

**Senate Student Welfare**  
**January 19, 2023, 2:30-4:00PM, via WebEx**

**Present:**

Leo Lachut, Laura Burton, Fabiana Cardetti, Kate Fuller, Erica Granoff, Tina McCarthy, Sarah Scheidel, Bryanna Anderson, Sydney Collins, Kimberly Duby, Arthur Galinat, Ashok Gurung, Laine Kingo, , Katherine McCarthy, Benie N'sumbu, Suzanne Peters, Claudia Pina, Jennifer Gattilia Tibbetts, Peter Tribuzio

**Absent:** Cora Lynn Deibler, Leslie Shor, Fiona Vernal, Michael Gilbert

**Call to order: 2:32PM**

**Hartford Students Living in Storrs:**

GPA's and academic performance match anecdotes

First-year students in Storrs historically have an 8% probation rate

The rate for Hartford students is triple that of Storrs.

The program is here to stay.

At future meetings, consider a working group to determine how can we best serve that population

**Class Modalities**

Early in the semester. Haven't heard much from the students.

Will watch as the semester progresses

Provost D'Alleva will attend an upcoming SWC meeting.

Will engage the provost in further conversation on this topic.

**Husky Book Bundle Program**

The program was rolled out this semester and there are some growing pains.

Communication was reported as "ok".

USG sponsored a tabling at the Student Union.

Emphasis was on the high number of students who haven't taken action (no opt-out/no pay)

A decision must be recorded by the 10<sup>th</sup> of class (January 30<sup>th</sup>) or students will be charged.

The Bursar's Office confirmed that one more notification will be sent before the deadline.

From Waterbury campus: hearing mixed reviews, concerns about the expense of the program

From Stamford campus: hearing that faculty are not doing their part to submit the orders

On parent portal: bookstore representatives are responding to parents' questions and concerns

From USG: hearing that students would prefer "opt-in" rather than "opt-out". [clarification provided that the Provost's Office was responsible for the decision]

Concerns were raised that price agreements previously made can not be honored through the bundle program.

Barnes & Noble seems willing to navigate with students to correct errors or questions.

Will circle back to this topic later in the semester.

**Regionals Campus Concerns**

Hartford Campus Parking

UConn doesn't own parking in Hartford.

Parking vendors' notification of changes isn't sent until mid-July.

Can we get an earlier notification?

### **Campus Food Banks**

Stamford was featured on NBC30!

Students are using the resource.

Waterbury launched this week. Reports being very busy & ran out of food both days.

Heavily advertised. CT Food Share was used for the first day. Stop & Shop gift card donations were used to replenish supplies until the next Food Share delivery. There is an online option where students can pick up their orders after class.

Avery Point also has its opening this week.

Hartford hasn't launched yet.

Boxes on the Storrs campus are being restocked.

### **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity News &/or Concerns**

The proposal to make the Anti-Black Racism course mandatory is moving forward.

There are many logistics to consider.

A working group charged by Senate Executive Committee is meeting bi-weekly.

### **Position Updates:**

Waterbury: Academic Achievement Center position, should be up & running for the summer

Office of Sustainability (Director): timeline unknown.

### **Fall Semester Calendar**

The working group has identified 2 options:

1. Put Monday and Tuesday back into Thanksgiving week. Add a four-day weekend to include Indigenous Peoples' Day in October  
Feedback:
  - anticipate that many faculty may cancel classes on Monday/Tuesday.
  - Effects on travel for out-of-state students
  - Some recall that attendance was poor when UConn previously had this schedule.
  - Cleaner option administratively, keeps class & assessment schedules the same.
2. Adjustment to final assessments schedule. Take Indigenous Peoples' Day out of the calendar (as a holiday – no classes), move the semester end date to Monday (to make up for Monday class day lost in October). Tuesday becomes a reading day. Finals scheduled to run Wednesday through Sunday (full final assessment schedule on Sunday)  
Feedback:
  - Senate by-laws currently state there must be 2 readings days after the end of the semester.
  - The number of scheduled finals has been decreasing.
  - Will require a change to the commons assessments schedule and create more cramped timing.
  - Concern for students increased pressure with smaller windows for finals.
  - Concern for TAs with this change to the schedule.

Other considerations:

- Financial Aid – Federal Government prescribes a set number of weeks to be Title IV compliant. One day within the week will not affect financial aid.

- Rotating schedule – i.e. Tuesday becomes Monday. It was noted that UConn followed such a schedule at one time and that several high schools still do.
- Question about who develops the common assessment schedules noting MATH and CHEM on the same day. Registrar’s Office is responsible for scheduling. Date of last update to the matrix is unknown. Further information is to be provided to the committee.
- What is the fiscal impact of changing the calendar?
- What would be the effective date of a calendar change? Earliest possible would be fall 2025.
- Instructors moving finals into the last week of classes is always a concern. The Dean of Students Office can’t help if “bunched” finals occur outside of the scheduled final assessment period.
- Side discussion on state holidays: Can Indigenous Peoples’ Day be added as a holiday (no class, no work) to UConn’s calendar? It was noted that President Maric’s email suggested “you should close your office” for the holiday. Mixed messaging was reported from the regionals where some were told not to work. Labor Relations became involved and clarified that staff could work if they chose. What is the impact on student services?

**Next steps:**

- Sounds like the group is leaning towards option 1 (add Monday/Tuesday to Thanksgiving week).
- Leo will bring these options to the Senate Executive Committee on January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business:**

- Provost D’Alleva is scheduled to attend an upcoming committee meeting.
- USG representatives recently met with Government Relations Office. There are likely big budget cuts coming.
- Timing of communications: concern was raised that certain communications (such as dismissal notifications) should be scheduled for distribution during office hours. This allows students to have the option of speaking to someone immediately rather than waiting until the next business day.

**Next meeting:**

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 2:30-4:00PM via WebEx

**Meeting adjourned at 3:40pm.**