

Minutes of a Meeting of the Graduate Student Senate

October 15, 2003

Guest: Hall Director of the Graduate Dorms – Katrina Higgins

If anyone is having problems in the grad dorms, talk with Katrina Higgins.

Advertising throughout the grad dorms can be done by bringing 40-50 flyers to Katrina Higgins.

Grad Dorms are not coming down any time soon. Residential Life will not have access to the money (1.2B) until 2007-2008, so the dorms are staying for a while.

Committees will be formed for feedback; let her know if you are interested.

I. Call to Order:

Vice-President Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm in Room 200 of the Whetten Graduate Center.

II. Approval of Minutes (October 1, 2003):

Senator Noggle moved to approve the minutes from October 1, 2003. The motion was seconded and approved as read.

III. Recognition of New Senators:

Jason Giulietti, from Public Administration, Alternate
Mark Hood from Agricultural and Resource Management
Kurt Heidinger from English
Rishi Jain from Chem. Engineering,
Tom Westerman from History, Alternate
Hannah Monahan from Molecular and Cell Biology

The following Senators have changed from At-Large status to their departmental constituency:

Scott Creamer from Political Science
James Bourbeau from Political Science

IV. Executive Committee Reports:

a. President – David F. Pendrys

President Pendrys discussed promotions strategy and recruitment. Let him know if you are interested in helping reach out to departments that do not have senators.

Hillside road: architect is looking into the issues to see if anything can be done about the danger of this road. A response will come sometime in November.

University and state budget is affecting many things, and we need to keep an eye on this from the department level – i.e. what is happening as a result of budget cutbacks.

State Senator Williams is meeting with undergraduates on Friday at 2pm. This is a discussion about the state support for the university.

General Educational Oversight Committee is meeting; this will affect workloads, possibly faculty availability, and other graduate student issues.

There are also some committees open; please see him about interest in these committees.

b. Vice-President – Kisha Tracy

Vice-President Tracy discussed some changes in procedures for Senate. Proposals that are on the agenda are automatically on the floor and no longer require a motion to come to the floor. If you have a question during the debate, you can use a “point of information” and ask a question. This is not to start a debate; it is just to ask a question.

Senator Peltier questioned immediate closing of debate after a motion is open. Vice-President Tracy recommended that the Senate do not do this, but she cannot stop this from occurring.

Vice-President Tracy continued by discussing the lecture series proposal that is coming. There are 6 installments focusing on various aspects of different programs and issues.

Following up on last meeting when Laurel Carpenter came to speak about the canned food drive performance event, she needs as much canned food as possible. This will then be given to various groups. We need space and publicity to hold drop off points so please let her know if you can help.

The Student Life Committee is working on creating an off campus housing office, a clearinghouse for off campus living information. We have applied for a work study position and are researching other universities to see how things are done.

Vice-President Tracy then called for a 15-minute brainstorm session used to bring forward ideas on a specific topic. The topic for this meeting is the Housing Office. The following ideas were brought forward:

- Do not use the list that the school provides. We must have up to date information with proper pricing and contact information.
- Provide average rents for the last 6 months.
- Website
- Floor plans, dimensions, pricing.
- Northwood apartments, University owned housing: you need to be married with children and a 2-year waiting list. Provide this type of information.
- Section for comments, positive and negative.
- Obtain lists from departments, maybe email short questionnaire to get feedback from grad students.
- Law school communication for housing advocacy issues.
- We need to be careful about direct comments, maybe a rating system to avoid legal issues.
- Provide Connecticut Statutes to know what landlords can do with your deposits and information that you can pursue on your own.
- Fair housing commission with the district attorney.
- Links to housing websites.
- Pictures of layouts, and apartment complexes.
- Roommate links.
- Information regarding waiting lists in applications.
- Create relationships with local apartment complexes.

If you have additional suggestions or comments, talk to Senator Rabinowitz, Student Life Committee Chair.

Lastly, Vice-President Tracy discussed the new binders that are available that contain the new Constitution (Attachment #42), Bylaws (Attachment #43), and Finance Policies and Procedures with related forms (Attachment #44).

c. Secretary – Adam N. Rabinowitz

Secretary Rabinowitz discussed the Gazette Committee. The idea is to reach all grads, faculty, and staff with this newsletter. Come talk to him to get involved. Email is not as effective for a newsletter of this format.

d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert

Treasurer Calvert informed the Senate that a budget hearing will take place at the November 12th Senate meeting and budgets are due by November 5th. The new Finance Policies and Procedures will be available online, but for now you have it in the binder. Talk with him if you have any questions.

e. Parliamentarian – Jeffrey Arbogast

Parliamentarian Arbogast discussed his responsibilities, which consist of overseeing the Constitution and Bylaws. The new documents are in the binders. Please contact him with questions. If you have questions about the apportionment of senators contact him.

