

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

## **November 12, 2003**

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

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

### **II. Approval of Minutes (October 29, 2003)**

Senator Noggle moved to approve the minutes from October 29, 2003. The motion was seconded and the minutes were approved as read.

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

No new senators

### **IV. Executive Committee Reports**

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

President Pendrys discussed ongoing issues with the student union. The cultural centers are not pleased with the new accommodations. President Pendrys would like to hear the opinions of graduate students on this matter.

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

Vice-President Tracy indicated that Scott Kennedy from the library would be a guest at the next meeting. She then discussed the SUBOG office space interview process that is ongoing and that the Senate is looking for new an improved space.

- Student Life Committee  
Report given by Natasha M. Rabinowitz, Committee Chair

Senator Rabinowitz informed the Senate that the Student Life Committee is formulating a plan for the housing office and a full report will be forthcoming.

- 10 Minute Brainstorming Session  
Charity Day

Vice-President Tracy brought up the Charity Day topic, suggesting it be an all day event next semester, maybe with various charities, a fun run – what would draw people in?

Combine with earth day in April, with different environmental organizations.

A general charity event  
Scavenger hunt for garbage, bring back the most garbage gets a prize.  
Charity Olympics, have all charities compete against each other.  
Register to vote  
Folk style.  
Carnival games, not like SUBOG, simple.  
About how much would you be willing to spend? \$3-5,000  
Doesn't make sense to spend a lot of money if the charity doesn't get much.

**c. Secretary – Adam N. Rabinowitz**

Secretary Rabinowitz discussed the WRTD Fare-Free meeting, giving more details of the program – other than the Senate participation is by the Town of Mansfield, USG, and the University. The program is available to all town residents, faculty, staff, and students.

As a follow-up, Secretary Rabinowitz asked about altering the idea of an express bus to Willimantic to an express bus to Buckland Hills Mall that would connect to the Hartford bus system. Feedback:

Less beneficial, Willimantic might need aid of public transportation  
More beneficial, people here that don't have cars can go to the mall (maybe 2 stops).  
More for shopping, less for getting people to campus.  
University already offers a bus for a fee.  
Cover Willimantic and Manchester.  
Manchester is a nice place to live, there is a lot to offer there and the university should make it easier getting there for people that don't live there.  
If cost of both is problem, maybe Fri, Sat, and Sun to Manchester, although this would be used less by grads than undergrads.

**d. Treasurer – Craig Calvert**

Treasurer Calvert informed the Senate about the Budget hearing later today.

Senator Clark requested an accounting at each meeting, which would be handy to have so we don't allocate too much money. Treasurer Calvert said there is about \$30,000 left in the account and there is about \$7,000 coming in each month for 10 months.

**e. Parliamentarian – Jeffrey Arbogast**

Parliamentarian Arbogast discussed the ongoing review of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Finance Policies and Procedures. He is looking for help in drafting Amendments to present to the Senate early next semester.

**f. Activities Director – David Mendelsohn**

With Activities Director Mendelsohn absent, Activities Committee Member Jackie Peltier gave the report. New office hours are Monday from 5-6pm. There were about 315 people for the Indian dinner. We didn't budget for that many so we ran out of food. Upcoming events include November 18<sup>th</sup>, Too Many Monkeys in the Dodd Center; December 1<sup>st</sup>, Pasta Dinner in Shippee Dining Hall; and December 4<sup>th</sup> comedy night will have 4 comedians in the Dodd Center.

## **V. Nominations**

### **a. Governmental Liaison – Scott Creamer**

President Pendrys discussed the position and the nomination of Senator Creamer.

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

## **VI. Committee Reports**

Written committee reports are provided as Attachment #62

- a. Peter Nemec – Space Committee Report for November.**
- b. Craig Calvert – Master Plan Advisory Committee Report for November 5, 2003.**
- c. David Pendrys – Parking Advisory Committee Report for November 5, 2003.**

President Pendrys indicated that the Parking Advisory Committee saw the same presentation as the Master Plan Advisory Committee and the report is the same.

### **d. David Pendrys – Town/University Relations Report for November 10, 2003.**

President Pendrys indicated he was recently appointed to this committee as the first graduate student in at least 7 years. The committee discusses general issues. This was just a routine meeting.

### **e. David Pendrys – Town/University Substance Abuse Committee Report for November.**

President Pendrys mentioned this committee is a follow up of last year's task force.

- f. Jeffrey Arbogast – Mansfield Downtown Partnership Report for November 4, 2003.**
- g. Adam N. Rabinowitz – University Senate Report for November 10, 2003.**

## **VII. Issues Forum**

### **a. Updates from Last Meeting**

Vice-President Tracy directed Senators to the agenda that includes an update of the issue forum items from the last meeting (Attachment #63).

**b. Housing and Transportation (10 minutes)**

Environmental cleanup at the bachelors housing? Where is this?

Blue line is getting worse. Waited 40 minutes at 4:45 p.m. outside Arjona. Got to W lot eventually and another blue line bus showed up before getting to the car. It is awful.

Green line has problems going to R lot. You can sit for 8-10 min because another bus is too close to them. They do not follow the printed schedule by large deviations.

Waited over 30 minutes for an apartment shuttle at the depot campus.

