

Minutes

Senate Student Welfare Committee

November 11, 2015

Members present:

*Karen Bresciano, Chair, Student Affairs

*Peter Gogarten, Molecular & Cell Biology

*Karl Guillard, CAHNR

*Patricia Jepson, CAHNR Academic Advisory

*Katherine Pancak, Business

*Jaci VanHeest, Education

Erin Mason, Registrar's Office

Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries

Gerry Gianutsos, Pharmacy

Morty Ortega, CAHNR

Eliza Conrad, Undergraduate Student Government

Sydney Dinkeloo, Undergraduate Student Government

Michael Gilbert, VP Student Affairs (Ex Officio Member)

Introductions

Student Affairs Update- Michael Gilbert spoke about a new initiative that Student Affairs is undertaking with the Foundation to start a parent fundraising council. They will be focusing on three main areas, community outreach, leadership development, and diversity initiatives to further create a welcoming and inclusive community. He also spoke about discussions around increasing capacity for CMHS including ideas about per diem staff and encouraging UCHC to staff spaces in their new faculty in downtown. Morty asked if other campuses are being taken into consideration. Michael said not yet. This is just in the planning stage and right now this is Storrs-centric

Old Items

Regional Campus Student Welfare Taskforce update- Karen gave an update that the group met last Friday in Hartford. It was decided that the letter expressing frustration regarding the chain of events around the roll out of the common schedule would not be sent for the time being, however this would be an example of the issues with communication that are so often felt. The group has a good handle on a set of focus group questions for students to help inform the larger survey being developed. Campus members of the group will work on their own campuses to set up and market focus groups.

Services for international student, both undergrad and graduate, housing, - working on setting up meeting for beginning of next semester. Agreed that we wanted to have Dan Weiner and Kent Holsinger to talk about international and grad student issues. What are we doing to support undergrad and grad international students? No programming from ISS anymore. For grads, some departments do a great job caring for their grads and in others, their grads are more left on their own. Transportation and housing issues.

Wording from Shareen and Morty for use as we seek guests to address our concerns.

“The University of Connecticut has made an ambitious commitment to become a more global institution by recruiting an increased number of international students and by fostering greater collaboration with research partners at peer institutions and organizations around the world.

But we face a **significant shortage** of available and suitable housing not only for international graduate students (especially those with families) but also for international researchers on short-term contracts (such as post-doctoral fellows, visiting scholars, et alia). This problem is especially pronounced on the Storrs campus (where space is at a premium given our growing undergraduate population) but is also a reality on our regional campuses.

We also face a **lack of available guest housing** for colleagues who visit UConn to participate in scholarly conferences and/or carry out short-term projects (such as participating in peer-review panels for granting institutions) that take place during the 9-month academic calendar year, particularly on the Storrs campus (given the lack of area hotel space).

UConn is harmed competitively by this shortage: it diminishes our attractiveness to potential graduate and post-graduate researchers and hampers us from hosting the types of dynamic research conferences, symposia and working meetings that peer institutions with fewer space constraints can routinely host.

By dedicating at least one segment of the existing housing stock (for example, the Nathan Hale Inn) as a space for international graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and/or research scholars as well as short-term visitors, we could create an environment that enhances the experience of this segment of our community while at the same time strengthening the University's appeal as a desirable site for hosting well-organized events even at the height of the academic year."

Michael spoke about a meeting that was happening the next day with a local developer and a group of graduate students.

Agreed that we would invite Beverly Wood and Pam Schipani to a meeting to talk about housing issues both on and off campus.

New Items

Active threat training/facilities issues- Karen spoke about request from SEC that we look at the issues surrounding faculty and other training/ability to keep students safe in their classrooms. It was agreed to invite in members of the UCPD to talk to us about the resources that already exist, what gaps there may be, as well as where can help market useful information. www.OEM.uconn.edu- This website was filled with good and current information. Not many folks had known about it ahead of time.

Chief O'Connor/UCPD to talk about active threat training for faculty and students, response plans for each classroom and how they might be transmitted to teaching faculty (is there a poster in each room with instructions? A laminated card? An email that automatically gets sent to faculty when assigned a specific room for the next semester?) How can we help get the word out to faculty about the OEM website and the trainings that UCPD already offer

Next semester meeting times- agreed that this time worked for next semester.