

**University Planning Committee Meeting**  
**10/12/2023**  
**Virtual (MS Teams)**

Committee Members:

- \*Bonnie Burr, Chair, CAHNR, Extension
- \*Amvrossios Bagtzoglou, Engineering, Civil & Environmental (absent)
- \*Oksan Bayulgen, CLAS, Political Science
- \*Joanne Conover, CLAS, Physiology & Neurobiology
- \*Joe Crivello, CLAS, Physiology and Neurobiology (absent)
- \*Justin Rogowski, Law Library
- \*Mike Shor, CLAS, Economics (absent)
- Tutita Casa, Neag School of Education
- Mannat Kadian, Undergraduate Student
- Sean Dunn, Undergraduate Student
- Gladis Kersaint, Office of the Provost (Ex-Officio Member, absent)
- Carl Rivers, Office of the Registrar (absent)
- \*Senate Member 2023/2024

1. Welcome: **Bonnie Burr** introduced herself and went around the virtual room for everyone to introduce themselves
  - a. Introductions
  - b. Discussion ensued on next steps as the committee has a high number of absences today and does not have a quorum.
2. Review of past ideas: **Bonnie Burr** summarized the below issues and opened the floor to discussion on whether the committee would like to continue focusing on any of these items, and in what ways, or do they feel that some of these topics are closed and no longer a priority for this group.
  - a. IRB issues: **Bonnie Burr** summarized the work that went into this topic last year, particularly with the research put into it by Mike Shor.
  - b. Career development for graduate students: **Bonnie Burr** summarized last year's focus on approaching the issue of ensuring access to entrepreneurial career paths after graduate school, and cited particularly that this group met with graduate students and the Career Center to ensure that graduate students (and others) have the confidence that when they leave UConn they can start a career.
  - c. Satisfaction survey: **Bonnie Burr** stated that this group discussed the possibility of sending a general satisfaction survey to all students as a means to collect feedback for focus on student issues and that this proposal was met with a mixed response and the group did not make a final decision on this question.
  - d. Discussion:
    - i. Further discussion ensued on career development support for graduate students and Bonnie Burr said she will reach out to GSS for their thoughts on this issue, and potential appointment of a graduate student to this committee if the topic remains a focus. Discussion also ensued on the specific focus of this issue on entrepreneurial opportunities for graduate students, rather than those

available in academia. A comment was raised that thus far the conversation on this point has revolved around students in STEM fields and that it will be important to remain inclusive of other disciplines.

- ii. **Joanne Conover** commented that IRB may not need to be an issue that this committee continues to focus on and that BPIR recently put out a report on forward movement in this area. **Bonnie Burr** stated she will reach out to **Mike Shor** for further clarification.
3. Other ideas to explore: **Bonnie Burr** asked the group to bring forward any new ideas that they think this committee should focus on for this upcoming academic year.
- a. **Sean Dunn** highlighted several topics that are of interest to the undergraduate student community:
    - i. **Sustainability:** citing the University's [Climate Action Plan](#) and an upcoming student march on these issues.
    - ii. **Mental Health and access to Mental Health Resources.** **Sean Dunn** added that the USG has been in ongoing conversations with Suzanne Onorato and SHaW on showcasing available resources to students, and making more resources available.
    - iii. **Transportation Safety & Crosswalks:** **Sean Dunn** stated that the university has [an Active Transportation Plan](#), but that the USG had concerns about the enactment of that plan, particularly regarding a dangerous crossing area on North Eagleville Road.
  - b. **Tutita Casa** raised discussion on experiential learning and giving back to the community as a potential topic of interest
  - c. **Joanne Conover** described senate processes and how resolutions passed by the senate based off reports issued by this committee have not always come to a productive and active conclusion or result and that the group should be mindful of continuing to advocate for important issues discussed here and in the senate.
  - d. **Oksan Bayulgen** raised concerns about classroom scheduling during busy times of the day and week.
  - e. **Bonnie Burr** proposed we send a survey to the committee to generate any additional ideas and stated she will work on outreach to various departments in advance of the next committee meeting for further information on these topics.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. (virtual)