets from outside students' disciplines. She gave the examples of the "Virtual Career's Fair" and the "Versatile PhD" as new programs that had been tailored to graduate student career needs. She explained that her main goal for her second year in the role has been to raise awareness among the Centre for Career Development of the need to further assist graduates in their career development. She gave the example of the new Graduate Internship Award that was awarded this year to graduate student Timothy Bussey. She explained that in her 3rd year she is looking to develop packages of career development programs to offer to students based on their own time-frames and career goals, and provide more streamlined online content aimed at graduates. She said that she was always looking to hear feedback from graduate students to understand how best to meet their needs, and can be contacted at kay.gruder@uconn.edu.
- b. Fatemeh Khatami said that she benefitted from recently attending a career workshop organised by Kay and recommended others to attend them and requested that more are held.
- c. Greg Trieck advised Kay to use individual department's administrators because graduate students tend to pay attention to emails sent out via their department rather than other listservs.

- d. Michelle San Pedro asked Kay about the public speakers series of graduate workshops.
 - e. Kay explained that there are several upcoming events:
 - i. On 28th March, 12.00-1.30pm, in Konnover Auditorium, Dodd Centre, Susan Basalla, author of “So what am I going to do with that?: A guide to MA’s and PhD’s seeking careers outside the academy,” will be giving a talk.
 - ii. On 30th March there will be a workshop ran by an improvisational theatre group from Hartford who will help train graduates to use improvisational skills to develop their skills as speakers.
 - iii. On 4th April, during graduate student appreciation week, Professor Kenneth Nolles will be giving a public speaking seminar for graduates.
 - iv. On 9th April there will be a seminar given by the co-founders of a company called Oyster which specializes in matching job seekers and employees about how Masters and Doctoral students can frame their CVs in the best way to target the reader properly.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
- a. GSS meeting minutes, 17th February 2016 (*approved by Senate*)
 - b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 2nd March 2016 (*approved by Executive*)
- V. Unfinished Business**
- VI. New Business**
- a. GSS Executive Committee Officer nominations
 - i. Senator Bergmann asked the current GSS Executive Officer members to explain their roles and the time commitments briefly.
 - ii. Executive Officers Tony Patelunas, Michelle San Pedro, Thomas Briggs, Greg Treich, Morad Behandish and Phillip Price briefly explained their roles and the time commitments.
 - iii. Thomas Briggs added that the role of all Executive Officer can be found in the GSS Bylaws and Constitution which set out the minimum requirements. He explained that it is up to individual officers regarding how much additional work they are willing or able to put in.

- iv. Senator Simning nominated Senator Sneed for President. Senator Sneed accepted the nomination.
- v. Senator Sneed nominated Senator Simning for Treasurer. Senator Simning accepted the nomination.
- vi. Senator Simning nominated Senator Ambroselli for Vice President. Senator Ambroselli declined the nomination explaining he is finishing his program.
- vii. Senator Simning nominated Senator Britton for Communications Director. Senator Britton declined the nomination explaining her program finishes this semester.
- viii. Morad Behandish nominated Senator Simning for Activities Director. Senator Simning accepted the nomination.
- ix. Greg Treich nominated Senator Nanda for Treasurer. Senator Nanda declined the nomination.
- x. Morad Behandish nominated Michelle San Pedro for President. Michelle declined the nomination explaining that she will not be here next year.
- xi. Senator Ambroselli nominated Senator Simning for Parliamentarian. Senator Simning declined the nomination.
- xii. The accepted nominations for the GSS Executive Board are:-
 - 1. President – Chriss Sneed
 - 2. Vice President – vacant
 - 3. Treasurer – Eric Simning
 - 4. Activities Director – Eric Simning
 - 5. Communications Director – vacant
 - 6. Parliamentarian - vacant
- b. Graduate Students of Colour Association (GCSA) Special Allocation request – Chriss Sneed.
 - i. GSS 15/16-14: That the GSS grant the GSCA a Special Allocation request of \$2,379
 - ii. Morad Behandish suggested the honorarium to the speakers could be reduced as in his opinion it could be cheaper.

