

Senate Student Welfare Committee
Agenda
November 16th, 2023

Charge: This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, physical and mental well-being of students, and available forms of financial aid. It may seek the opinion of the Senate on such matters and make recommendations.

Present:

- Leo Lachut (chair)
- Kara Aldonza
- Bryanna Anderson (guest)
- Thomas B ontly
- Andrew Bush
- Jennifer Dineen
- Kate Fuller
- Arthur Galinat
- Lorien Touponse
- Mona Lucas
- Tina McCarthy
- Suzanne Peters
- Megan Petsa
- Mohsina Rahman
- Sarah Scheidel
- Fiona Vernal

1. Introductions
2. Approve Minutes -tabled; minutes not yet finalized. They will be shared with the group at the next meeting for approval alongside minutes from the 11/16 meeting.

4. Old Business
 1. Book Bundle: The group discussed an interest in an update on how this program is going, Michelle Everard shared that an update was provided to Associate Deans and Department Heads in a recent meeting (Kyle Muncy from the UConn Bookstore). Materials are posted in the Academic Leaders Portal.
 2. Off campus housing for graduate students: Nathan Fuerst retracted this on 11/15. Jennifer Dineen shared concerns on this topic and Mohsina Rahman added that this issue is even more complicated for international graduate students, due to the late sending of offer letters. Leo Lachut suggested that this committee create a subgroup focusing on the needs of graduate students. Arthur Galinat, Megan Petsa, Sarah Scheidel, and Mohsina Rahman will join the subgroup.
 3. Regional Concerns: Leo Lachut shared that there are some new positions being filled on regional campuses and updated the group on several of these, many of which are being supported by grants. Bryanna Anderson and Jennifer Dineen shared challenges faced by regional campus students, particularly related to student resources such as a dining plan (regional campuses do not have dining plans). Jennifer Dineen added that there are no Health Services resources available on the Hartford campus. Tina McCarthy shared that SHaW is working

on developing a Nurse Navigator program so that students will have access to health services on all campuses. She added that SHaW has also run flu clinics at regional campuses as well. Discussion ensued on the associated fees with these service changes, as well as a model for which services are included in fees and which are billable to insurance related to student health and wellness.

5. Work Group/Committees

6. New Business

1. Guests -Bryanna Anderson, Center for Students with Disabilities

1. Accommodations concerns: Leo Lachut welcomed Bryanna Anderson to the group and she presented to the group. She shared that there are over 5,000 students registered with CSD and that they are running 600-800 students per DSP (caseload) – that is roughly 2-2.5 times the caseload recommended for best practice, and this has affected the team’s ability to assist their assigned students. She stated that any student can register with the office (undergraduate and graduate), and that every request must be reviewed and given a decision on the accommodations request by law. She added that requests to the office are increasing and more varied since COVID-19. She reviewed the three accommodations that tend to affect faculty the most: remote attendance, attendance flexibility, and deadline extension. She shared that the language in accommodations letters sent is mandated by the law, which is why it is dense – CSD offers resources on how to understand these letters. She shared that she and Christine Wenzel met with SEC Chair Laura Burton last week to discuss this as well. Bryanna Anderson asked the group where, when and to whom training would be helpful. Leo Lachut thanked Bryanna Anderson for joining and Jennifer Dineen will share some of this conversation with SEC tomorrow, 11/17 and then bring more information back to this group.
2. Campus climate regarding world issues and student safety: Leo Lachut shared that students have approached him about not feeling safe on campus in light of recent world issues. He asked the group for their thoughts. Discussion ensued on the topic of freedom of speech and climate on campus.
3. Campus safety- Lighting at corner of Calhoun Way and other crosswalks: Leo Lachut addressed this in light of the clock change – there are several dark spots on campus – this was brought to his attention as committee chair. Bryanna Anderson shared that CSD provides facilities with a lot of feedback regarding lighting, crosswalks, blockages on sidewalks, etc. She said that if it is a safety concern, it is something that can be shared with facilities to address. Lorien Touponse shared concerns on campus safety that have been recently discussed at USG, specifically crosswalks on s. Eagleville road and a recent article that came out about a student who tried to use a blue light in an emergency and that it took 40 minutes for someone to come to their aid. She also shared concerns about lighting issues particularly around the construction impacting south campus. Bryanna Anderson shared that during the summer 2022, she was part of a transportation working group that issued a report.
4. New housing policy: Leo Lachut shared that it was announced that seniors would not be guaranteed housing in their last year, but this has now been reversed. More information to come. Lorien Touponse expressed concerns about this decision and how it was shared out, and asked whether students were involved in this decision; the questions could not be answered without Nathan Fuerst present at

this meeting. The question was raised as to when the new dormitories will be made available to students; a lack of clarity was not realized. Discussion also ensued regarding whether north housing will be torn down after the new south campus housing is opened. Bryanna Anderson shared that she thinks that apartment-by-apartment renovations will take place in north. Laura Cruickshank presented an architecture update at the last senate meeting. Materials posted [here](#).

7. Next Meeting - December 21st?

The meeting was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.