

**Minutes**  
**Senate Student Welfare Committee**  
**September 19, 2014**

Attendees Karen Bresciano, Dipak Dey, Morty Ortega, Annelie Skoog , Robert Tilton, Kevin Alvarez, Stephanie Sponzo, Michael Gilbert

Not able to attend: Rosa Chinchilla, Kate Fuller, Kelly Kennedy, Samuel Martinez, Carol Polifroni, Susan Spiggle, Ellen Tripp, Teresa Dominguez

Regular Meeting Time- We agreed that I would ask Cheryl Galli to send out a doodle poll

Finals rescheduling by-law- Karen presented the by-law proposed change from Scholastic Standards. Suzanna suggested that we switch the first two paragraphs as it seemed to make more sense in the scope of the statement. Michael Gilbert , suggested that we state Dean of Students Office or designee instead of simply Dean of Student or designee to avoid confusion about who the student actually needs to contact. After discussion, it was agreed that the by-law could go forth as written if the catalog and DOS website made the procedures clear. We also supported the thought that the all of the by-laws need to be reviewed for consistency on how individuals vs offices are referenced. Annelie made a motion to pass the by-law with the one change of paragraph order, Kevin seconded. All voted in favor.

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert shared several updates including welcoming Eleanor Daugherty to UConn as our new AVP/Dean of Students. There are also two new Assistant Dean starting shortly which is an addition of one Assistant Dean position to the office. There is a current search for an Associate Dean of students. The Dean of Students Office is being re-established.

We welcomed the class of 2018 in with a new convocation ceremony that focused on students in a more intimate twilight event. There were speeches by the president, the provost, USG president, and AVP/DOS. So far there has been good feedback about the changes

There are two new groups on campus established focusing on education and community building. One is exploring By-Stander intervention training, the other is working on an on-line module for upper class students to access on issues around sexual harassment, assault, consent... that they may not have seen since first year orientation.

Also convened a group of the leaders of 26 student groups to meet once/month for dinner serving as a council of student leaders to communicate Michael and his staff.

Michael spoke of the two new residence halls in the works. One is a 720 bed hall intended for STEM living and learning environment. This will be over near Hilltop. Breaking ground this fall, to be ready for occupancy Fall 2016. The other is a 650 bed Honors house that will finish the south campus quad. The location is still being confirmed. The goal is fall 2017.

Regional student welfare/Taskforce development- Agreed to form a taskforce. Bob and Karen agreed to be a part of this group. Kevin said he would check with USG about student members including perhaps Ari Solomon and Timothy Lim who are now here at Storrs. Stuart Brown recommended Jamie Caruso as an interested party from Waterbury.

Update on Graduate student unionizing- GEU-UAW, joined with UAW, still negotiating the contract. More info can be found here [www.Uconngradunion.org](http://www.Uconngradunion.org)

Civility, campus culture, and safety- (SEC) Talked about student perceptions. Kevin and Stephanie report that there is still a feeling that the administration is not doing anything. He said that this topic is one of USG's top priorities this year and that part of his mission is to make sure students know what initiatives are happening. Also, that students see this as a student issue that cannot be solved by the President and other administrators. We asked how we could be helpful to USG and Kevin said that he was not sure yet and he would get back to us. We agree to revisit this at the next meeting.

Smoking ban- Karen gave a quick update based on a conversation with Terri that a Committee has been formed to develop the policy, still in draft form. It will include e-cigarettes and includes a statement about enforcement

University students, faculty, and staff who encounter someone who is violating this Policy are encouraged to respectfully inform that individual about the Policy and encourage compliance.

Kevin asked if this included e-hookas. Karen said she would check.

Student perceptions of Student Evaluation of Teaching- (SEC) Karen stated that SEC has asked us to explore and discover student perceptions of Student Evaluation of Teaching. How do they feel about them? Do they think they are helpful? Accessible? Do they complete them? Why or why not? Kevin will talk to USG and get back to us.

Lactation Policy- no time to address. Karen will put it on next meeting's agenda

Other new items to consider this year- no time to address.

3:35 Motion to adjourn by Annelie, seconded by Bob.

Respectfully submitted  
Karen L. Bresciano