



Graduate Student Senate

University of Connecticut

Graduate Student Senate Minutes **April 25, 2005**

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2005

The minutes were approved without objection

III. Recognition of Senators

IV. Executive Committee Reports

a. President – Adam N. Rabinowitz

- Health Insurance

Re-enrollment depends on the selection of providers. Re-enrollment would not be mandatory if health insurance providers remain the same. Anyone interested in up-to-date information on this issue over the summer should contact James Bourbeau.

- GAIN

The Graduate Appreciation and Information Night (GAIN) will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2005 in Rome Ballroom. Health insurance enrollment will take place beforehand.

b. Vice President – Kisha Tracy

Vice President Tracy asked everyone to complete a survey about the Senate. (See Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 01)

c. Secretary – Jeffrey Arbogast

- Ultimate Guide to Graduate Student Life @ UConn

Secretary Arbogast thanked those who helped provide information for the guide and invited anyone else interested to provide information or help. The guide will be completed in the next month for publication in time for GAIN.

- d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert
 - e. Parliamentarian – James Bourbeau
 - f. Activities Director – Andrea Knorr
 - Spring Event and Bar Night Held
 - g. 2005-2006 Executive Committee
- V. Standing Committee Reports
- a. Student Life Committee
 - Graduate Student Senate Lecture Series – IRB/Research Ethics

Senator Sabadini suggested having the Institutional Review Board (IRB)/Research Ethics lecture at the beginning of the Fall Semester to coincide with students' schedules in submitting documentation.

 - Graduate Student Life Network – Speed Networking

Vice President Tracy reported that a small group participated in the inaugural event.
- VI. External Committee Representative Reports
- a. Commission on Child Care – Adam N. Rabinowitz
- Of the 33% of graduate students responding to the recent child care survey, 22% have children under 6 years of age. The Growth and Development Committee plans to propose legislation to the University Senate to make the commission permanent.
- b. Provost's Library Advisory Committee – Kisha Tracy
- The committee will meet on Tuesday, April 26th but no one raised any issues that Representative Tracy should address at the meeting.
- VII. Issues Forum
- a. Summer Items (5 minutes)

President Rabinowitz gauged interest in continuing last summer's program that made garden plots available on-campus to graduate students. One senator indicated interest. Rabinowitz said that the availability would be advertised to graduate students by campus e-mail.

VIII. Old Business

- a. GSS – 04/05 – 15: That the Senate amend the Bylaws to modify the stipend for the Treasurer. (Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 02)

Senator Scott moved to vote on the proposal. The motion to vote was approved by a unanimous voice vote. The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

IX. New Business

- a. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$437.50 to the Chinese Students & Scholars Association for a Karaoke contest. (Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 03)

Senator Fuhrel asked who the invited performers are. The performers will be invited through an e-mail to graduate students.

Senator Morrill moved to vote on the proposal. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposal was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- b. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$800.00 to UConn Chess Club for a lecture followed by simultaneous games by a grand master. (Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 04)

The event might be held in Student Union 304 preceded by a lecture about chess. The event would occur either this Thursday or next Thursday. Participants should bring own sets. Senator Sabadini noted that the club will not have time to purchase an ad in the Daily Campus before it ceases publication for the year. Parliamentarian Bourbeau asked if they went to the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) first. USG did not have funding available as they had in the past. Senator Gee, a member of the club, said 25% to 33% are graduate students.

Senator Scott moved amend the proposal to mandate that this event take place after this week. The motion was seconded.

Parliamentarian Bourbeau expressed that he did not think it should take place after next week. Senator Sopcak asked if this event could possibly be delayed until the fall. Senator Gee said that the grand master might not be available.

Senator Scott withdrew his original motion and moved instead to amend the proposal to stipulate that the event take place next week. The amendment was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

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

- c. GSS – 04/05 – 16: That the Senate approve the 2005-2006 Budget.
(Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 05)

Executive Committee Budget

Several thousand dollars remain unspent from the 2004-2005 budget as reflected in the proposed 2005-2006 budget.