- iii. Senator Sneed explained that she compared the honorarium to similar events where the speakers are usually paid \$1,000 plus given room and board, so \$500 is comparatively cheap. She also said that we should be spending money on quality academic speakers and not just for food and refreshments. She added that it was an interdisciplinary event but GSCA are clearly the ones heading it as their event.
- iv. Senator Simning asked how many people does Senator Sneed expect to go and what is the remaining Special Allocations budget.
- v. Greg Treich replied that so far this academic year GSS has granted ~\$7,000 of Special Allocations requests, and if this request was to pass we would have ~\$2,000 left to award over the next two meetings that would have to go toward events to be held before the end of spring semester.
- vi. Senator Britton and Senator Stanley asked if the event will be open to all graduates.
- vii. Senator Sneed explained that she encourages attendance from all graduates, and that the event will be advertised to all graduates. She added that they have reduced the request by \$100 changing the cost of refreshments from \$379 to \$279.
- viii. Phillip Price explained that GSS needs to vote on an amendment to reduce the request by \$100.
- ix. The GSS agreed to reduce the GSCA Special Allocations request from \$2,471 to \$2,371.
- x. GSS 15/16-14: That GSS approve the GSCA Special Allocations request of \$2,371 (see attached). Motion passed.
- c. Issues Forum clock – GSS Constitution amendment (see attached)
 - i. Michelle San Pedro explained that the amendment is to remove the issues forum clock so that when GSS meetings go over two hours, the Senate only needs to vote at half an hour intervals to extend the meeting which is more convenient than the current system. She explained that even if the amendment is approved by the Senate it still needs to go to the Board of Governors for approval as it is a Constitutional amendment.

- ii. GSS 15/16-15: That GSS approve the amendment to GSS Constitution Article VI: Procedures (see attached).
 - 1. Motion to approve the amendment passed.

VII. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Tony Patelunas
 - i. Connecticut Young Professionals (CTYP) event. Tony stated that that the first CTYP event will be at Dave and Buster’s in Manchester on 31st March, where they have arranged for a happy hour with discount drinks and free food, as well as promotional gift cards to give away.
 - ii. Senate Executive Committee report. Tony informed the Senate about the ongoing process of the United Connecticut Professional Employment Association negotiations which are currently being debated at the state legislature. He also informed to Senate that the graduate employee union (GEU-UAW) are still in the process of bargaining with the university. He stated that there was a presentation about research metrics and the increasing levels of funding money the faculty have been applying for and receiving. He also explained that there had been an increase in undergraduate admissions and the number of applications to the graduate school.
 - iii. Smoking Policy Task Force representative. Tony explained that the new graduate representative for this Task Force was Timothy Bussey. Tony said he was not exactly sure why the Task Force had been reinstated.
 - iv. Graduate student trainings. Tony explained the graduate student trainings that we had been receiving
 - 1. Graduate students have to have one-time “Not Anymore” training from an outside company
 - 2. Graduate Assistants have to have a one-time Sexual Harassment and Diversity training session, and an annual ethics compliance training session.
 - v. Sustainability divestments (see attached letter). Tony explained the sustainability divestment initiative, spearheaded by Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Professor Mark Urban, and the letter he has written to UConn Foundation urging them to divest from fossil fuels. He explained how Professor Urban said he would appreciate GSS support for his letter and recommended that GSS support this cause.

- b. Vice President – Michelle San Pedro
 - i. Senate Student Welfare Committee report (see attachedd). Michelle announced that there was a new website that was a resource to which can help graduates with any students who have exhibited problematic behaviour.
 - ii. Library renovations. Michelle announced that the library was going to renovate its interior to re-model the downstairs café, provide more group work-space, and provide a better graduate study space.
 - iii. Graduate housing. Michelle announced that the housing area that housing developers came to talk to graduates about last semester is no longer going to be developed. She stated that Northwood Apartments are going to offer between 40-84 beds for graduate students next year.
- c. Treasurer – Greg Treich
 - i. Finance Committee update. Greg explained that the Finance Committee has allocated the budgets to Graduate Student Organisations (GSOs) for next year. Committee hearings will take place where GSOs will have the opportunity to discuss their budget allocations with the Finance Committee.
- d. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
 - i. Attendance.
 - ii. GSS Logo. Tom announced the good news that the official UConn policy on secondary logos is that GSOs must not incorporate any UConn registered trademarks and brands, but otherwise is able to create its own logo for its banner.
 - iii. University Senate Meeting report (see attached). Tom gave some extra details from the meeting not covered already by Tony Patelunas's report. He explained that President of UConn Susan Herbst gave a speech where she explained the state of Connecticut is facing a large deficit and as a consequence UConn has had \$30-40m cut from its annual operating budget, and will face a similar cut next year. He stated that

President Herbst's strategy to increase revenue for UConn to compensate for budget cuts were to make its health services bring in more profit, make its sports program profitable, and to build its endowment through private donations. Tom stated that there was a presentation given by the Office of Emergency Management at UConn. Tom also stated that Kent Holsinger, Dean of the Graduate School, gave a presentation about GEU bargaining, and also stated that the graduate school is working to build professional development for graduate students because half of PhD students go on to non-academic jobs.

- e. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
 - i. Grad Prom (see attached). Morad presented statistics about graduate prom and explained that overall he has received positive feedback and it has been successful.
- f. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price
 - i. Amendment to GSS bylaws about Officer Transition (see attached). Phillip presented to the proposed change to the bylaws which lay out the process for voting for the Executive board as currently we do not have a process stated in the bylaws. He also proposed that we use this process to conduct this year's elections for the Executive Board.

