

Student Welfare Committee
University Senate
2018-2019 Annual Report

MEMBERSHIP

Senate Members:

Christine Wilson, Chair, Student Affairs / Student Activities
Maureen Armstrong, Dean of Students Office
Peter Gogarten, Molecular and Cell Biology
Donna Korbelt, Student Affairs
Morty Ortega, CAHNR
Evelyn Simien, Political Science
Jaci Van Heest, School of Education
Mei Wei, Engineering

Additional Members:

Cinnamon Adams, Graduate School
Rebecca Bacher, CLAS Academic Services
Kelly Bartlett, Waterbury Campus
Crystal Klicin, Undergraduate Student Government Representative
Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries
Jennifer Gattilia, Registrar's Office
Kelly Kennedy, School of Business
Erin Curry, Graduate Student Senate Representative
Tina McCarthy, Student Health Services
Shelly Reel, Office of Admissions
Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs (Ex Officio)
Kim Colbert, Administrative Support

MEETINGS:

September 6
October 4
November 1
December 6
February 7
March 7
April 4

TOPICS CONSIDERED/ADRESSED:

Food insecurity on campus / opportunities for food insecure students

A group of students formed an organization, UConn Café, to study and address food insecurity on campus. They worked with a faculty member, Dr. Phoebe Godfrey (Sociology), to facilitate a campus wide study, and they held several pop up food pantry events on campus. Student Affairs worked to make sure there is information about

local food pantries on the UConn websites (here and at regional campuses), and to share information about how food insecure students can get jobs on campus that include meals as part of the compensation.

Student welfare related to the Supreme Court hearings

The members of the SWC discussed the impact of the Supreme Court hearings (Brett Kavanaugh) on campus climate and on victims/survivors of sexual assault.

Update on Counseling and Mental Health Services

Betsy Cracco, Director of Counseling and Mental Health, came to a SWC meeting to discuss the current state of services, and their new suicide prevention approach; the new approach is based on best practices, current research, and focuses on connections as prevention.

Update on sexual harassment / assault training and reporting resources

Elizabeth Conklin (Title IX Officer) and Jenn Longa (Assistant Dean of Students for Victims Support Services and Bystander Interventions) came to a SWC meeting to talk about the current state of resources, training materials, and consulting services relative to sexual harassment and assault prevention and response.

Update on career services for PhD students

Kay Gruder for the Center for Career Development came to SWC meeting to share information on career services and guidance for PhD students who are pursuing non-academic careers.

Senior Year Experience

Beth Settje and Nancy Bilmes from the Center for Career Development came to a SWC meeting to share information about the re-start of the Senior Year Experience. They also shared with the committee that the SYE will be only one part of a set of services related to college to career issues; this umbrella of services is called College to Career Transitions. Regional representatives discussed the importance of these initiatives being presented on regional campuses.

Transitions / Special Programs

Several members of the SWC expressed concern about the cohort of students who are living in Storrs and studying in Hartford and Avery Point, as well as students who start at Regional campuses and then transition to Storrs. For the “live at Storrs” cohort, several members are concerned about specific issues such as dining hall access (another member shared that Dining Services will make bagged meals if students need them), social integration (one member stated that students chose to live at Storrs, but the toll of travelling back and forth has meant that some students are not integrated on either campus), and academic success (one member shared that, of this group, a higher percentage of the students are on academic probation than the students at Storrs or the regional campus). The members are concerned about the social integration and belonging of the Spring to Storrs and regional students who transition to the Storrs campus.

*Respectfully submitted by Christine M. Wilson, Chair
April 20, 2019*