

Graduate Student Senate Minutes

March 31, 2004

I. Call to Order

Vice-President Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in Room 200 of the Whetten Graduate Center.

II. Approval of Minutes (March 17, 2004)

The minutes from March 17, 2004, were approved without objection.

III. Recognition of New Senators

Andrea Fuhrel – Psychology
Karl Mordhorst – Political Science – At-Large

The At-Large senator appointment was approved by a voice vote.

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Adam N. Rabinowitz

- Student Trustee Position – Attachment #99
- Vice-President Student Leadership Cabinet – Attachment #99
- Career Services – Attachment #99
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership – Attachment #99
- International Student Forum – Attachment #99

b. Vice President – Kisha Tracy

- Graduate Student Senate Lecture Series
April 7th 4pm in Whetten 200. The Grant Writing may not be part of this lecture because of a problem with a scheduling conflict for the currently scheduled person.
- Student Union Space
As the “imaginary walls” will not move, we are being moved over to a larger room that is located closer to the stairwell.

c. Secretary – Natasha M. Rabinowitz

d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert

- Budget Announcements
Budgets are due 4/14 and the budget hearing will be 4/21 at 7pm.

e. Parliamentarian – Jeffrey Arbogast

- Board of Trustees Approval of Constitution

The previously voted upon Constitution was approved by the Board of Trustees Meeting

- Procedures Committee Meeting

The Procedures Committee met and will be proposing amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws tonight.

f. Activities Director – Andrea Knorr

The weekly question is where you would like to go if a bus trip were offered.

- Activities Update

Wednesday, April 7, 2004 - Ice Cream Social with games

- Semi-Formal Tickets

April 10, 2004 – Semi Formal

- Tickets will be available April 1, 2004

- Office hours are posted on the GSS website

If you would like to work at the Semi Formal please let Andrea know ASAP.

Flyers are available for you to take to your department

Trivial Pursuit tournament will take place on, April 22, 2004.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Adam N. Rabinowitz – Student Welfare Committee Report for March 31, 2004 – Attachment #100

Question: Will the issue of graduate students teaching courses instead of professors be addressed? When they say student, they mean undergraduate and not graduate.

- b. Adam N. Rabinowitz – Child Care Committee for March 19, 2004 – Attachment #100

- c. Jill M. – GEOC

Students outside of English must have some type of training to teach writing to students (100W), and 200W must be taught by the instructor. Talk to Jill if you are an IOR teaching a W and not in English.

- d. James I. – Mansfield Downtown Partnership

- e. Puneet Agarwal – Faculty Standards for March 18, 2004 – Attachment #101

VI. Issues Forum

- a. Senate Sponsored Dinner Events (5 minutes)

Now that the dinners are at a known location with adequate advertising we have too many people to feed. What are your suggestions about what we can do to make this experience better for graduate students?

- Have a ticket system for people who want to attend
- Provide more food for the event

- Try using a dining hall so that more food could be provided at a moments demand
- Having servers to limit the amount of food that people can take
- One grad student and one guest - there appeared to be a lot of people with extended families
- What if we were to provide a FOOD VOUCHER that would allow students to use the dinning halls, etc.?

Dave said it is a good idea, but have it as early in the evening as possible to avoid the undergraduates that will come in later.

The goal is to reach out to more students while minimizing waste and maximizing benefit.

VII. New Business

- a. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$250 for Muskies – Graduate Art Students for the Visual Arts Research Center Spring Open House to be held on April 1, 2004. – Attachment #102
 - Colin has flyers available for senators to take.
 - It is an open forum, with a band and art for graduate student viewing
 - This is open to all people at the university community especially the graduate students.
 - Advertising has already been put up in several buildings.

Scott Creamer motioned to end debate.

Proposal was approved by a voice vote.

The following proposals are for changes to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Graduate Student Senate. As per Article VIII of the current Graduate Student Senate Constitution, these proposals must be presented and then tabled until our next meeting. Therefore, these proposals are not open for debate and will not be voted upon. The proposals will be open for debate and voted upon at the next regularly scheduled meeting on April 14, 2004.

