

Student Welfare Committee Meeting

March 7, 2019, 2 p.m.

Meeting Notes

Meeting called to order at 2 p.m.

Attendance taken.

In attendance: Christine Wilson, Kim Colbert, Erin Curry, Rebecca Bacher, Shelly Reel, Cinnamon Adams, Kate Fuller, Donna Korbel, Peter Gogarten, Jennifer Gattilia, Mei Wei, Maureen Armstrong.

Reviewed last month's minutes. Noted corrected spelling of Donna Korbel's name.

Christine attended Senate Exec. meeting and informed them of Kay Gruder coming to talk about PHD students, academia vs. industry, and career services for grad students.

Guest at GSS meeting said they were told that working at a prestigious school in an academic discipline is more preferable than working at a less prestigious school or in industry. Senate Exec. acknowledged the issue and said we must do more.

It is believed that regional students living in Storrs and Spring to Storrs students both happening again this fall.

Guest Speaker

Kay Gruder, Assistant Director at the Center for Career Development, particularly working with grad students.

What she's seeing/doing:

- 1) One on one coaching daily with grad students, mostly PhD students, some masters.
- 2) This group often feels lost, abandoned, discouraged, ill-prepared, and stressed, which affects their ability to move through life.

What is the responsibility of Career Development Center?

- 1) Show students their options
- 2) Help make them feel prepare
 - a. Students may have great skill sets, but are still missing something. They need to develop other skills.
- 3) Works with faculty, co-teaches career development modules and does "train the trainer."

Center Work

- Career exploration, career plan
- Gap analysis (skills, training, knowledge, experience, etc.)
- Internships
- Development of professional materials, online presence, interviewing, etc.

Career plan should be developed in year one and continued forward, train others to deliver content, have conversations and share materials.

Mei Wei asked, are there any faculty workshops on mentoring students?

- Center is developing workshops
- Partnering with WS in early May
- Goal is to roll out monthly offering
- Working on stand-alone career development modules in HuskyCT that faculty can access.

There is a sense that some programs/departments are more open to these ideas than others. Some departments are doing great things. Some are open and trying to take steps forward, but then take steps back. May be due to lack of resources and time.

Faculty here at UConn are very open to conversations about this topic.

Does not feel deep pockets of resistance—could be perception gap; media feeds negativity.

How do students decide to pursue their PhD?

- 1) International students, pressure from family to stay in US
- 2) Didn't know what to do so went for PhD
- 3) Someone told them they were smart and wanted them

PhDs don't want their advisors to know they're complaining or going to Career Services.

Erin Curry – What can students do?

Graduate Students Career Council – 12 members this year

- Meet once a month
- Discuss career diversity
- Go to Departments to do programming
- Work with admin in department to show alumni and career diversity
- Individuals on Council are very dedicated

Suggestion to have Kay or GA as guest speaker at GSS or come as an ad-hoc member to keep communications open.

Next Steps

- 1) Provide options
- 2) Unit that provides guidance
- 3) Mentoring for faculty (faculty guidance on mentoring students)
- 4) How do you incentivize those who normally wouldn't go?
- 5) What other resources are there for PhD students besides their advisors?

Next meeting: 4/4/19, 1 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 3 p.m.