



Graduate Student Senate

University of Connecticut

Graduate Student Senate Minutes **April 11, 2005**

I. Call to Order

Vice President Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM in Arjona 311.

II. Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2005

The minutes were approved without objection.

III. Recognition of Senators

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Adam N. Rabinowitz

- Board of Trustees Student Life Committee

President Rabinowitz will present the constitution changes approved by the Senate to the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee on Monday, April 18th for their approval. The committee will refer the changes to the full Board of Trustees for their final approval.

- Health Insurance

The only update is that the State Comptroller's office will select providers for the state employee plan within the next few days. Once the state selects its providers, the office will work with those providers on the UConn graduate assistant plan.

- Administrative Assistant and Treasurer

At the next meeting, the Executive Committee will propose increasing the Administrative Assistant position from a ½ assistantship to a ¾ assistantship so the Administrative Assistant may take on bookkeeping and other basic administrative tasks now performed by the Treasurer. This will streamline the process while maintaining the responsibility of the Treasurer and President for oversight of the Senate finances.

b. Vice President – Kisha Tracy

c. Secretary – Jeffrey Arbogast

- Ultimate Guide to Graduate Student Life @ UConn

d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert

- Budgets Due Tonight
- Budget Hearing – Next Monday (April 18th)

e. Parliamentarian – James Bourbeau

- US Senate Bill S.455: “American Competitiveness Through International Openness Now (ACTION) Act of 2005”

The graduate student government at the University of California, Davis e-mailed us about this bill and asked if we would be interested in traveling to Washington on Monday, April the 25th to lobby for it.

- Trustees, Administrators, Faculty, and Students Meeting

Parliamentarian Bourbeau attended this meeting and said that the academic plan (notably the effort to facilitate completion of undergraduate degrees in 4 years) and housing were among the issues discussed. Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Sam Miller discussed housing and stated that Student Affairs has been working with the Graduate Student Senate to promote student life. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership has found a lack of investment for targeted graduate student housing. Senator Sabadini asked if anyone was interested in developing an assessment or survey of graduate student housing needs. Vice President Tracy said such an assessment or survey should be considered by the new Executive Committee.

f. Activities Director – Andrea Knorr

- Spring Event on Saturday at 7 PM – Tickets Required
- Bar Night @ Ted’s – Next Tuesday (April 19th)
- New York Trip – Held Last Saturday (April 8th)

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. Student Life Committee

- Graduate Student Senate Lecture Series

The next Graduate Student Senate Lecture will focus on Institution Review Board (IRB) procedures and research ethics. It will be held on Thursday, April the 14th at 4 PM in Whetten 200.

- Graduate Student Life Network

Committee Member Karen Mounsey is organizing the Speed Networking Event to be held on Friday, April 22nd at 4 PM in the Graduate Student Lounge.

- Next Year's Projects – Teaching Assistant / Research Assistant Award from the Senate

VI. External Committee Representative Reports (Attachment 04/05 – 12 – 01)

- a. Provost's Commission on the Status of Women – Julia Thomson

Senator Sabadini asked what constitutes direct and indirect supervision.
Guest Schultz asked what constitutes disciplinary action

- b. Growth and Development Committee – Jeffrey Arbogast

- c. University Senate – Kisha Tracy

The University Senate recognizes graduate student housing as an issue and suggested the Center for Off-Campus Services as a possible solution in their report. In fact, the University Senate Executive Committee told the university administrative that graduate housing is an issue. We are waiting on action from the Town of Mansfield to proceed with the Center for Off-Campus Services. One University Senator asked about graduate assistant health insurance and was told that Donna Munroe is working on it.

- d. Commission on Child Care – Adam N. Rabinowitz

The preliminary report will be given to the University Senate in May. There is a proposal to the Senate from the Growth and Development Committee to make it a permanent committee under the Provost or Chief Operating Officer. The website will be up later this month.

VII. Issues Forum

- a. Ideas for Storrs Center (5 minutes)

President Rabinowitz asked for ideas of things that should be included in the Storrs Center development project. He will attend a branding session on Tuesday, April 19th. The project will include 150,000 square feet of retail space. (See Attachment 04/05 – 12 – 02 for more information)

small, unique, locally owned and operated stores

(used) record store

Salvation Army store

upscale restaurant and bar

pottery and/or jewelry making shop

grocery store with fresh produce and meat departments

health food store

24-hour diner

independent bookstore (with textbooks)

loft apartments above retail and office space in mixed use buildings

walkways without traffic congestion

bandstand

b. GA Issues (5 minutes)

Senator Sabadini asked about state employee open enrollment and when open enrollment would occur for graduate assistants. President Rabinowitz responded that he would look into the issue and report back to the Senate.

