

Minutes of April 24th Meeting, 2014
Senate Growth and Development Committee
May 5, 2014

Attendance: Danielle Bergmann, Tracie Borden, Joseph Crivello, Kathy Hendrickson, Jeanne Martin, Carolyn Teschke, Dana Wilder, Mary Yakimowski, and Faquir Jain

UConn Senate Growth and Development Committee Members:

Reda Ammar, Robert Bird, Danielle Bergmann, Tracie Borden, Joseph Crivello, Kathy Hendrickson, Kathryn Libal, Kelly Kennedy, Jeanne Martin, Erin Mason, George McManus, Daniel Mercier, Carol Polifroni, Richard Schwab, Carolyn Teschke, Pieter Visscher, Dana Wilder, Mary Yakimowski, and Faquir Jain

Invited Guests: 11:00am President Susan Herbst and Provost Mun Choi
12:00noon Barbara O'Connor, Director of Public Safety and Police Chief

President Herbst asked about the scope of the Senate Growth and Development Committee's work. The committee outlined its charge to gather information regarding growth and development plans and present its recommendations to the University Senate.

A draft copy of our recommendations (distributed few days earlier as part of Minutes of April 17th meeting), was discussed. Our recommendations included increasing graduate enrollment (to 10,500, making ratio of graduate to undergraduate enrollment ratio of ~ 0.4) along with new faculty and staff hiring, increased research funding to join the rank of AAU member universities. Some highlights of our discussion are noted below.

President Herbst & Provost Choi emphasized that in order for UConn to be more research orientated:

- It is up to the administration to create the opportunities, atmosphere, and faculty positions to increase research, but it is up to the faculty to go after the research funding and to do the research.
President Herbst mentioned the need to increase the research productivity. Provost Choi noted that a large number of proposals (e.g. IGERT, NSF and NIH) are needed to increase the number of graduate student fellowships.
- They pointed out that it is difficult to get donors to earmark funding for research and graduate education, but the Foundation is working on that. They are also working on opportunities for naming and funding buildings, plazas, rooms, etc. Provost Choi added that naming of few building since United Technologies Building was named in 1997, only a few buildings have been named.
- They said faculty orientation should include encouragement and information for new faculty to be co-PIs and PIs and how to do that. Senior faculty could mentor junior faculty. Provost Choi recommended sharing of winning proposals with newly hired faculty in particular and faculty at large.

In addition, some other points are outlined below.

1. President Herbst noted a much better relationship between UCHC and Storrs campus.
2. President Herbst observed that there is an increased emphasis to diversify the faculty. She also noted the need to raise scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.

Finally, we asked President Herbst if we are on the same page in terms of recommendations and her vision, she replied in affirmative.

Barbara O'Connor met with the committee and presented her staffing as well public safety plan. Some highlights of our discussion are noted below.

1. She observed some challenges including few local resources, use of state police as a backup, and 10 troopers for a population of 24,000 in Mansfield (including 12,000 resident students).
2. University Police officers are state employees and their benefits are governed by state of Connecticut laws. The UConn Police hiring process and collective Bargaining Agreement is within the State Department of Administrative Services (DAS) and State Office of Labor Relations, which might not understand the unique policing of a university.
3. UConn averages 10 vacancies per year.
4. In terms of public safety, students need to see more officers patrolling the 4,000 acres campus.
5. State of Connecticut has frozen officer's salaries and step increases. Officers are tempted to go to other towns (gave an example of Bloomfield which has \$15K more pay per year).
6. Noted that the IT infrastructure is not robust to support security camera based surveillance.
7. Observed that other University's campuses have much higher camera and card access (at building entrances and exits) based security.
8. Improved parking lot lighting.
9. Observed that her department is advising officers to have student-centric mindset.
10. Recommends a campus wide integrated safety system.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.