As a clarification to the procedures that Vice-President Tracy discussed earlier, do not vote to call a question if you want to continue to debate, and a point of information that is a form of debate will be out of order. Being strict is to be fair to everyone.

Finally he discussed the Procedures Committee. This committee oversees the procedures of the Senate and looks at the Constitution and Bylaws and, in conjunction with the Treasurer, Finance Policies. Come talk to him if you are interested in this committee.

f. Activities Director – David Mendelsohn

With Activities Director Mendelsohn absent, Activities Committee Member Peltier informed the Senate about two past activities. Too Many Monkeys had 41 students attend. It was kind of racy but entertaining. The pasta dinner had 73 students attend. Proposals and the budget are coming.

V. Nominations

a. University Committee Nominations

- **Space Committee – Peter Nemeč**

President Pendrys described the Space Committee, which deals with space throughout the University campus.

Senator Humphreys moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

b. Graduate Student Senate Committee Nominations

- **Finance Committee – Jill Magee**
- **Undergraduate Student Government Liaison – Jackie Peltier**

President Pendrys discussed the Undergraduate Student Government Liaison and the interest of Senator Peltier. While some issues are different, others are the same and we should at least be aware of what is happening.

Senator Knorr moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

Vice-President Tracy called for a 5-minute recess at 8 pm.

Treasurer Calvert discussed the Finance Committee. Members will help with budget hearings and answering questions. This gives the senators a link to the executive committee. Senator Magee is up for nomination for this committee.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

VI. Old Business:

- a. **Tabled from October 1, 2003: That the Graduate Student Senate allocates \$805 for weekly volleyball games with faculty and students and two outdoor volleyball related barbecues for the UConn Graduate Student Volleyball Club.**

Treasurer Calvert discussed a change in the proposal to \$30 for each of 8 events and \$175 for 2 BBQs and \$5 for advertising. There was no representative present at the meeting to discuss the changes.

Senator Knorr questioned if it is possible to vote down a proposal as opposed to tabling it constantly. Treasurer Calvert discussed procedures and options including approving the proposal as is, with changes, contingencies, or voting it down altogether.

Various discussions continued regarding attendance, past successful events, contingencies, and questions regarding Finance Policies and Procedures.

Treasurer Calvert, Parliamentarian Arbogast, and Vice-President Tracy all clarified various confusions and recommended senators read the Finance Policies and Procedures as many of the issues are addressed in this document.

Senator Knorr moved to change to 10 events and 2 BBQs, seconded.

President Pendrys cautioned the Senate regarding the issue of attendance. We need to know where the money is going because it is graduate student money. The key to being here is so we can find out where the money is going, how have plans changed. If plans changed it causes trouble if we do not know about it. Regarding how he was treated, he was one of the first groups to go up during a transition phase. We need some type of regular contact to know where the money is going.

Senator Stein moved to vote on the amendment, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a voice vote.

Parliamentarian Arbogast raised a procedural issue, clarifying budget and special allocation. Budgets are for multiple events, special allocation is for a one time event. We need to be careful about approving budgets in a special allocation proposal.

Senator Peltier moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a voice vote

- b. Tabled from October 1, 2003: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$250 for a speaker event for the Judaic Studies Society to take place October 28, 2003.**

Treasurer Calvert reviewed the basics of the proposal after which Senator Stein explained the details (Attachment #45).

Senator Creamer moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

- c. Tables from October 1, 2003: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$250 for a speaker event for the Judaic Studies Society to take place November 12, 2003.**

Treasurer Calvert reviewed the basics of the proposal after which Senator Stein explained the details (Attachment #46).

Senator Heidinger moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

VII. New Business:

- a. GSS-9: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$50 for an organizational membership in the Mansfield Downtown Partnership.**

Vice-President Tracy explained the proposal (Attachment #47) after which Senator Director mentioned the discussion from last meeting.

Senator Director moved to vote, seconded
The **motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.**

- b. GSS-10: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate up to \$100 for refreshments at each installment in the lecture series and up to \$600 for advertising.**

Vice-President Tracy explained the proposal (Attachment #48) and the details of the lecture series. Various topics such for the lecture series were discussed including areas of discipline, general graduate student topics, grant writing and patents, as well as career services.

Senator Heidinger moved to vote, seconded.
The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

c. GSS-11: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$2,200 for new computer equipment for the Graduate Student Senate office.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #49) after which Secretary Rabinowitz explained the details including the current computer situation.

Questions regarding the use and cost of the computer were discussed.

Senator Stein moved to vote, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

d. GSS-12: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$8,196 for Four Fall Semester Activities Sponsored by the Graduate Student Senate and \$350 for advertising of these events.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #50) after which Treasurer Calvert explained the details.

Senator Mack questioned Advance advertising.