Senator Morrill reported that he received 45 responses to his survey about graduate assistant health insurance and distributed copies of his analysis to the Senate (Attachment 04/05 – 12 – 03). Parliamentarian Bourbeau pointed out that a large response rate is necessary for such voluntary surveys to have statistical accuracy.

Bourbeau moved to extend discussion for 5 minutes. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Sabadini pointed out that a simple analysis of what questions “stick together” could also be illustrative.

VIII. Old Business

a. GSS – 04/05 – 14: That the Senate amend the Finance Policies and Procedures (Attachment 04/05 – 12 – 04)

Senator Thomson asked what is required to become a budget level organization if all of G.2.iv is removed. Treasurer Calvert responded that the provisions of G.2.iv were

not applicable to the Graduate Student Senate and graduate student organizations receiving funding. Removal of G.2.iv will reflect the existing practice.

Senator Sabadini asked how you assess that an organization has a competent treasurer. Treasurer Calvert responded that the abilities to understand the past and current financial situation of the organization and communicate with the Senate Treasurer are critical. Parliamentarian Bourbeau said it is essential to have a contact person responsible for finances.

Senator Sabadini moved to vote. The motion was seconded and approved moved by a unanimous voice vote. The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. New Business

- a. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$608.00 to the UConn Student Affairs Association for a wine and cheese reception for graduating graduate students.

Senator Sabadini asked how they check that people can legally drink. Senators Ulmer and Bazan replied that university catering will serve the wine and will be responsible for checking identification.

Senator Sabadini moved to vote. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- b. GSS – 04/05 – 15: That the Senate amend the Bylaws to modify the stipend for the Treasurer.

Proposal automatically tabled according the requirements of the Graduate Student Senate Constitution.

X. Executive Committee Elections

- a. President

James Bourbeau was elected President by a majority closed-ballot vote.

- b. Vice President

Amy Sopcak was elected Vice President by a majority closed-ballot vote.

- c. Secretary

Andrea Knorr was elected Secretary by a majority closed-ballot vote.

- d. Treasurer

Without objection, nominations remain open until the next Senate meeting.

e. Parliamentarian

Senator Bajpai nominated Julia Thomson and Thomson accepted.
Senator Bazan nominated Amber Ulmer and Ulmer accepted.

Julia Thomson was elected Parliamentarian by a majority closed-ballot vote.

f. Activities Director

Without objection, nominations remain open until the next Senate meeting.

XI. Other Business

President Sabadini asked why the Senate is waiting for the Town of Mansfield to proceed with the Center for Off-Campus Services. President Rabinowitz responded that the town is working on legislation that would require an employee to certify housing. Sabadini replied that she did not understand the wait for the town action. President Rabinowitz replied that the Division of Student Affairs is not very interested in the center and the town could be another proponent.

Guest Shultz asked how much the state has budgeted for contribution. Senator Sabadini stated that the state specifically stipulated \$1.9 million in 2003. President Rabinowitz said the state contribution would be determined once the costs of the state employee and graduate assistant health plans being selected are known.

XII. Adjournment

Senator Thomson moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM. The motion was seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Attendance:

Executive Committee

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

Senators

Malia Bajpai of Political Science
Courtney Bazan of Educational Leadership
Daniela Falco of English
Phil Gee of Physics
Renee Gilberti of Molecular and Cell Biology
Matt Jura of Mathematics
Marius Jurgilas of Economics
Clayton McCook of Animal Science
R. Brooke Morrill, Jr. of English
Rachel Prunier of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Melanie Rapino of Geography

Laura Sabadini of Psychology
Tsuyoshi Sawada of Linguistics
Franklin Scott of Philosophy
Alireza Senejani of Molecular and Cell Biology
Ila Sivarajah of Physics
Amy Sopcak of History
Dennis Stupka of History
Tomfei Teou-Teou of Modern and Classical Languages
Julia Thomson of Political Science
Amber Ulmer of Educational Leadership

Alternate Senators

Leigh Mackow of Art

Guests

Aaron Schultz of Psychology and OGSA

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey E. Arbogast
Secretary, Graduate Student Senate