

University Senate
Student Welfare Committee
September 13, 2013

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes of April 12, 2013 approved.

Attendance: Morty Ortega, Karen Bresciano, Kevin Alvarez, Michael Gilbert, Corina Morris, Kelly Kennedy, Larry Goodheart

Next Meetings: Oct. 11 (Friday), Nov. 8 (Friday), 2013 at 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Rowe 331e.

Committee Volunteers: Karen Bresciano volunteered to serve on the Diversity Committee and Kelly Kennedy on the Growth and Development of the University Senate.

Old Business: Larry Goodheart reported that Provost Mun Choi is presently convening a broad based committee (students, staff, faculty, unions, health services, etc.) to take up the **Smoking Ban Resolution** (at least 25 feet from all buildings and air intakes on campus) initiated by this committee. The **Student Loan Situation** worsens in the USA, but it appears UConn is in a relatively better position than many universities. Meetings with all stakeholders are now ongoing about the **Hartford Campus Move** with a concern for equitable student parking and safety particularly for evening classes. Registrar Lauren DiGrazia has been working to address problems some students still face at Storrs with **Passing Times**.

Risk Assessment: Morty Ortega had raised the issue at the last meeting of the committee. As a result, we invited Attorney Nicole Gelston of UConn's Office of General Counsel to meet with us. The result of the discussion was that all agreed that an office of risk assessment is needed at UConn to address the many issues that are involved in student travel, field trips, and study abroad. For those involved in making arrangements, the usual question is: "Who do we go to?" Morty noted that most of UConn's peer institutions have a risk assessment office. Larry will impart the committee's resolve to the next Senate Executive and Heads of Committee meeting. Michael Gilbert will also spread the message to pertinent administrators.

Rape Culture: Kevin Alvarez raised the issue based on an unacceptable situation that occurred during the last academic year. After discussion about residence hall safety, off campus student life, gender issues, and rape culture, Karen Bresciano recommended we meet with Lauren Donais, VAWPP Coordinator from the Women's Center. [With the committee's approval, Karen has subsequently arranged for Lauren Donais to join us on October 11 at 10:00 a.m. to speak about the concept of rape culture, initiatives at UConn, and ideas for future consideration.] Larry will contact Elizabeth Conklin, Title IX Coordinator, to also attend our October 11 meeting at the request of the committee.

Regional Campus Student Representatives: Kevin Alvarez volunteered to report to USG about the need for regional campus student representatives on this committee. We can arrange for a video linkup to our meetings.

Finals Policy, Transfer Credit, and Students Who Are Parents: Karen Bresciano informed the committee about these three subjects.

1. After much delay about wording, she would very much like to see the **finals policy** implemented with action needed by Scholastic Standards.
2. It appears that the number of **transfer credits** accepted by UConn for students who matriculate as freshmen will be limited. [I have subsequently learned that on September 12 Scholastic Standards unanimously adopted the following revision that Sally Reis and Wayne Locust proposed: ““Students who matriculate at UConn as freshmen must earn a minimum of 90 credits in-residence at UConn. Students can transfer in up to 30 credits, of which no more than 15 can be general education credits.” This change would not apply to AP credits or UConn ECE credits (all deemed in-residence), nor does it apply to study abroad or U.S. military veterans.]
3. And an organization of **students who are parents** is underway to provide mutual support.

Larry will report all the above to the next Senate Executive and Heads of Committee Meetings.

Adjournment: at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by Larry Goodheart on September 16, 2013