



Graduate Student Senate

University of Connecticut

Graduate Student Senate Agenda

January 30, 2006

- I. Call to Order
Vice President Sopcak called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in Family Studies 220.
- II. Approval of Minutes – November 28, 2005
The minutes were approved without amendments.
- III. Recognition of Senators
- IV. Executive Committee Reports
 - a. President – James Bourbeau
 - Welcome Back
President Bourbeau expressed his pleasure to see a good turnout in the new room.
 - b. Vice President – Amy Sopcak
 - Fall 2006 Exec Committee
Vice President Sopcak announced that nominations for the 2006-2007 executive committee will be in the end of March and elections will be April 3. She asked that senators think about serving on the exec board as there will be several open positions.
 - c. Secretary – Andrea Knorr
 - Attendance
Secretary Knorr reminded senators to sign the attendance sheet at each meeting.
 - d. Treasurer – Matt Jura
 - 2006-2007 Budgets
Treasurer Jura reminded senators of the budget meeting on April 10 in FS 220. There will a meeting before then to help inexperienced individuals plan a budget as well as explain the budget process. The date and room for this additional meeting have not been designated yet.

e. Parliamentarian – Julia Thomson

- Department Participation

Parliamentarian Thomson went through past semesters' attendance sheets and will determine how to get participation from departments that typically do not have a member present.

f. Activities Director – Anuthep Pasura

- Recap of Fall Events

Activities Director Pasura highlighted events from the fall semester and chose to keep those that were popular, such as coffee hours and bar nights.

- Preview of Spring Events

There will be a total of three bar nights. The first was in January and had about 120 attendees. There will be one in March, and another in April.

Coffee hours will continue on most Tuesdays from 3-5. The exceptions are during spring break and on Valentine's Day, when there will be an ice cream social.

Movie tickets are again available. The program will be discontinued if people continue to pick up a ticket but not redeem it at the movie theater, as the GSS still has to pay for the tickets.

The annual Spring Event will be the evening of March 25 in Rome Ballroom.

Massages will be available during finals.

V. Standing Committee Reports

VI. External Committee Reports

a. Provost's Committee on the Status of Women (Julia Thomson)

The Provost has said that the university is making strides on the issue of childcare.

The sexual harassment subcommittee plans to make the university community more aware of the university's policy on sexual harassment and consensual relationships. More information is available at <http://www.pcsw.uconn.edu>.

Julia can be contacted by email (julia.thomson@uconn.edu) and is also on campus at least four days a week to discuss any issues related to this committee's focus.

b. Parking Advisory Committee (Andrea Knorr)

Andrea explained the parking situation at Northwood Apartments. Whereas the distribution of permits formerly had been the responsibility of the Department of Residential Life, it now falls under Parking & Transportation. One reason for the change is that the issuing of permits was not very orderly and too many permits were handed out per apartment. In addition, now there is one group handling all parking issues, including enforcement. The cost of permits used to be included in the rent, but now permits require a separate fee on top of rent. When asked why Hilltop Apartments & Charter Oak Apartments residents do not have to pay for parking separately, Andrea was told that permits for those residents will also fall under Parking & Transportation in the near future.

c. University Reaccreditation (James Bourbeau)
James is certain the university will be reaccredited.

d. Provost Search Committee (James Bourbeau)
Not much is going on, as applications are still being submitted.

e. University Senate (Brooke Morrill)
Brooke wanted to let the senate know that because the undergraduate representative to the senate executive committee had a scheduling conflict, he is now the representative.

VII. Issues Forum

a. Any problems dealing with the start of the semester?

Secretary Knorr announced that payroll deductions will start on this Thursday's paycheck. Parliamentarian Thomson said that you can see when the deductions will be taken if you look on PeopleSoft.

Senator Sabadini brought up the issue of financial aid. Somehow she was incorrectly listed as being half-time, and is still waiting for a loan. She wants to know if this has happened to other students. Senator Walker said the same thing has happened to her. Both have been offered emergency loans. According to both senators, no one in the financial aid office knows how to fix the problem, and no one has the same answer. Due to the improper processing the loan comes in late and the amount of the loan is reduced because of the delay in processing. President Bourbeau said he will follow up on this issue, noting that it likely happened to many students. Senator Jura reminded everyone that the GSS offers \$500 emergency loans.

Senator Busch requested that the GSS try to get the university to adjust the cost of living calculation and increase some of the caps on things such as miles traveled and rent. He and several other senators feel that the costs are way out of line with current prices, leading to a significantly lower reimbursement than what should be given. Visit <http://financialaid.uconn.edu/cnt-cost/graduate05-06.php> for information regarding reimbursement of graduate students.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

X. Other Business

Career Services contacted President Bourbeau last semester about his idea to have a panel of graduate students available for questions from undergraduates. This event is planned for Friday Feb 24 12:00-1:00pm in Student Union 304. There will be two panels; one will have students from the physical sciences and the other will have students from the humanities/social sciences.

XI. Adjournment

Senator Sabadini motioned to adjourn, seconded by Senator Schultz. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

ATTENDANCE

James Bourbeau	President	Franklin Scott	Philosophy
Amy Sopcak	Vice President	Carrie Fyler	EEB
Andrea Knorr	Secretary	Kathryn Theiss	Guest, EEB
Matt Jura	Treasurer	Pete Chidester	English
Julia Thomson	Parliamentarian	R. Brooke Morrill	English
Anuthep Pasura	Activities Director	Reneé Gilberti	MCB
		Jeff Busch	Ed. Psych.
		Aaron Schultz	At-Large, Psych
Jen Minot	Guest, Higher Ed	Laura Sabadini	Psychology
Jeff Bernath	Linguistics	Andrea Fuhrel	Psychology
Daniel Ballesteros	Guest, Fine Arts	Curtis Walker, Jr.	Guest, Psych
Nick McNamara	Geography	Mindy Weidman	History
Mariana Guzzardo	HDFS	Christine Walker	History
Kim Petrovic	HDFS	Malia Bajpai	Political Science
Andrew Polonsky	Math	Julie Richmond	Animal Science