From the Human development center, only bus is yellow line which goes to no commuter parking and is only every 25 minutes.

Apartment shuttle Route is opposite and not convenient. Furthermore, 17 minutes is more complex and difficult to determine what time the bus should be there.

Pay attention to little sign on the bus that designates what bus it is. There are late switches to not in service.

**c. Health, Safety, and Environment (10 minutes)**

Undergrads walk around campus was not focused on big important things like potential rape areas. Disappointed in the report.

Senator Peltier: Student Welfare Committee brought up the issue of safety 2 weeks ago. Consequences are not very severe for severe crimes, while little things get big consequences.

UConn had open house for planning for east campus. That area is not suitable for biotech industrial, planned for preservation and conservation. Dennis Merrill and Donald Williams put a lot of pressure on them to preserve land for educational uses and other values. University will have an open house about their hazardous waste facility and they are considering alternative sites. Treasurer Calvert recommended this be discussed with the Master Plan Committee.

Guest Barbara Campbell: Description of benefits plan, still trying to get a date on the booklets. Working on establishing discrepancy on physical therapy costs, 15 vs. 25.

**d. TA/GA Assistantships (10 minutes)**

Less professors is leading to less grad classes - widespread problem.

Plant science has some courses taught every 3rd year. Soil Genesis at grad level required to do certain types of work and to be certified people need this course.

Difficult time planning out plan of study because of courses listed in catalog but never taught.

Direct deposit has been frozen after starting new this semester - Survey Research.

### **VIII. Budget Hearing**

At 8 p.m. Vice-President Tracy turned the floor over to Treasurer Calvert for the Budget Hearing (Attachment #64).

After deliberations the final budgets were presented to the Senate for final approval:

Linguistics Club:	\$3,663.50
Additional \$1.25 for advertising	
School of Family Studies Graduate Student Association:	\$1,043.00
Revised all instances of Cups, plates, utensils to \$5.00	
Chemistry Department:	\$3,900.00

The **Senate approved** the budgets by a hand vote of 16 yes and 0 no.

At 8:56 p.m. Treasurer Calvert returned the floor to Vice-President Tracy.

### **IX. New Business**

Senator Humphreys moved to allocate \$1,200 for an end of the semester Senator Appreciation Party.

Concern was expressed that \$1,200 is excessive.

Senator Peltier moved to vote, seconded.

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

**a. GSS-14: That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$2,600 for the Thanksgiving Dinner Event and \$120 for advertising of the event.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #65). Treasurer Calvert explained the details.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

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

**b. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$4,480 to the Graduate Students of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology to host the Northeast Ecology and Evolution Conference on March 26-28, 2004.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #66). Treasurer Calvert explained the basics of the proposal. Senator Fyler talked about the program, last years meeting at Rutgers, and the wide array of schools that participate. Senator Fyler indicated that \$2,000 has already been secured by the Graduate School and \$3,000 from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She continued to speak about the speaker and indicated that all grads would be interested in hearing him speak.

Senator Rabinowitz questioned how much participants paid for this event at other locations. Guest Krissa Skogen responded that Rutgers asked for about \$30 to cover banquet fee and gifts. They are looking toward making the registration fee small to help make it a strong conference.

Various senators voiced support for this event, good for the graduate community and what grad school is all about.

Senator Director moved to vote, seconded.

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

**c. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$310 to Laurel Jay Carpenter for “Nourish Wish”: a performance for a woman, a boy, and an abundance of cans to be held in February, 2004.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #67). Treasurer Calvert explained the basics of the proposal. Guest Laurel Jay Carpenter discussed the details and other ways that are being looked at to collect cans.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

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

**d. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$500 to the Physics Graduate Student Association for an Autumn Party to be held on November 14, 2003.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #68). Treasurer Calvert explained the basics of the proposal. The Physics representative was not in attendance to discuss the details.

Senator Noggle moved to vote, seconded.

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

**e. That the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$700 to the Graduate Student Paintball Organization for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Grad Student Paintball Games to be held on November 16, 2003.**

Vice-President Tracy introduced the proposal (Attachment #69). Treasurer Calvert explained the basics of the proposal. Senator Noggle explained the details, mentioning that advertising has already taken place. Fourteen individuals have already signed up to participate from six different departments.

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

#### **X. Other Business**

Senator Heidinger submitted the Office of Legislative Research report, “UConn Graduate Assistants' Status as State Employees” to the minutes (Attachment #70).

Senator Heidinger moved to put a discussion of the OLR report on the agenda for the next meeting.

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

Guest Carpenter expressed appreciation for the Muskies funding.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

Senator Noggle moved to adjourn, seconded.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam N. Rabinowitz, Secretary

Attendance for November 12, 2003:

##### Executive Committee

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

##### Senators

James 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  
Kurt Heidinger from English  
David Humphreys from Geography  
James Irwin from Civil and Environmental Engineering  
Rishi Jain from Chemical Engineering  
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  
Tom Noggle from Political Science, At-Large  
Jacqueline Peltier from Survey Research  
Natasha M. Rabinowitz from Molecular and Cell Biology  
Dustin A. Stein from Judaic Studies  
Li Tian from Agricultural and Resource Economics  
Tom Westerman from History, Alternate