VIII. External Committee Reports

- a. Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) Policy Council report. Ross Darndini explained that he went on the tour of the Student Union building at the last meeting. He said that it was keen to provide a separate place in the SU advertising specifically graduate events, as had been suggested by Senator Yuste Alonso at a previous GSS meeting.
- b. University Student Recreation Advisory Committee report (see attached). Senator Monto gave a report on the progress of the proposed new Recreation Centre stating that it shall be a very good facility. He explained that it is to be built where Connecticut Commons currently stands.
 - i. Senator Simning asked if it will have an indoor running track. Senator Monto explained that the current track will stay where it is but added that the new

facility will have a natatorium, which is an expanded area for more pool and water-sports activities

- c. Senate Diversity Committee report. Senator Sneed encouraged people to give feedback about the new Chief Diversity Officer. She explained that the next meeting is on 23rd March and she will be able to give a more comprehensive report at the next GSS meeting.

IX. Issues Forum

- a. GSS Elections.
 - i. Senator Simning suggested that Executive Officers could be elected by a direct vote of all graduate students rather than indirectly through their senatorial representatives.
 - ii. Senator Sneed added that direct elections may help make GSS more inclusive.
 - iii. Phillip Price explained that direct elections are hard to do.
 - iv. Senator Britton asked if Executive Officers had to have previously served as a Senator.
 - v. Tony Patelunas explained that the only requirement for previous GSS service is that the President has to have been either a GSS Senator or an Executive Member for a year. He explained that there were no requirements for other Executive Members.
- b. Graduate Housing.
 - i. Tom Briggs asked the GSS about its feelings on graduate housing. He explained that he was of the opinion all 188 units in Northwood Apartments should be allocated as graduate housing and that GSS should propose this as a reasonable demand to lobby the university for. He said additional data about housing needs would obviously be helpful, but it would also be helpful if the GSS spoke actively on this issue.
 - ii. Senator Godfrey said that in the English department, many applicants have contacted her to say that getting on-campus housing in their first year is a crucial part of whether they will go to UConn or to somewhere else.
 - iii. Senator Sneed said that in her first year she lived close to campus and it made a big deal for establishing a sense of graduate community. She added that

Northwood Apartments would be family friendly if it was just allocated to graduate students.

- iv. Michelle San Pedro said that the university's current policy is to give undergraduates priority and it is a good sign that at least 40-84 beds are being made available at Northwood Apartments for some graduate students.

- c. Officer Transition Bylaw amendment.

- i. Senator Parent commented on the proposed changes to the elections bylaws and made suggestions regarding certain points.
 - ii. Phillip Price noted Senator Parent's comments.

X. Adjournment – 9.01pm

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 - c. Issues Forum clock – GSS Constitution amendment
- VII. Executive Committee Reports**
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 - i. Connecticut Young Professionals event
 - ii. Senate Executive Committee report
 - iii. Smoking Policy Task Force representative
 - iv. Graduate student trainings
 - v. Sustainability divestments
 - b. Vice President – Michelle San Pedro
 - i. Senate Student Welfare Committee report
 - c. Treasurer – Greg Treich
 - i. Finance Committee update
 - d. Communications Director – Thomas Briggs
 - i. Attendance
 - ii. GSS Logo
 - iii. University Senate Meeting report
 - e. Activities Director – Morad Behandish
 - i. Grad Prom

- f. Parliamentarian – Phillip Price
 - i. President and Treasurer pay
 - ii. Bylaw amendment - elections
- VIII. External Committee Reports**
 - a. Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) Policy Council – Ross Dandini
 - b. University Student Recreation Advisory Committee – Nicholas Monto
 - c. Senate Diversity Committee – Chriss Sneed
- IX. Issues Forum**
- X. Adjournment**

University of Connecticut

One Card Office

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Time:

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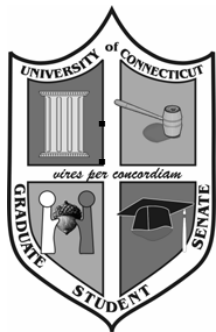
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Tran Date	Loc	Patron Name	Patron Email	Pass/ Fail	Campu	Major	Classification
3/9/2016 7:00:20 PM	7211	Patelunas, Anthony	anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	MCB_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:00:26 PM	7211	Toloueinia, Panteha	PANTEHA.TOLOUEINIA@UCONN.EI	PASS	Stor	MTLSCI_MS	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:00:51 PM	7211	Britton, Carmen	carmen.britton@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	FAMSTD_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:00:59 PM	7211	Monto, Nicholas	nicholas.monto@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	SLH_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:01:10 PM	7211	Dhakar, Suvash	suvash.dhakar@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	CIVLEG_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:02:58 PM	7211	Sneed, Christina	CHRISTINA.SNEED@UCONN.EDU	PASS	Stor	SOCIOLOGY_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:03:18 PM	7211	Ambroselli, Michael	michael.ambroselli@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	PHYSICS_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:03:31 PM	7211	Dardani, Ross	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	POLISCI_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:03:57 PM	7211	San Pedro, Michelle	MICHELLE.SANPEDRO@UCONN.ED	PASS	Stor	ANTHROLOGY_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:04:54 PM	7211	Bergmann, Danielle	danielle.bergmann@uconn.edu	PASS	Law	LAW_SPEC	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:07:10 PM	7211	Vavadi, Hamed	hamed.vavadi@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	BMENGR_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:07:14 PM	7211	Khatami Firoozabadi, S	seyedeh.khatami_firoozabadi@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	BMENGR_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:08:37 PM	7211	Behandish, Morad	m.behandish@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	MECHENG_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:10:00 PM	7211	Vasu, Vignesh	vignesh.vasu@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	POLYSCI_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:13:32 PM	7211	Nanda, Pariksheet	pariksheet.nanda@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	BMENGR_MS	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:14:19 PM	7211	Sadeghi Najafabadi, Mi	mina.sadeghi_najafabadi@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	ELECEG_MS	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:15:42 PM	7211	Simning, Eric	ERIC.SIMNING@UCONN.EDU	PASS	Stor	AGECON_MS	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:20:24 PM	7211	Yuste Alonso, Ruth	ruth.yuste_alonso@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	LCL_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:25:11 PM	7211	Parent, Matthew	matthew.parent@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	POLISCI_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:58:59 PM	7211	Baldwin, David	david.baldwin@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	PHILOSOPHY_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:59:05 PM	7211	Heichel, Danielle	danielle.heichel@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	POLYSCI_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:59:12 PM	7211	Stanley, Lauren	lauren.stanley@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	ECOLGY_PHD	GRAD

3/9/2016 6:59:28 PM	7211	Jaynes, Katelyn	katelyn.jaynes@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	ENGLSH_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:59:36 PM	7211	Shirazi Amin, Alireza	alireza.shirazi_amin@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	CHEM_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:59:44 PM	7211	Smith, Mariel	mariel.smith@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	ENGLSH_MA	GRAD
3/9/2016 6:59:47 PM	7211	Godfrey, Laura	laura.godfrey@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	MEDVL_PHD	GRAD
3/9/2016 7:00:07 PM	7211	Treich, Gregory	gregory.treich@uconn.edu	PASS	Stor	POLYSC_PHD	GRAD

Total Number Passed	27
Total Number Failed	0

Last Modified: 9/22/2015 10:27:13 AM



GS 15/16-14: 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: Graduate Students of Color Association Date Submitted: 03/03/2016

Contact Person: Chriss Sneed (Senator)

Phone: 856 723 1366 Email Address: chriss.sneed@uconn.edu

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

Name of Proposed Event: Borderlands: An Interdisciplinary Symposium

Date(s) of Proposed Event: April 29-30, 2016

Location of Event: TBD - Working to Finalize Reservations (Storrs)

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

"Borderlands: An Interdisciplinary Symposium" is the product of an interdisciplinary working group that was funded by El Instituto. The symposium would gather the scholarly work of critical researchers across disciplines to network, support, and grow as scholars. The event would feature roundtable, panel, and workshop presentations of graduate student research, along with proposals that focus on pedagogy, academic diversity, and community engagement. There will be a "Call for Proposals" to collect participants from both UCONN and other institutions in the Northeast/New England area. Estimated participants: 75, predominantly graduate students with faculty disucssants. (all food estimates come from university catering menu + GSCA will be forming an interdisciplinary committee to work through proposals for a diverse representation of fields)

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: Grad List, professional organizations

☒ Flyers around campus

☒ Announcements

☒ Other

Please describe: department circulation

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

Confirmed: El Instituto, GSCA, Sociology.

Pending: WGSS, Women's Center, AACC, Rainbow Center, PRLACC, AsACC

BUDGET

		Requested:	Allocated:
1.	1 SU room + table/chair rental = estimated \$279	<u>\$ 379.00</u>	<u></u>
2.	note: room rate may decrease \$100 pending approval from cultural centers		
3.	speaker(s) honorarium (3 people = 500)	<u>\$ 1,500.00</u>	<u></u>
4.	fri - refreshments-coffee (4.5 gallons)	<u>\$ 100.00</u>	<u></u>
5.	fri - refreshments-water (6 gallons)	<u>\$ 15.00</u>	<u></u>
6.	fri - refreshments-tea (3 gallons)	<u>\$ 39.00</u>	<u></u>
7.	fri - cookies/brownies (4 dozen / 2 each)	<u>\$ 24.00</u>	<u></u>
8.	fri - food platters meatballs (*2)	<u>\$ 50.00</u>	<u></u>
9.	fri - food platters veggie (*2)	<u>\$ 70.00</u>	<u></u>
10.	fri - food platters chicken tenders	<u>\$ 24.00</u>	<u></u>
11.	fri - food platters mac & cheese	<u>\$ 35.00</u>	<u></u>
12.	sat - mini continental (for 50)	<u>\$ 225.00</u>	<u></u>
13.	sat - deli sandwiches (\$10.5*25)	<u>\$ 262.50</u>	<u></u>
14.	sat - grinders (\$8.5*35)	<u>\$ 297.50</u>	<u></u>
15.			
	Total Expenses:	<u>\$ 3,021.00</u>	<u></u>

