

# **Minutes of a Meeting of the Graduate Student Senate**

## **October 29, 2003**

Guest: Cynthia van Zelm, Executive Director, Mansfield Downtown Partnership

Guest van Zelm discussed the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, including the three areas of revitalization – the Storrs Center, King Hill Road, and Four Corners.

Storrs Center is the major focus. The idea is to create a village town center with public space for passive recreation, farmer's market, and art shows as well as commercial space for retail, office, and apartments.

For housing, the market focus is graduate students and visiting faculty, not undergraduate housing.

She questioned what graduate students would like to see, what types of apartments – style, rent, etc.

Comments and questions centered on affordable housing for graduate students, about \$300-400 each for a two bedroom is reasonable, \$625 each is too high. Good quality, maintenance, not necessarily huge but smaller bedrooms for larger common space. Look at Hilltop apartments for what not to do. Noise factors need to be considered for the living areas. A building manager is helpful in enforcing rules.

Guest van Zelm indicated that the housing will be privately owned and a timeline for construction to begin is about 1½ - 2 years. It is expected to have about 400 beds, but a market analysis is still in the works.

Other suggestions included a greater variety of places to eat – restaurants/bars/coffee shops. There is interest in a grocery store as well.

Questions regarding traffic problems on 195 were brought forward. There is still discussion about ways to alleviate the problem. Suggestions were about possibly adding busses to the area. There are also concerns about pedestrians.

Please feel free to contact her with comments and questions and ways to get involved.

### **I. Call to Order**

Vice-President Tracy called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm in Room 200 of the Whetten Graduate Center.

## **II. Approval of Minutes (October 15, 2003)**

Senator Knorr moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2003. The motion was seconded and approved as read.

## **III. Recognition of New Senators**

The following Senators were recognized as At-Large Senators by a unanimous voice vote.

Peter Nemecek from Geography, At-Large  
Xin Tong from Molecular and Cell Biology, At-Large

## **IV. Executive Committee Reports**

### **a. President – David F. Pendry**

With President Pendry absent due to personal reasons, his report was included in the agenda.

- I have scheduled meetings with several University Committees including those related to Mansfield-UConn relations.
- Secretary Rabinowitz and I met with Dean Greger to discuss the Student Union and other issues.
- We are still in the midst of a recruitment drive and can use your help.

### **b. Vice-President – Kisha Tracy**

Vice-President Tracy requested drop box locations for the canned food drive for the performance of Laurel Carpenter.

Vice-President Tracy then called for a 10-minute brainstorming session used to bring forward ideas on a specific topic. The topic for this meeting was an express bus service between campus and Willimantic. The following ideas were brought forward:

- Wal-Mart
- If it is to replace commuting, it should be central to apartments.
- Concerns were expressed as to the need of this service.
- Questions about WRTD usage - use as an indicator of this need.
- Complement WRTD schedule, specifically lunchtime, early morning, and late night.
- Look at WRTD route for areas of usage.

Lastly Vice-President Tracy discussed the changes to the agenda to make it more issues friendly and create more opportunities to voice your opinions.

**c. Secretary – Adam N. Rabinowitz**

Secretary Rabinowitz informed the Senate that the Gazette will be pushed back to January. He requested suggestions for the website and informed the Senate that a new handbook will be published for the spring semester.

**d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert**

Treasurer Calvert reminded the senate that a budget hearing will take place at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Senate meeting and budgets are due by November 5<sup>th</sup>. The new Finance Policies and Procedures as well as related forms are available online. He also encouraged the Senate to use other business, which is a free open forum to talk about anything you would like to discuss.

**e. Parliamentarian – Jeffrey Arbogast**

Parliamentarian Arbogast mentioned that the Senate follows Roberts Rules of Order and that he is here to advise you on the official documents of the Senate.

Regarding interpretation of the approved documents, as Parliamentarian it is his role to provide an interpretation, but this is not binding on anyone. When you vote, unless it violates the Constitution, Bylaws, or Finance Policies and Procedures, you are free to make your own interpretation.

He then discussed the Interpretation of the Finance Policies and Procedures for Event Advertising (Attachment #57).

Senator Magee questioned, if a professor holds an event, does the professor's address need to be posted on the advertisement. Parliamentarian Arbogast responded that the Executive Committee interpretation is that advertising would need to have the address, even if the location is a private home. This advertising can be done in strategic locations; there is no need to plaster the entire campus with ads. Furthermore, only an address is necessary; the name of the person who lives at this location is not necessary.

Parliamentarian Arbogast indicated that we are currently looking at this issue, but the only way to remove this from interpretation is to clarify it in the Finance Policies and Procedures. The Procedures Committee will be working on this issue. Anyone interested in discussing this and other issues should talk to him about joining the Committee.

**f. Activities Director – David Mendelsohn**

With Activities Chair Mendelsohn absent and Activities Committee Member Peltier absent, the Activities report consisted of the event dates listed on the agenda.

- Event Dates
  1. November 11 – Lizzy’s Catering – Indian Themed  
Bishop Center, 5 p.m.
  2. November 18 – Improv Troupe, Too Many Monkey’s  
Dodd Center, 8 p.m.
  3. December 4 – Comedy Night  
Details still in the works

## V. Committee Reports

Treasurer Calvert informed the Senate that the Master Plan Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2003.

