

Meeting Minutes

Senate Student Welfare Committee

November 10, 2016

Members Present:

*Karen Bresciano, Chair, Student Affairs

*Gerry Gianutsos, Pharmacy

*Peter Gogarten, Molecular & Cell Biology

*Shareen Hertel, Political Science

*Patricia Jepson, CAHNR Academic Advisory

*Jaci VanHeest, Education

*Christine Wilson, Student Activities

Thomas Briggs, Graduate Student Senate

Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries

Kelsey Heidgerd, Undergraduate Student Government

Kelly Kennedy, Business

Erin Mason, Registrar's Office

Tina McCarthy, Student Health Services

David Mrotek, ISS-Academic Program Center

Morty Ortega, CAHNR

Shelly Reel, Office of Admissions

Introductions

Report from the Diversity Committee- Pat Jepson

A presentation from Pamela Heath-Johnston from a Human Resources perspective on what they have done with candidates, getting more applicants from underrepresented populations

Report from the Growth and Development Committee- Tina McCarthy

No report

Brief Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert

No report

New Items

Transportation- Bill Wendt, Tanya Husick and Dennis Solensky discussed with the committee concerns about transportation, especially for graduate students in Willimantic area, not enough spaces on buses, effect that has on the University.

Bill Wendt discussed that as a major research institution we need to do more to get students and staff to and from campus. UConn has more parking than most institutions for the size of our population.

Change the culture and get people to use alternative options from the automobile, could take up to five years to change culture.

WRTD is only public transit available, 5 30-foot transit buses, most services for senior citizens and disabled people, not a big transit operation.

Discussions on what opportunities for Mansfield and Storrs to have greater service than just the service from Windham, no service that comes from Tolland and Vernon, get connected with rest of Connecticut.

Connect to where population is living and help do a better job staffing.

Working with State DOT, governor's initiative on transportation, DOT commissioner.

CT Fast Track East- opened in Hartford going West to New Britain, relieves congestion, work with DOT to provide service to Hartford going East. Would be full service, 6 days a week, running 195-corridor to Storrs. Needs to be complemented with a local route from Tolland to Willimantic. Big initiative, difficult with state budget, 17% of cost would need to come from UConn. DOT needs to make sure UConn is on board.

UConn implemented zip cars on campus.

To comply with the federal requirements on CDL, costs \$2.5 million dollars to set up training course; there is a training in Hartford. Doing best we can to hire as many students as possible and trying to connect them with ways to get CDL.

Encouraged students to discuss concerns directly with WRTD- the more WRTD hears from students not satisfied with service options, the more likely it is that improvements will be made.

Tanya Husick discussed concentrating on marketing so people know what is available to them.

Other initiatives: ride share app for university community to use to find people to ride with (for commutes, trips off campus etc.), the app works on a netID so that it is only available for people in the UConn community, will provide opportunities for people living off campus.

Another initiative: Car rental for business use and looking to make this for personal use as well. National Enterprise right on campus so people could pick up car on campus.
UConn offered to WRTD they could call UConn dispatch office and ask for an emergency bus to help them when needed.

Dennis Solensky- help develop off-campus routes, help tap into federal and state funding to ease burden on UConn, plans to expand communication on transportation options at orientation.

Support letters from UConn community members are critical in process to go along with public grants that would help UConn win these grants.

Buses have experienced overcrowding, plan in place to do a full route restructuring to make them more productive.

Goal to enhance our GPS system to improve tracking within the next year.

New Items

A committee member brought up a concern about the regulation of motorbikes and the dangers they present to people walking on campus. Safety of faculty, staff, and students is a primary concern from skateboards, motorbikes etc. that are increasingly popular methods of transit for students on and around campus.

A committee member brought up a safety concern of lack of crosswalks and lights. Places on campus are dark with no lights around (near the Dairy Bar where students have classes in evening and the end of the field house). Suggestions of possibly inviting Terry Dominguez or Laura Cruickshank to a future meeting to talk about these safety concerns.

Tabled items- updates

Finals Schedule and Finals Rescheduling By-Laws- has not been brought to SEC yet.

Academic Calendar (Adding two days off in October)- went to Scholastic Standards, no easy way to do this without affecting Thanksgiving break, affects the number of instructional days, summer and winter sessions, lab courses, exam schedule, Scholastic Standards brought it back to SEC and asked how important of a priority this is due to the research and time involved in fully examining the issue. We will explore this issue more when we meet with SHS/CMHS in December to learn more about MH at UConn and student stressors.

Dining Services Update- possibly in the Spring semester.

Academic Integrity Update- Karen Bresciano will attend a faculty standards committee meeting to discuss the work Senate Student Welfare Committee has done on this topic.