REVENUES

		Expected:
1.	El Instituto	<u>\$ 200.00</u>
2.	Sociology Dept.	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
3.	GSCA	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
4.	note: looking for funding from other depts as noted earlier	
5.		
	Total Revenues:	<u>\$ 550.00</u>
	Total Requested:	<u>\$ 2,471.00</u>

GSS 15/16-15: Graduate Student Senate Constitution

Effective May 12, 2014

ARTICLE VI: Procedures

1) Conduct of Business

D. Senate meetings shall be limited to two hours from call to order. Once two hours have elapsed, any Senator may move to extend the meeting at 30-minute intervals. Such motions shall be approved **by** a majority of the Senate.

F. Issues Forum

iii. The Issues Forum shall ~~be limited to 20 minutes. When time has expired, any Senator may move to extend the Issues Forum by an additional ten minutes. Such motions shall be approved by a majority of the Senate.~~ **always be the last item on the agenda before Adjournment.**

Strikethrough=remove text

Bold=addition to Constitution



Daniel D. Toscano
Chair
Board of Directors
University of Connecticut Foundation

Dear Mr. Toscano,

Climate change has become one of the most serious problems of this Century. The science is clear that burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases, and that the rise in these gases is substantially altering the global climate. As climate change accelerates in the coming years, experts agree that it will increasingly cause severe storms, droughts, and heat waves. These changes threaten human health, welfare, and security with disproportionate impacts on the world's poor. As a consequence, world leaders, including President Obama¹, UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon², and World Bank President Jim Yong Kim³ advocate for divestment from fossil fuels for both moral and financial considerations.

UConn is currently a national leader in sustainability and climate action as demonstrated by its top-10 ranking in the Sierra Club's greenest campus survey. However, UConn has not yet provided leadership in the area of divestment from fossil fuels, despite actions by many of our peer institutions.

We urge the UConn Foundation to divest from fossil fuels to promote a more prosperous and safer world, support UConn's mission to provide both an intellectual and moral compass to its students, and simultaneously support the UConn Foundation's commitment to fiduciary responsibility.

The Foundation's fiduciary responsibility to UConn requires a forward-thinking investment strategy that minimizes risks. Fossil-fuel stocks have become risky investments. Major coal companies are going bankrupt⁴, and high-profile banks such as HSBC now recommend that clients divest from fossil fuel companies⁵. The world recently agreed to keep the Earth's temperature rise to well below 2 °C. To meet this commitment, most fossil-fuel reserves need to remain unburned, rendering them unusable, "stranded" assets and, ultimately, poor investments. Even discounting this future risk, multiple studies now indicate that divested portfolios are likely to meet or exceed the performance of portfolios that invest in fossil fuels^{6,7}. Therefore divestment does not threaten financial returns, and could substantially improve them.

Our understanding is that UConn currently holds no investments in coal, but invests a small proportion of its total endowment in fossil fuels. Hence, UConn is well-positioned to divest, and this relatively simple act would substantially enhance the international standing of UConn. Moreover, the market and expertise for investing in carbon-free commingled financial instruments is growing to meet the demand of the 400 institutions worth \$2.6 trillion that are now divesting⁸. Therefore, divestment at UConn is both financially responsible and reasonable.

We understand that investment strategies can take time to implement in an informed and strategic manner. Therefore, we ask that the UConn Foundation adopt the following modest and practical divestment strategy.

- 1) The Foundation agrees to make *no new investments* in fossil fuel companies or the mixed financial instruments that include them, where a fossil fuel company is defined as any of the 200 publicly traded companies with the largest coal, oil, and natural gas reservoirs that are listed in the Carbon Underground 200⁹.
- 2) The Foundation directs its financial managers to develop a plan to *divest within five years* from all financial instruments containing fossil fuel companies, including commingled funds.
- 3) A minimum of 5% of the portfolio will be *re-invested in sustainable companies or funds* that mitigate climate change.

