

Senate Growth and Development Committee  
Meeting Minutes 4.21.17  
10:00-11:00am  
Senate Conference Room, Hall Building

The minutes for the meeting from 3.24.17 were approved by the committee.

Committee Attendees: Louise Lewis, Greg Bouquot, Suzanne Wilson, Tracie Borden, Lyle Scruggs, Michelle Judge, Kylene Perras

Guest Attendee: Wayne Locust, VP for Enrollment Planning and Management

A welcome was provided to Wayne Locust, VP for Enrollment Planning and Management, and a brief introduction was provided to committee members. Wayne oversees recruitment and admission of UG students, financial aid, the Registrar's office, and student orientation services. His role is pivotal in student success, especially related to retention of enrolled students, and helping to ensure timely graduation.

An overview of NextGen CT, the agreement with the State approximately 5 years ago, was provided to the committee. There is a capital and operational component to this agreement. Under this agreement, the State requested that enrollment grow by 5,000 new students over 10 years at the Storrs campus, and 1500 new students over 10 years at the regional campuses. At year 4 now, UConn is keeping pace with the goals of NextGen, however the State is not keeping pace financially. The operational funding is not available which is problematic. For Fall 2016, it was expected there would be approximately 18,892 undergraduate students, however the university overshot the target by 2% above the requested target, therefore outpacing the goals. Unfortunately there are infrastructure needs that have not been fulfilled under NextGen. As a result, fall 2017 the university decided to reduce acceptance from 3,800 students to 3600 students to accommodate these financial constraints.

As a result of these enrollment challenges, a plan was put in action to increase the typical transfer student acceptance from 800 to 900 students (many of these students are junior year transfers). Also, there are students that are selectively admitted, approximately 100 students, from the regional campuses that are permitted to transfer to the Storrs campus spring 2018, with caveats based on performance (3.0 is typically needed to transfer).

New housing in Stamford has been a tremendous benefit to the Stamford campus. The university can now market to out of state students because of the housing, which increases opportunity for good prospective student pool. The housing is current at a capacity of 300-320. There is also housing development ongoing in Waterbury, which helps with enrollment. The Housing is not owned by UConn, however it helps promote interest in the area. It is approximately 100 beds. There is no change in enrollment with the Torrington campus closure, since there were so few students. Also, there is very strong interest for the Hartford campus, even with the transition in location of the UConn campus from West Hartford.

There were 34,000 applicants for the Storrs campus this past academic year (out of state applications consisted of 17,000, international students was approximately 4,600-5,000, and the remainder were CT applicants).

Challenges are as follows:

- 1) Demographics
- 2) Reduction in high school graduates because of a declining population
- 3) Growth that will come from underrepresented and low income populations, and maintaining an academic profile
  - a. Typically high test scores relates to higher income families
  - b. We seek out high performers in financially challenged districts to help promote opportunity and socioeconomic diversity
  - c. Test scores will always be problematic for standardized exams related to lower income populations, especially with continual redesign of SAT exams
  - d. Programs such as Learning Communities, BRIDGE, CAPS ( CT Aid to Public College Student grant program) help with retention
- 4) Financial support for low income families
- 5) Other CT public 4 year institutions that are retaining students rather than encouraging transfer to UConn

UConn no longer compares “ourselves” to the other public institutions in-state. Rather, now we are benchmarking with Boston College, Boston University, Northeastern, University of Maryland, Penn State, and Syracuse. This exemplifies how our rank and recognition continues to evolve, and our US News & World Report is competitive.

What can we all do to help: 1) Know the profile of UConn and 2) Staff and faculty need to remain well informed.

Submitted by Kylene Perras on April 21, 2017.