Activities Budget

Senator Scott asked how many people use movie tickets. Activities Director Knorr responded that they keep track of how many are distributed but not how many are used. Senator Morrill asked if 250 people show up for will show for barbecues. Knorr responded yes but it is not possible to increase enough to entirely meet demand. Senator McCook said that massages during final exams are awesome. Senator Keenan asked if it is possible to make coffee hours twice a week. Activities Director Knorr and President Rabinowitz replied that once a week is fine.

Senator Scott moved to vote on the proposed budget. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposed budget was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- d. GSS – 04/05 – 17: That the Senate award a stipend of \$500 to the Vice President.
(Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 06)

The proposed stipend was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- e. GSS – 04/05 – 18: That the Senate award a stipend of \$400 to the Secretary.
(Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 07)

The proposed stipend was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- f. GSS – 04/05 – 19: That the Senate award a stipend of \$1000 to the Treasurer.
(Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 08)

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

- g. GSS – 04/05 – 20: That the Senate award a stipend of \$300 to the Parliamentarian.
(Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 09)

Senator Scott moved to vote. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposed stipend was approved by unanimous voice vote.

- h. GSS – 04/05 – 21: That the Senate award a stipend of \$400 to the Activities Director. (Attachment 04/05 – 13 – 10)

Senator Morrill moved to amend the motion to add \$100 to the stipend for performance above and beyond expectations. Senator Sabadini moved to vote on the amendment. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The amendment failed by majority vote.

Senator Sabadini moved to amend the motion to add \$60 to the stipend for performance above and beyond expectations. Senator Sabadini moved to vote on the amendment. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The amendment passed by majority vote.

Senator Sabadini moved to vote on the amended stipend of \$460. The motion to vote was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. The proposed stipend passed by majority vote.

X. Executive Committee Elections

- a. Treasurer

Treasurer Calvert nominated Matt Jura, who accepted the nomination. Alternate Senator Haider nominated Jose Barzola, who accepted the nomination. Senator Keenan nominated Jeffrey Arbogast, who respectfully declined.

Senator Sabadini moved to vote. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote. Matt Jura was elected Treasurer by majority closed-ballot vote.

- b. Activities Director

Treasurer Calvert nominated Brendan Keenan, who respectfully declined. Activities Director Knorr will continue to serve for the summer and nominations remain open until the Fall 2005 Semester.

XI. Other Business

Senator Sabadini commented that several issues remain to be addressed by the Graduate Student Senate including housing, summer employment for international students, and inaccuracies in the cost of living estimate for graduate student financial aid packages.

Senator Sabadini clarified that she is frustrated with the University for failing to act upon the need for an off-campus housing office. Parliamentarian Bourbeau said that graduate student housing needs, on and off-campus, are under served. Vice President Tracy reported that people from the university and the town are having meetings. Guest Aaron Schultz said that an interim office is needed with a worker available to assist students.

President Rabinowitz responded that such a staffed office would require significant expenditures by the Graduate Student Senate and that a work-study student has been working.

XII. Adjournment

Senator Sabadini moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM. The motion was seconded and approved by 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	Melanie Rapino of Geography
Daniela Falco of English	Laura Sabadini of Psychology
Andrea Fuhrel of Psychology	Tsuyoshi Sawada of Linguistics
Phil Gee of Physics	Franklin Scott of Philosophy
Matt Jura of Mathematics	Alireza Senejani of Molecular and Cell Biology
Marius Jurgilas of Economics	Amy Sopcak of History
Brendan Keenan of Molecular and Cell Biology	Dennis Stupka of History
Clayton McCook of Animal Science	Tomfei Teou-Teou of Modern and Classical Languages
R. Brooke Morrill, Jr. of English	Julia Thomson of Political Science
Fulvio Orsitto of Modern and Classical Languages	Lauren Woody of Music

Alternate Senators

Jose Barzola of Educational Leadership	Gudrun Haider of Educational Leadership
Anthony Pinata of Art	

Guests

Aaron Schultz of Psychology and OGSA	Jerry Sonenarong of UConn Chess Club
Kai Song of Chinese Students and Scholars Assoc.	Feng Yi of Chinese Students and Scholars Assoc.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey E. Arbogast
Secretary, Graduate Student Senate