We thank you for the important work that you do investing for UConn's future. We look forward to working with you to ensure that our investments promote a safer and prosperous future for generations of UConn students to come.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Urban Associate Professor, co-organizer UConn @ COP21

c: Susan Herbst, President

Drew Figdor, Chair of Investment Committee, UConn Foundation

Josh Newton, President, UConn Foundation

Jerry Ganz, VP of Finance and CFO, UConn Foundation

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- ¹ <http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2013/06/25/2213341/invest-divest-obama-goes-full-climate-hawk-in-speech-unveiling-plan-to-cut-carbon-pollution/>
- ² <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/nov/02/rapid-carbon-emission-cuts-severe-impact-climate-change-ipcc-report>
- ³ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/jun/23/a-beginners-guide-to-fossil-fuel-divestment>
- ⁴ <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/alpha-joins-the-lineup-of-coal-miners-in-bankruptcy/>
- ⁵ <http://time.com/3840005/hsbc-clients-fossil-fuel-investment/>
- ⁶ <http://www.corporateknights.com/channels/responsible-investing/fossil-fuel-investments-cost-major-funds-billions-14476536/>
- ⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/10/fossil-fuel-free-funds-out-performed-conventional-ones-analysis-shows>
- ⁸ <http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/sep/22/leonardo-dicaprio-joins-26tn-fossil-fuel-divestment-movement>
- ⁹ <http://gofossilfree.org/top-200/>

University Senate Student Welfare Committee
March 9, 2016

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

Representative: Michelle San Pedro
GSS Vice President
michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu

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

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes

- Graduate Housing
- Library renovations
- Student care team

Detailed Report

HOUSING – Pam Schipani (Residential Life) and Beverly Wood (University Planning) discussed that on-campus housing is prioritized for undergraduates (especially incoming freshman full-time students and regional campus transfers) and international students.

- **UNDERGRADUATES.** All freshmen are guaranteed on-campus housing. There is no lottery system. The university offers flexible housing arrangements, allowing undergraduates to switch to different dorms and roommates the third week of fall semester, mid-year, and the second week of spring semester. Having a good housing situation is critical to academic success. Despite extensive computer module training, housing changes are usually initiated due to ethnic or class biases from a generally privileged group of undergraduates (87% of freshman have never shared a bathroom, 72% have never shared a room). The changes were initiated equally even if roommates were randomly matched by computer or requested by students. They have an eight semester limit for on-campus housing. The university will move away from mixed housing models of housing freshmen and seniors together, and will place freshmen together. There is more emphasis on learning or thematic communities. Gender-inclusive floors are available. The university's goal is to have students stay in on-campus housing for the duration of their time in UConn. Due to an over-enrollment of freshmen, lounges were converted into bedrooms. In the fall, these spaces will be converted back into academic study spaces for students.
- **INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.** Within the first month of housing, it was common for international students to leave their contract. Now housing contracts are for one academic year unless there are extenuating circumstances.

- **GRADUATE STUDENTS.** Graduate students used to live at Hilltop but the apartments were considered expensive by students. Northwood apartments will slowly accommodate more graduate students over time. Currently there are 40 beds open for graduate students, and 84 expected for the following year. This change is due to new construction on-campus for undergraduates as well as nearby off-campus housing apartments such as Oaks on the Square. Oaks on the Square has approximately 900 beds. Although grad students met with developers last semester, the hotel and housing project that was originally planned near the highway entrance/exit of 84 marshland was cancelled. Private developers wanted a partnership with the university, and the university did not want to lend its brand to housing 7 miles away from campus.
- **FAMILY HOUSING.** According to the guest speakers, there has been no demand for family housing. There were 10 families who lived in on-campus housing in 2004, then 4 families, and currently none. Because families tend to rely on one student's income, they prefer to move off-campus.
- **FACULTY HOUSING.** Transitional housing through Oaks on the Square is available for faculty when they apply through the Provost's office. Facility Operation oversees this process.
- **FUTURE PLANS.** The university is searching for a new hotel partner. They will wait until the non-compete clause with Nathan Hale is completed in spring semester. They are conducting a market analysis to assess demand for hotel rooms in the summer, and will request RFPs in the summer. The university will also conduct pre-site analysis of nearby land. They hope to attract outside developers to launch mixed development of housing, retail, research development, and cultural centers on the Depot Campus. The university is also trying to maintain town relations. Town officials of Mansfield were disappointed that Oaks on the Square became student housing, when it was meant to attract more permanent residents to the area. The university also negotiates about transportation and utilities with town officials. The speakers reiterated that they want to maintain the business of running housing, without risk of permanent vacancies. 1000 beds may be planned on Hunting Lodge Rd through private contractors. As fewer undergraduates opt for on-campus housing, the university will embark on a renewal project for existing housing.
Committee members pointed out that the university should offer affordable housing for all students to avoid "opportunity apartheid" for lower income students who choose off-campus housing. Although they approved of living communities, they stated that the university needs to build community for students who live off-campus.