Jeff presented the packets of proposals as well as the complete Constitution (Attachment #103) and Bylaws (Attachment #104) that contains the proposed amendments. The complete packets are unofficial documents but are provided for easier reference.

- b. GSS-23: An Act to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws with Miscellaneous Revisions. – Attachment #105
 Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-23 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- c. GSS-24: An Act to Amend Article V of the Constitution. – Attachment #106
 Jeff presented the proposal. He clarified that the Constitution gives the authority to do things and the Bylaws are the way the authority is executed.
GSS-24 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.

- d. GSS-25: An Act to Amend Article IV of the Constitution. – Attachment #107
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-25 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- e. GSS-26: An Act to Amend Bylaw II. – Attachment #108
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-26 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- f. GSS-27: An Act to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws to Clarify Recall Procedures. – Attachment #109
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-27 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- g. GSS-28: An Act to Amend the Bylaws to Govern Senator Roles and Responsibilities. – Attachment #110
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-28 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- h. GSS-29: An Act to Amend the Bylaws Governing Standing Committees. – Attachment #111
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-29 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- i. GSS-30: An Act to Amend the Bylaws to Define External Committee Representative Responsibilities. – Attachment #112
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-30 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- j. GSS-31: An Act to Amend the Bylaws to Define the Responsibilities of the Administrative Assistant. – Attachment #113
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-31 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- k. GSS-32: An Act to Amend the Constitution and Bylaws to Change Stipend Limits. – Attachment #114
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-32 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.
- l. GSS-33: An Act to Amend the Constitution to Include an Alcoholic Beverage Policy. – Attachment #115
Jeff presented the proposal.
GSS-33 was tabled until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.

VIII. Other Business

Laura Sabadini from Psychology made a motion to make an amendment to the Graduate Student Senate Finance Policies and Procedures.

Proposed Free Speech Amendment to the GSS Finance Policies and Procedures and Proposed Redundant Service amendment to the GSS Finance Policies and Procedures. – Attachment #116

The **proposal was tabled** until the next meeting on April 14, 2004.

IX. Announcements

- a. **Friday, April 2 at 3pm: Join Us for a Talk about Life After UConn with Guest Speaker Bill Gallo, Health Economist and Ph.D. Alumnus of UConn Department of Economics, Associate Research Scientist at Yale University School of Medicine, Program on Aging Monteith - Room 339** - Refreshments will be served immediately following the talk. All Graduate Students Welcome! Co-Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate
- b. **Wednesday, April 7 at 4pm: Grant Writing and Intellectual Property - part of the Graduate Student Senate Lecture Series.** Discussion and tips on the writing of grants and insight into the idea of intellectual property. **Located in the Whetten Graduate Center Room 200.**
- c. **Wednesday, April 7 from 5-9pm: There will be a game night sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate in Student Union room 378 from 5-9pm.** Come for ice cream, stay to play some games with your friends!
- d. **Wednesday, April 7 at 4 pm: The Department of Chemistry will be hosting a seminar at 4 pm in A203 of the New Chemistry Building** with refreshments served at 3:45 pm in the 2nd floor atrium. Coordinator: robert.bohn@uconn.edu Co-Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate.
- e. **Friday, April 9 at 4:30 pm: The Department of Linguistics is hosting a Colloquium Series in Linguistics at 4:30 pm, Arjona Building, Room 311.** Kai von Fintel, MIT, Anatomy of a modal (talk based on joint work with Sabine Iatridou). Check <http://vm.uconn.edu/~wwwling/COLLOFF.HTML> for more information and event updates. Co-sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate.
- f. **Saturday, April 10 from 7pm-12am: The Graduate Student Senate is sponsoring a Semi-Formal from 7pm - 12am in the Rome Ballroom.** Come for a fun night, which will include a buffet dinner by University Catering and music by WHUS. Tickets will be available in the Graduate Student Senate office, Whetten Graduate Center Room 318. Check the Senate website for office hours <http://www.gss.uconn.edu>
- g. **Wednesday, April 14 at 4 pm: The Department of Chemistry will be hosting a seminar at 4 pm in A203 of the New Chemistry Building** with refreshments served at 3:45 pm in the 2nd floor atrium. Sunlearan Thayumanaran, UMass Coordinator: robert.bohn@uconn.edu Co-Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate.
- h. **Wednesday, April 14 at 7pm: Senate Meeting in Room 200 of the Whetten Graduate Center.**

