

Student Welfare Committee
University Senate
2017-2018 Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP

Senate Members:

Christine Wilson, Chair, Student Affairs / Student Activities
Karl Guillard, CAHNR
Shareen Hertel, Political Science
Paula McCauley, Nursing (ret. Fall 2017)
Morty Ortega, CAHNR
Katherine Pancak, School of Business, Stamford Campus
Evelyn Simien, Political Science
Jaci VanHeest, School of Education
Mei Wei, Engineering

Additional Members:

Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
Rebecca Bacher, CLAS Academic Services
Kelly Bartlett, Waterbury Campus
Dianne Beer, Student Financial Aid Services
Joshua Crow, Undergraduate Student Representative
Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries
Jennifer Gattilia, Registrar's Office
Ian Harrington (ret. Fall 2017)
Kelly Kennedy, School of Business
Melanie Klimjack, Graduate Student Representative
Tina McCarthy, Student Health Services
Shelly Reel, Office of Admissions
Seeya Sodani, Undergraduate Student Representative
Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs (Ex Officio)

MEETINGS:

September 20
October 18
November 15
December 6
January 17 (snowed out)
February 14
March 21 (snowed out)
April 4
April 25 (make up)

TOPICS CONSIDERED/ADRESSED:

Student Safety

One of the student safety topics we discussed was building access. Members reported that student organizations, small groups of students, and individual students are accessing buildings and rooms in buildings outside of the hours the buildings are open, and using rooms they have not reserved. This has resulted in other issues, such as pressure on folks in the building/rooms to let other folks in, folks who are in the building legitimately feeling unsafe, trash left in rooms that cannot get cleaned up before morning classes, furniture moved (and sometimes damaging floors in the process), and damaged technology.

Gregory Bouquot, Registrar, came and met with the group. He discussed the numbers of classes, spots for student organizations (limited), the hours the buildings are open (all close at 11 pm). He presented information about the Classroom Committee's sign project (signs in classrooms sharing information about appropriate hours and use). He also indicated that there is no way to accommodate the performance student organizations with the type of space and number of hours that they desire.

Subsequently, the Chair met with Monica Rudzik, Director of the Student Union. Rudzik worked with performance groups on a system for them to be able to better access large spaces that meet their needs. A trial run of this system will be used in Fall 2018.

The Chair met with Aris Risteau, head of housekeeping, to get his perspective on the situation. He supports the Classroom Committee's signs. He is in the process of creating signs that will go in classrooms and lounges that shows where the furniture goes so that it can be replaced correctly. The Chair, who also oversees the "posting policy" worked with Risteau on a system for the housekeepers to be able to remove outdated posters and flyers.

The Chair also talked to Hans Rhyhart, head of Public Safety. Reinhardt talked about the long term plan to get all of the buildings on to the Genetek key card access; Oak and Laurel are already on the system.

Crosswalks and lighting

Another student safety topic related to crosswalks and lighting. Committee members talked about the fact that there are some places where there should be a cross walk but there isn't, and places where there are too many cross walks, and that there are some places where there are paws instead of cross walk stripes. Further, there are places where there are not enough street lights.

The Chair met with Hans Rhyhart, head of Public Safety, to share these concerns. Reinhardt took note, and let the committee know that a new group has been created to address these concerns. It is a multi area *Task Force on Pedestrian and Traffic Safety* and it will include Regional campus concerns.

Preferred/chosen names

There are multiple reasons why students may want to use a name different from their legal names: gender transitions, American names chosen by international students, etc. Elsie Gonzales from Office of Diversity and Inclusion came to a meeting to discuss the issue. She let us know that, on the OIE website,

there are resources. There is a Transition Guide for students transitioning gender. There is a chart on how students can change name on campus (name can be changed in some places but not others). There is a group is working on updates and the Chosen vs. Primary name issue on campus—group includes Registrar, UITS, FA, OneCard, HR, ODI, OIE and Rainbow Center.

DACA

Lesley Salafia from the General Counsel's office was a guest speaker. She explained that DACA is still in place for current DACA students who already have it. They can still apply to extend their status. Students who have never been DACA prior to September 2017 cannot extend. She let us know that DACA still has uncertain status for the future, and that DACA students should consider not travelling abroad. She let us know that there is a protocol for supporting students in imminent danger of being deported. The protocol is enacted on a case by case basis. The Office of Global Affairs also can assist with placing students being deported to new schools with which we have connections with in foreign countries.

Policies / Protocols discussed

Posting policy (revised Fall 2017)

Student organization event review procedures

Adverse Events protocol

*Respectfully submitted by Christine M. Wilson, Chair
April 20, 2018*