

**Annual Report
Student Welfare Committee, 2014-2015
University of Connecticut Senate**

Committee Charge:

This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development and well-being of students, including available forms of financial aid. It may seek the opinion of the University Senate on such matters and make recommendations. The committee shall include one graduate student and two undergraduate students.

Committee Membership, 2014-2015:

***Karen Bresciano, Chair**, Kevin Alvarez, Greg Bouquot, *Rosa Chinchilla, Susanna Cowan, *Dipak Dey, *Teresa Dominguez, Kate Fuller, Michael Gilbert, Hootan Kashi, Kelly Kennedy, *Samuel Martinez, Morty Ortega, *Carol Polifroni, *Annelie Skoog, *Susan Spiggle, *Robert Tilton, Ellen Tripp, Nancy Wong (*Senate Member 2014/2015)

Report of Activities:

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Student Welfare Committee met with constituents across the University during seven monthly meetings from September to April.

Summary of Monthly Meetings:

Full minutes of each meeting can be found at

<http://www.senate.uconn.edu/SWC/swcminutes.html>

September 19, 2014

- Review of proposed Final Assessment by-law change from Scholastic Standards
- Student Affairs Update presented by VPSA Michael Gilbert
 - Welcome Dean of Students Eleanor Daugherty & restructuring of DOS Office
 - Class of 2018 Convocation Ceremony
 - Vice President for Student Affairs Student Leadership Council
 - Mandatory Sexual Assault/Prevention On-Line Program Development Committee
 - Bystander Intervention Educational Program Development Committee
 - STEM and Honors Housing Update
- Regional Student Welfare Taskforce formation
- Update on Graduate Student unionization (www.uconngradunion.org)
- Civility, campus culture & safety / student perception discussion (SEC request)
- Smoking ban policy
- Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETs) / student perceptions (SEC request)

October 16, 2014

- Update on Final Assessment by-law change
- Regional Student Welfare Taskforce update
- Follow up -Civility, campus culture & safety (from USG)
- Update smoking policy
- Student Evaluations of Teaching (SETs) discussion
- Lactation policy

- Other new items that may be considered this year:
 - Master Plan / Recreation Center
 - Graduate Student Housing
 - Hartford Campus Move
 - Text books (open source & other avenues for cost control for students)

November 13, 2014

- Student Affairs Update presented by VPSA Michael Gilbert
 - AKA/PKA Update
 - Master Plan / Recreation Center
- Update on Final Assessment by-law change
- Update from Regional Student Welfare Taskforce
- Financial aid for undocumented students (SEC request to review)
- Text Books, cost saving discussion
- Graduate Student housing
- WRTD bus service & transportation issues discussion

January 20, 2015

- Student Affairs Update presented by VPSA Michael Gilbert
 - Update on Spirit Rock Incident
- Update on financial aid for undocumented students & committee vote
- Update on text book buyback program
- Student International Travel Policy - review

February 17, 2015

- Text book buyback program discussion
- Regional Student Welfare Taskforce discussion
- Reading Day Assessment (request from SEC)
- Deadline to drop classes (9th week) discussion (referred from Scholastic Standards)

February 25, 2015

- Regional Campus Student Welfare Task Force discussion (survey discussed)

April 8, 2015

- Regional Student Welfare Taskforce – update & creation of charge
 - University enrollment increase – discussion of joint motion with Enrollment committee
 - COIA Resolution discussion (from SEC)
 - Open text book initiative presented by Vice Provost Martha Bedard
 - Graduate Student housing survey – discussion of results
 - Reading Day assessment – discussion
 - Regional Student Welfare Taskforce update
 - Update on joint motion with Enrollment Committee on effect of increased enrollment
- The following resolution was presented and passed at the April 13, 2015 meeting of the University Senate:

“Given the planned increase in enrollment, the Senate requests the administration to provide quarterly updates on the implications of the increased numbers. These updates should include effects on availability of general education courses, on-campus housing, and science laboratories, impact on academic majors, safety, health care and advising, and re-allocation of teaching faculty by type: tenure-track, in-residence, adjunct and graduate teaching assistants.”

At the time of the submission of this annual report on April 27, 2015, the committee has not held its final meeting. The agenda at present includes the issue of support of the Open Text Book initiative.

Respectively Submitted on April 27, 2015 by Karen L. Bresciano