Vice-President Tracy discussed the ongoing space allocation of SUBOG. Space is available for organizations and applications are due Wednesday, November 5, 2003.

## VI. Issues Forum

### a. Housing and Transportation

The Blue line of the campus bus system is terrible; there are too many people waiting at about 4:30-5 when the Green line goes by many times. It is difficult to get to W lot.

Area of Cedar ridge to campus - students like to bike but it is dangerous. We need sidewalks, lights, etc.

At the Hunting Lodge Apartments the busses are always 5 minutes early – if they get there early they need to wait until the correct time. The roadway is also poorly lit making it difficult to see.

Area 3 in W lot has been reduced. The area of reduction gets no usage. It would be nice to have that row back for Area 3.

Parking around Engineering 2 building. People are parking everywhere, on curb, sidewalk, etc.

### b. Health, Safety, and Environment

Walking back to I lot, sidewalk by baseball fields there are concerns about safety because there are no lights; thus, it is pitch black.

It is dangerous to pedestrians around North Eagleville and Glenbrook just off 195 by the church. Maybe there should be a stop sign all ways.

There needs to be a sidewalk on Glenbrook next to the construction. You need to

walk in the street now.

Speed bump needed in Northwood Apartments.

Sidewalk ends when walking from human development to main campus. This makes it dangerous when snow is on the ground.

Delivery trucks standing by air intakes.

Ashtrays should be moved away from Monteith and Arjona doors so you do not get blasted with smoke as soon as you walk outside.

**c. TA/GA Assistantships**

Student fees keep going up.

Cards are not being sent out for health insurance.

Cigna cards have not gone out yet at all. Students need to call HR for temporary cards.

High co-pays for prescription drugs are limiting usage and forcing students to go without necessary medications.

**VII. Old Business**

- a. Tabled from October 15, 2003: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$1000 for a MPA Homecoming for the Association of MPA Students to take place November 14, 2003.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #58). Treasurer Calvert discussed the basic details and indicated that the requested funds are for \$988.00. Senator Winseck discussed the event, indicating it is a good opportunity for those outside the program as well.

Senator Stein questioned whether the food cost included an open bar. Senator Winseck responded that there is no open bar for the event.

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

**VIII. New Business**

- a. GSS-13: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate no more than \$1,368 for the Thanksgiving Dinner Event and \$100 for advertising of the event.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #59). Treasurer Calvert explained the details. This is a good event for those staying on campus during the break. We do not have an exact date, but are considering Wednesday afternoon.

Senator Bourbeau indicated that the day before Thanksgiving is a bad idea as there may not be many in attendance.

Senator Magee indicated that this would be beneficial for international students who generally remain on campus during breaks.

Various questions were raised regarding the costs for catering and number of people expected to attend.

Senator Humphreys moved to amend date to the 20<sup>th</sup>, seconded.

Comments focused on people who are going out of town and who should not be neglected.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

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

Senator Magee questioned per head costs on proposal.

Senator Noggle moved to table the proposal for 2 weeks.

The **amendment failed** by a voice vote.

Senator Tong questioned if there are enough funds and food to cover extra people.

Senator Humphreys moved to vote with a contingency on money, approving only the event, but not the funding, seconded.

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

**b. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$500 for a Graduate Open Studio to be held by Muskies: the Graduate Art Coalition on November 13, 2003.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #60). Treasurer Calvert discussed the details.

The motion was moved to vote, seconded

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

**c. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$505 to the UConn Graduate Student Badminton Club for equipment, etc., to be used in training activities and tournaments.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #61). Treasurer Calvert discussed the basic details. Yang discussed the details of the event.

Senator Magee questioned the availability of racquets.

Senator Creamer informed the Senate that this is a popular event, but that the recreation center goes through the 28 available racquets very fast.

Senator Creamer moved to amend the proposal to include \$200 for 10 racquets, seconded.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

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

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded

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

#### **IX. Other Business**

Senator Noggle informed the Senate about the creation of a Graduate Student Paintball Organization. Anyone interested should speak with him.

#### **X. Adjournment**

Senator Rabinowitz moved to adjourn, seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam N. Rabinowitz, Secretary

Attendance for October 29, 2003:

Executive Committee

Kisha Tracy, Vice-President

Adam N. Rabinowitz, Secretary

Craig Calvert, Treasurer

Jeffrey Arbogast, Parliamentarian

Senators

Vanessa Benzinger from Survey Research, Alternate

James Bourbeau from Political Science

Scott Creamer from Political Science  
Gillian Director from English  
Carrie Fyler from Ecology and Evolutionary Biology  
Mark Hood from Agricultural and Resource Management  
David Humphreys from Geography  
Marius Jurgilas from Economics  
Andrea Knorr from Chemical Engineering  
Sarah Mack from Family Studies  
Jill Magee from Linguistics  
Hannah Monahan from Molecular and Cell Biology  
Peter Nemeč from Geography, At-Large  
Tom Noggle from Political Science, At-Large  
Natasha M. Rabinowitz from Molecular and Cell Biology  
Kelly Shannon from History  
Dustin A. Stein from Judaic Studies  
Xin Tong from Molecular and Cell Biology, At-Large  
Brian Winseck from Public Administration