LIBRARY RENOVATIONS – Beverly Wood will release the master plan for the library shortly. They will convert the lower levels into group study space. There will be three times the amount of 24 hour space for students. They may shift the location of Bookworms. There have been

complaints about undergraduates performing late night studying at Oak Hall and nearby buildings due to lack of library space.

TRANSPORTATION - Transportation continues to be a challenge for graduate students, another issue that disproportionately impacts our international graduate students.

ORIENTATION - Kent Holsinger, Dean of the Graduate School, and Dan Weiner, Vice President of Global Affairs discussed the need for support for incoming graduate students (with an emphasis on international graduate students) and the feeling that some departments are great about helping new students get settled and others are not quite as proactive. It was asked if the Graduate School could offer something more structured for depts. to utilize when helping their students transition. Kent said that graduate student orientations have been sparsely attended, though he would take the idea of a check list of items to go over with incoming grads to his folks. Karen asked about where graduate students are to go if they have a concern about anything not strictly connected to their academics and he said that they have three members of his staff that have some responsibility for this sort of thing: 1 assistant dean, 1 diversity officer, 1 fellowships officer

STUDENT CARE TEAM - A multidisciplinary committee investigates behaviors of students perceived to be threatening, harming, disruptive to others. Refer students who have a decline in academic performance or avoid contact with instructor. If the student appears to have signs or symptoms of emotional distress, you may consult Counseling and Mental Health Services (860-486-4705). If you have already addressed the student and behavior has not changed, refer to the Student Care Team. Always dial 911 for emergencies.

Action Items for Senate

- Invite graduate students for GSS Student Life committee to help create housing survey and statement for off-campus developers
- Disseminate information to departments about this teaching resource:
<http://studentcareteam.uconn.edu/>

No Attachments. Yes, show Student Care Team website during GSS meeting.

University Senate Meeting
March 7th, 2016

Chair: Chris Clark
History

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

Anthony Patelunas
GSS President
Anthony.patelunas@uconn.edu

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

Committee Type: Senate

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No

Was anything of relevance to graduate students? Yes.

- Budget cuts
- Graduate School information: application numbers, graduate employee union update, graduate training, professional development

Detailed Report

1. Report of the President (Presented by President Herbst)

- Budget. State deficit ~\$500m. \$30-40m cuts to UConn's operating budget.
Revenue generating proposals: athletics and health services.
 - Athletics is currently subsidized by the university.
 - Health Centres – plan to bring independent health centres into UConn and generate some profitMost fundraising is not for operating budget.
President's role should be 80% fundraising.
Need to build our endowment. New England flagship public universities have historically had small endowments and have been hit by economic downturns.
- Labour.

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

She described UCPEA negotiations as “Model collective bargaining.” However, the current agreement is being held up in Hartford by State Legislators.

- Chief Diversity Officer candidates. All their presentations can be found online.
- Applications. There is a continued high level of undergraduate applications. UConn students leave with debt below the national average.

2. Report of the Senate Executive Committee
(presented by Mark Boyer)

3. Presentation from Office of Emergency Management
(presented by Captain Chris Renshaw, UConn Police Department/Office of Emergency Management, and Sargent Hyland, UConn Police Community Outreach Unit).

- OEM consists of 2 UConn staff, 1 police liaison, and 1 fire department liaison
- Website: <http://publicsafety.uconn.edu/emergency/>
- They offer “Responding to an Active Threat” training

4. Annual Report on Research
(presented by the Vice President for Research)

- Website: www.research.uconn.edu
- UConn Faculty are applying for and receiving more funding.

5. Annual Report of the Dean from the Graduate School

- 13,000 applications to Graduate School.
- GEU-UAW issues.
~7,000 graduate students. ~2,300 GAs
Grad fellows and trainees, IGERT and GAANN are eligible for GA health insurance
They are not automatically enrolled though like GAs.
Leaves of absence:
Leave from assistantship (e.g. birth of a child) still maintain grad status (dealt with through HR)
Leave from graduate studies, students forfeit their assistantship (dealt with through the graduate school)
- Career and professional development.
Less than 2% PhD’s unemployed.
Fewer than half employed in colleges and universities.

Committee Report Form

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

Graduate school to increase professional development for non-academic careers.

- Writing Centre have an employee for graduate writing
- Training
 - Students: Sexual assault prevention training for “Not Anymore”.
 - GAs: one-time diversity and sexual harassment prevention
Annual ethics compliance training
- GEU-UAW bargaining
Summer employment.
Timeline – needs to be filed with state legislator by April 1st
Next couple of weeks important.
Cannot speak on closeness of agreement.
Otherwise previous practice will continue.