RECURRING EVENTS:

- i. **Friday, April 2 and 9 from 7pm – 12am and Sunday, March 21 and 28 from 2pm – 5pm: Badminton Club in the UConn Gym.** Contact Luo Jianhui jianhui.luo@uconn.edu for more information. Co-Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate.
- j. **Friday, April 2 and 9 from 8pm – 11:45pm: The UConn graduate student volleyball club is cordially welcoming every graduate student to join for volleyball games in the field house.**

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Natasha M. Rabinowitz, Secretary

Attendance for March 17, 2004:

Executive Committee

Adam N. Rabinowitz, President
Kisha Tracy, Vice-President
Natasha M. Rabinowitz, Secretary
Craig Calvert, Treasurer
Jeffrey Arbogast, Parliamentarian
Andrea Knorr, Activities Director

Senators

Marc Fantozzi from Molecular and Cell Biology
Hannah Monahan from Molecular and Cell Biology
James Irwin from Civil and Environmental Engineering
Barbara Campbell from English – At-Large
Laura Sabadini from Psychology
Andrea Fuhrel from Psychology
Scott Creamer from Political Science
Caroline Fyler from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Franklin Scott from Philosophy
Marius Jurgilas from Economics
Yen Lemire from Molecular and Cell Biology
Daniela Sovea from English – At-Large
Jill Magee from Linguistics
Kate O’Sullivan from Medieval Studies
Kim Petrovic from Family Studies
Karen Mounsey from History
Karl Mordhorst from Political Science
Dan Grossman from Geography – At-Large
Dave Humphreys from Geography
Peter Nemecek from Geography – At-Large

President Report for March 31, 2004 – Adam N. Rabinowitz

Student Trustee Position

The information packet for the current student trustee election is now available at <http://www.dsa.uconn.edu/>. The timeline is as follows:

Friday, April 9 - Completed applications for candidacy due at 4:30 p.m. to the Dean of Students Office.

Monday, April 12 - STEC certifies candidates for Student Trustee election.

Tuesday, April 13 - Campaign begins.

Thursday, April 22 - Candidates submit Financial Statements by 4:30 p.m. at the Dean of Students Office.

Monday, April 26 - Student Trustee Election Begins (12:01 AM)

Wednesday, April 28 - Student Trustee Election Ends (11:59 PM)

Thursday, April 29 - STEC certifies election results to President's Office.

Friday, April 30 - Results of the election released to the press by the President's Office.

[STEC is the Student Trustee Election Committee which consists of Interim Vice President for Student Affairs John Saddlemire, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Miller, Law School Associate Dean Laurie Werling, Student Trustee Michael Nichols, Student Trustee Richard Twilley, Graduate Student Senate President Adam N. Rabinowitz, and Undergraduate Student Government President Julia Simons]

The Executive Committee is actively promoting the position through various channels. If anyone is interested or knows of an interested and qualified graduate student, we encourage you/them to run for the position. We are also organizing a debate of the candidates to take place on Tuesday, April 20 at 8pm. More information on the debate will be available soon.

Vice-President Student Leadership Cabinet

On Tuesday, March 23, 2004, I attended a meeting of the Vice President Student Leadership Cabinet. The major topics relevant to graduate students included:

Student Health Services:

Last summer there was a reduction in services due to budget cuts. While graduate students continued to be seen, undergraduate students were only seen if they were enrolled in summer classes. This will be changing again this year. Student Health Services will see all students who were registered in the spring and are registered for the fall. There may be a small access fee for this service if you are not enrolled in summer classes, although when I questioned Mike Kurland about graduate students (referencing the decision made last year) he said they should be staying with the same model as last year and seeing graduate students as if they are year round students, ie. without an extra summer fee. Similar to last year, services will be limited – no lab, x-ray, or women's clinic, and mental health services will be limited, same as last year.

Student Union Update:

With the Board of Trustees having just approved an extra \$2 million for Phase I of the Student Union, the following timeline is expected:

May 10th – Move everyone from the current student union into temporary trailers on the lawn.

