

**Minutes**  
**Senate Student Welfare Committee**  
**February 10, 2016**

Members in attendance:

\***Karen Bresciano, Chair**, Student Affairs

\*Lewis Gordon, CLAS

\*Karl Guillard, CAHNR

\*Patricia Jepson, CAHNR Academic Advisory

\*Katherine Pancak, Business

\*Jaci VanHeest, Education

\*Shareen Hertel, Political Science

Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries

Morty Ortega, CAHNR

Michelle San Pedro, Graduate Student Senate

Eliza Conrad, Undergraduate Student Government

Sydney Dinkeloo, Undergraduate Student Government

Michael Gilbert, VP Student Affairs (Ex Officio Member)

Introductions

Approval of Minutes for 1/13/16- approved

Old Items

Discussion on international undergraduate and graduate students- Guests: Kent Holsinger and Dan Weiner

We had an extensive conversation on the need for graduate students to have access to close and affordable housing. The desire for family housing was also highlighted. Michael shared that it looks like the number of beds that we can offer to graduate students has more than doubled for next year. Several members spoke of other campuses that they have visited that have swing space/conference housing/luxury and standard housing for visiting faculty and how it would be nice to have something like that here. Karen said that our next meeting will focus on housing issues with updates on developments both on and off campus. It was also commented that Off-Campus Student Services has done well offering information to students about how to access off-campus housing.

We discussed that transportation continues to be a challenge for graduate students, another issue that disproportionately impacts our international graduate students. Also, we discussed the need for support for incoming graduate students (with an emphasis on international graduate students) and the feeling that some departments are great about helping new students get settled and others are not quite as proactive. It was asked is the Graduate School could offer something more structured for depts. to utilize when helping their students transition. Kent said that graduate student orientations have been sparsely attended, though he would take the idea of a check list of items to go over with incoming grads to his folks. Karen asked about where graduate students are to go if they have a concern about anything not strictly connected to their academics and he said that they have three members of his staff that have some responsibility for this sort of thing: 1 assistant dean, 1 diversity officer, 1 fellowships officer

Academic Misconduct Policy- Karen and Sarah shared the faculty and student survey and discussed edits. It was decided survey distribution would be electronic and through Qualtrics. Sarah and Karen will get in touch with Venkatram from USG to talk about the student survey.

New Items

Greek Life- Charge to Student Welfare Committee from SEC

“Due to concerns that have been brought to the SEC, we are asking Student Welfare Committee to look into the effects of sponsored events through the Fraternity and Sorority system at UCONN. These concerns revolve around under-age drinking and irresponsible behavior at football game tail-gate parties and other activities that may not be fully sanctioned or supervised by UCONN. The main question may be whether or not the Greek system is currently operating in the best interests of student welfare, health and well-being.”

Eliza shared that there have been conversations within USG about concerns the behavior of folks perceived to be Greek at Football games specifically round tailgating. None of the folks at the table had been to a football game to know how the tailgating area is set up to determine if this was an issue that could be isolated to UConn Greek students, UConn students

in general, or the whole tailgating culture at UConn games. We spoke about how in order for us to know if underage drinking was a problem more significant with the Greek community, we would have to have information about all students and then be able to compare the rates of Greek members. We spoke about being in touch with the Police, Community Standards, Off-Campus Student Services, and Wellness and Prevention Services to see what data might be available. Karen also asked Eliza to have USG folks who were expressing concerns share those concerns with Todd Sullivan, Christine Wilson, and with me if they have information that will help guide our response to the SEC charge. Karen said that she would go back to SEC to get clarification concerning what type of report they are seeking.

**Wednesday, March 9, 1:00-2:30pm**

Guests: Pam Schipani and Beverly Wood

1:00pm-2:00pm, Discussion on housing

**Wednesday, April 13, 1:00-2:30pm**

Guest: Ashley Vrabely- Academic Misconduct

**Wednesday, May 11, 1:00-2:30pm**

Greek Life

All meetings will be held in the Senate Conference Room (Hall Dorm Building, Room 123). Call in option is always available.