

Minutes
Senate Student Welfare Committee
December 18, 2014

Members in attendance *Karen Bresciano, Greg Bouquot, , *Dipak Dey, Kate Fuller, *Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, , Nancy Wong, Susanna Cowan

Not able to attend: *Rosa Chinchilla, *Teresa Dominguez, Michael Gilbert, Kelly Kennedy, *Carol Polifroni, *Annelie Skoog, *Susan Spiggle, *Robert Tilton, Ellen Tripp, Kevin Alvarez, Hootan Kashi,

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2014- approved

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert not able to attend

Old Items

Finals rescheduling by-law update- Karen Bylaw update passed. Greg gave update on RFP process for the new software that we are trying to obtain. Hoping to have it up and running for Fall 2015.

Transportation/WRTD issues- Guest, Janet Freniere. This has been an issue for a long time. WRTD has been operating not in concert with the schedule of the University. It has been hard to get into from them. CT DoT is taking over management of WRTD. Matt Hart, Town Manager, is on a board addressing these issues from the town side of things. Mindy (from WRTD) seems resistant to change. UConn stated that one more bus would make a huge difference, and we were told it would interfere with Foxwoods run. We are asking that they at least update folks on changes. The only reason we knew of the recent changes, was one of their drivers told one of ours. UConn is pushing the needs of campus. Dipak shared that grad students productivity is affected because they have to leave early. Susanna spoke of impact on international students who don't drive especially in the first year. Part of WRTD run is getting folks in a working welfare program to get to work at the casino. Matt Hart is asking about if students should be charged a nominal fee. UConn wants to see an improvement in service first. DoT management is effective immediately. Bill Wendt is in talks with DoT. UConn does not have the manpower or equipment to pick up that slack. We have ten busses out of commission right now due to class action lawsuit. We are working with only 9 busses right now. We are working on training student drivers. Dipak asked if we can help with support from town. Janet said that she would pass the question by Bill. Maybe new drivers and busses that are taken off line at 6 can be brought back up for the evening.

Nancy asked about student involvement and communication. Janet talked about being at USG meetings. She is happy to meet with student groups. They are updating FB page to reflect what they are trying to do. Bill is working with CT DoT all the time.

Morty asks if UConn is buying more buses. Janet said that it is \$360,000 for a good new bus. Morty asks if this is part of the master plan. Janet said that they are very involved in master plan. Also, there is a corridor study going on to figure out issues with 195 and 44. We agreed that it is a good sign that new transportation planner has been hired. Bev Wood is very aware of concerns. Morty said that student in environmental science asking why UConn is not operating hybrid or electric buses. Janet shared that those cost over 1 million each. Biodiesel 3-4 miles to the gallon.

Future agenda Items

Financial aid for undocumented students- (planned for February) We will wait for Wayne.

Items needing action

Regional Student Welfare Taskforce development- Tabled a full discussion, but we discussed this a bit while we waited for our guest speaker. Karen stated that it is up to this group to set the charge for the taskforce. Greg- what are the major issues. Regionals are often not following way we do things at Storrs and sometimes it causes problems. Question to look at- What things should be different; what things should be the same? Morty- advising issues.

We want to see the collect views on major issues. Prioritize the issues. Research options. Propose changes to SEC/Senate.

Text Books- communicating with Faculty regarding buy-back. Greg said that he believes that folks at the VP level are speaking of this issue. Susanna spoke to national movement on this topic and asked is UConn paying attention to the movement? Morty wonders if text book are the co-ops main issue, not their main money maker. Several folks spoke about a la cart customizing of book, on-line. Dipak suggested that we should separate undergrad from grad issues on this topic. He is concerned for undergrads. He spoke one instructor of big classes. She create version of her own book and said that this cost of book. Can Co-op be involved in this? He suggested subcommittee of students faculty and co-op. Morty and Sam ask how big of an issue is this. Sam wonders if the co-op can tell us how many books are bought back at a lower rate and then later ordered by faculty.

Susanna questioned the cost impact on student, coop, and faculty involvement. Nancy offered to help. Sam, Susanna, and Dipak offered to help support her.

Other issues. Lack of street lights. Study being done by facilities. Morty mentioned that the areas around the dairy bar are particularly concerning