May 15th – Begin asbestos abatement.

June – Demolition of old student union.

Late August – Phase I complete and everyone moves from trailers into their new offices including the theater and Grab and Go food court. This is when the Senate should be moving from Whetten 318 into our new office.

Fall 2005 – Phase II complete.

Speaker's Podium:

The University Senate Executive Committee reminded students that for this to happen there would need to be some student initiative – the plan is currently sitting idle.

Other issues discussed were Spring Weekend safety, Final Four safety, housing (undergraduate lottery expected for at least the next 2-3 years), and Iraq war demonstration (the organizers have been in constant contact with the Dean of Students, Police Department, and Facilities and have agreed to remove the demonstration if it interferes with other activities – right now it is not and the administration views it as freedom of expression).

Career Services

On Friday, March 26, 2004, I met with Jan Jones, Graduate Student Liaison & Special Projects Coordinator for Career Services. Jan and I discussed the direction she is taking regarding services for graduate students, including current and future Graduate Student Lunch n' Learn Seminars. She is actively developing a graduate student library of career resources – aka “the purple section” – that includes books available for your use in the Career Services department. Jan and I talked about various means of collaboration, including co-sponsoring seminars, reciprocal promotion of events, and program collaboration. Jan is committed to improving the services and information that Career Services provides for graduate students. I expect some great things to come from her office during the next academic year, and she is excited about the prospects of working as a team with the Graduate Student Senate.

Mansfield Downtown Partnership

On Friday, March 26, 2004, Kisha and I met with Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director of the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. We were given a brief update of the progress which should begin to pick up momentum very soon. The major focus of our meeting was to discuss ways that the Graduate Student Senate could become more involved in the business of the Partnership. One immediate means of increasing participation would be joining one of the various committees – in particular, our interests would best be served on the Advertising and Promotion Committee and Planning and Design Committee, although participation in the other committees would also be beneficial.

On another note, the Partnership is planning a Festival on the Green for September (possibly for September 12th). This festival will be something similar to 3rd Thursday in Willimantic with music, food, and probably some SUBOG programming. They are looking for volunteers, and

getting a group of graduate students together for this purpose would certainly be an inexpensive way of participating in this event. Alternatively, we could consider sponsoring the event – something worth thinking about and discussing at a future date. If anyone is interested in becoming involved in any of the Partnership committees or has ideas regarding the Festival on the Green, please contact me.

International Student Forum – Monday, March 29, 2004

The current Executive Committee has had numerous discussions during the course of the semester regarding the need to reach out to our international graduate student population. At our last regular Senate meeting, we were made aware of an increase in the Graduate Residence summer housing fee – an increase from \$1,000 to \$1,642 for the entire summer. Seeing that roughly 80% of the residents of the graduate dorms are international students, we saw this as the perfect opportunity to begin an outreach to the international community on a smaller scale. An open forum which resulted from this discussion was designed to focus on any student issue of concern to international graduate students.

Over the course of the week following our Senate meeting, I had numerous communications regarding the increased summer graduate dorm fee with a variety of administrators throughout the university. This communication prompted internal communication amongst those administrators and concluded with Logan Trimble, Department of Residential Life Associate Director, and Jim Henkel, Associate Vice Provost, attending our open forum. In the end, Mr. Trimble announced that he could justify a rate of \$1,230 for this summer. His staff has already begun to look at options for the future, including the option of a 12 month contract that would be payable in the Fall and Spring semesters.

While housing became the major issue of the evening, a variety of issues were discussed – some of which we have already begun to follow up on. The forum lasted about 2 hours, with approximately 44 people in attendance along with 4 Executive Committee members (myself, Kisha, Jeff, and Craig) and at least 4 Senators (Puneet, Li, Laura, and Barbara). Pizza and drinks were provided for those in attendance at a cost of approximately \$150 (approved by the Executive Committee between Senate meetings). By all indication and from the feedback I have already received, the International Student Forum was a big success – even beyond the announcement of a lower summer rate for the Graduate Residences. We will be looking to offer a variety of issue focused and population focused forums in the future.