Senator Peltier responded that flyers are posted a week before but are being torn down. We would like to get these events in the Daily Campus as well.

Vice-President Tracy mentioned advertising on the Residential Life Channel.

Senator Rabinowitz questioned budgets vs. special allocation. Vice-President Tracy explained that a budget is still in the works but these events are proposed here to avoid the situation from last meeting.

Senator Bourbeau moved to vote, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

d. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$1000 for a speaker event for the Judaic Studies Society to take place November 6, 2003.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #51) after which Treasurer Calvert explained the basics. Senator Stein explained the details, including a date change to November 13th.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

e. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$390 for a Graduate Student Halloween Social for the Political Science Department to take place October 31, 2003.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #52) after which Treasurer Calvert explained the basics. Guest Maelle Longueville discussed the event and the purpose of having it off campus.

Senator Knorr questioned alcohol at the event, to which Treasurer Calvert responded that it is allowed.

Senator Peltier moved to vote, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

f. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$401.50 for a Halloween Party for the Department of Math Graduate Students to take place November 1, 2003.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #53) after which Treasurer Calvert explained the basics. Senator Borycki indicated the event would take place in MSB 118.

Senator Peltier questioned if the event would be open to all graduate students, to which Senator Borycki responded that he was unsure.

Senator Sabadini indicated that the event needs to be open to all graduate students.

Senator Sabadini moved to vote with the condition that the event be open to all graduate students and additional flyers in the library and grad dorms be posted, seconded.

The **motion was approved with conditions** by a unanimous voice vote.

g. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$1,000 for a MPA Homecoming for the Association of MPA Students to take place November 14, 2003.

Vice-President Tracy brought forward the proposal (Attachment #54) after which Treasurer Calvert explained that the Senator requested the proposal be tabled for 2 weeks.

The **motion was tabled for 2 weeks** by a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Sabadini proposed that **the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$420 for a Psychology Welcome Party to take place November 1, 2003** (Attachment #55).

The event is open to all students and will be publicized with the exact address. Carpooling is also available.

Senator Creamer moved to vote, seconded.

The **motion was approved** by a unanimous voice vote.

VIII. Other Business

President Pendry's questioned the PeopleSoft system and would like to hear feedback. We have contact with those involved.

Senator Noggle questioned safety walks. President Pendry's indicated that the undergraduates do it, and we could too. Treasurer Calvert mentioned the University Safety Committee. Senator Peltier responded that the Student Welfare Committee can discuss this issue as well. Senator Sabadini recommended that the Ms. Rodriguez in the Women's Center would be helpful to talk to.

Senator Knorr commented that it was nice that the USG commended President Pendry's. President Pendry's assured the Senate that the interests of the Graduate Student Senate come before USG interests.

IX. Senators' Reports

a. Kisha Tracy and Jeffrey Arbogast - Graduate Faculty Council Report for October 1, 2003.

The report was provided in written form (Attachment #56).

b. Kisha Tracy and Adam N. Rabinowitz – Student Union Board of Governors Report for October 1, 2003.

The report was provided in written form (Attachment #56).

c. David F. Pendry's and Adam N. Rabinowitz – University Senate Report for October 13, 2003.

The report was provided in written form (Attachment #56).

President Pendry's added that, in the University Senate, our voices are heard, and we can ask questions as to what is going on. In general, the role we play in University Committees is vital.

As a reminder, Senators are asked to email a written report to Secretary Rabinowitz to be included in the minutes.

X. Adjournment

Senator Bourbeau moved to adjourn, seconded.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam N. Rabinowitz, Secretary

Attendance for October 15, 2003:

Executive Committee

David F. Pendrys, President
Kisha Tracy, Vice-President
Adam N. Rabinowitz, Secretary
Craig Calvert, Treasurer
Jeffrey Arbogast, Parliamentarian

Senators

Puneet Agarwal from Civil and Environmental Engineering
Jason Borycki from Mathematics
James R Bourbeau from Political Science
Christopher G Clark from Plant Science
Scott Creamer from Political Science
Gillian Director from English
Carrie Fyler from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Jason J Giulietti from Public Administration, Alternate
Kurt Heidinger from English
Mark Hood from Agricultural and Resource Management
David Humphreys from Geography
James Irwin from Civil and Environmental Engineering
Rishi Jain from Chemical Engineering
Andrea Knorr from Chemical Engineering
Sarah Mack from Family Studies
Hannah Monahan from Molecular and Cell Biology
Peter Nemecek from Geography
Tom Noggle from Political Science, At-Large
Kate O'Sullivan from Medieval Studies
Jacqueline Peltier from Survey Research
Natasha M Rabinowitz from Molecular and Cell Biology
Laura Sabadini from Psychology
Dustin A Stein from Judaic Studies
Li Tian from Agricultural and Resource Economics
Tom Westerman from History, Alternate