6. New Business.

- Senate Diversity Committee recommendations on Preamble to University By-Laws

Action Items for Senate

None

Attachments*

Minutes available on senate website

The 2016 annual
GSS GRAD PROM
Masquerade

DATE: Friday February 19th, 2016

TIME: 7-8 (dinner) 8-11 (party)

VENUE: Rome Commons Ballroom

DJ MUSIC BY: Swazae Production

GRAD student ID is required.



Activities Budget

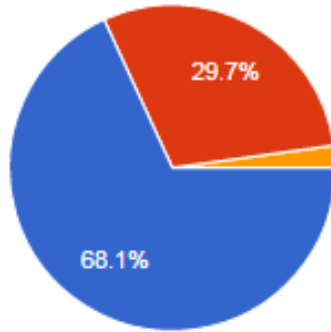
<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes	\$250.00 \$ 200	\$250.00
615 Contractual Services	\$2,845.00 \$ 2,900	\$2,495.00
620 Refreshments	\$35,420.00 \$35,600	\$31,920.00
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs	\$200.00 \$ 800	\$200.00
623 Rental	\$1,800.00 \$ 1,750	\$1,800.00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

Grad Prom Budget

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Recommended</u>
613 Awards & Prizes		\$ 150
615 Contractual Services	\$1,400.00	\$ 3,420 — \$1,400.00
620 Refreshments	\$10,000.00	\$ 8,900 — \$10,000.00
621 Supplies -- Events/Programs	\$100.00	\$ 0 — \$100.00
623 Rental	\$400.00	\$ 700 — \$400.00
624 Travel		
625 Equipment (<\$1k)	\$700.00	\$ 0 — \$700.00
Total	\$12,600.00	\$13,170 — \$12,600.00

Event Statistics

Degree Program



Doctoral Degree Program	280	68.1%
Master's Degree Program	122	29.7%
Other Graduate Program	9	2.2%

Number of RSVPs	411
Number of tickets given away	380
Number of tickets taken back	???
Number of card swipes	310
Number of raffle tickets	402

Bylaw amendmant (Bylaw II, 6) and 7) pushing Transition of Officers and Board of Trustees Graduate Student Representative to 8) and 9) respectively)

6) Nomination of Officers

A. A Graduate student may run for multiple Executive Officer positions.

B. Nominations for Executive Officer positions will not close until all positions have at minimum one (1) eligible nominee.

C. Each candidate must submit a statement, maximum 125 words, to the Communications Director. The Communications Director will distribute electronic copies of these statements to Senators within 48 hours of the voting meeting. If a candidate chooses to run after this 48 hour time frame, he or she will give a speech of no more than five minutes at the voting meeting.

D. After nominations close for Executive Officer positions and just before the voting process begins there will be a 20 minute period during which those present at the meeting will be permitted to ask questions to the nominees. This time may be extended by 5 minutes with a majority vote.

7) Officer Voting Process. In the event that one graduate student is running for multiple positions, elections for those positions that share a candidate must take place separately and individually. Once a candidate nominated for multiple positions has been elected to an Executive Officer position, they shall no longer be eligible to be a candidate in any remaining elections for that meeting. If no candidate runs for multiple positions all positions may be voted on simultaneously.

University Student Recreation Advisory Committee

3-1-2016

<i>Chair:</i>	Name	<i>Representative:</i> Nicholas Monto
	UConn Affiliation	SLHS
	Email Address	Nicholas.monto@uconn.edu

Website: <http://recreation.uconn.edu/new-rec-center/> Committee Type: GSS
External

Overview of Report

Were the details of the meeting confidential? No.

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- The new recreation center will be built in the space currently occupied by Connecticut commons.
- Construction of the new recreation center will begin in the fall of 2017.

Detailed Report

Construction: The new recreation center will be built in the space currently occupied by Connecticut commons (CTC). The demolition and removal of CTC will begin at the close of the spring 2016 semester and, if everything goes to plan, be completed by the start of the fall 2016 semester. One of the possible issues brought up about the removal of CTC was that there would be a deficit in the number of beds on campus. We were assured that with the completion of the new STEM buildings, the number of beds would be in the plus, even with the removal of CTC. Construction of the new recreation building itself is scheduled to begin during the fall 2016 semester. It is scheduled to open at the beginning of the spring 2019 semester, should construction go as planned.

Building specifics: The new student recreation building will have approximately 180 000 sqft of designated space. There will be a natatorium, multiple basketball courts, an encircling running track, a mind-body studio, several squash courts, and additional spaces for other fitness related activities.

Budgeting: There is a 74 million dollar project goal. The current design is at 83 million dollars.

Current phase: We are currently in the pre-design phase. There were several design workshops over the past couple months that yielded 9 possible design schemes. We are currently narrowed it down to 1 scheme that incorporates a three story building. The selected scheme is, however, subject to change as we progress through the over phases of design and construction. We are currently working on design aspects (both interior and exterior) and building mechanics.

Action Items for Senate

N/A

Attachments*

N/A