



Senate Standing Committee Reports

Presented by Senate Standing Committee Chairs

Curricula & Courses: Gustavo Nanclares

CCC+: Pamela Bedore

Budget: Michael Morrell & Lisa Park Boush

Enrollment: Catherine Little

Faculty Standards: Daniel Burkey

JEDI: Martha Cutter

Scholastic Standards: Karen Bresciano & Jamie Kleinman

Student Welfare: Leo Lachut

University Planning: Bonnie Burr

Provided with agenda packet

UConn

Curricula & Courses Committee

- Approval of new/revised Gen Ed courses
- Approval of new and migrating CC courses
- Report on 'pop-up' courses
- New inactive course archival process
- Review of Academic Programs Glossary of Terms
- Guide to Drafting Catalog Copy
- Discussion of proposal to create a syllabus repository

CCC+

Goals for 2023/24

- **Course migration** [will finish this summer]
- **Provost Grant New CC courses** [39 new]
- **Provost Grant Revised CC courses** [45 revised]
- **Report of course capacity by Topic of Inquiry (TOI)** [drafted]
- **Themes policy and process** [drafted]
- **Support culture of Assessment** [yes!]
- **Support culture of Accessibility** [yes, somewhat]
- **Faculty development workshops** [yes!]
- **Regular communications** [yes!]
- **Maintain the current Gen Eds** [yes!]

...and many more items you can read about in the report.

Thanks to 100+ people who worked tirelessly on this project!

University Budget

- Budget FAQ updated; presented to Senate
- Met with OVPR and Athletics Department representatives
- Communicated about budget with SEC, Chairs, and constituents
- Communicated concerns to CFO, BPIR, Provost, and CLAS
- Asked questions at University Senate meetings, Budget Town Halls, and BOT
- Monitored progress of FY24 budget; discussed FY25 planning
- Investigated 10- and 5-year changes in unit-level unrestricted spending
- Discussed student housing and dining fees and capital projects

2023/2024 University Budget Committee Members: *Lisa Park Boush, Co-Chair, CLAS; *Michael Morrell, Co-Chair, CLAS; *Eleni Coundouriotis, CLAS; *Elena Dormidontova, CLAS; *Sandy Grande, CLAS; *Jeffrey McCutcheon, Engineering; *Mohammed Ruwaid, Undergraduate Student; **Dave Weber, Business; *Michael White, Dining Services; Erin Carney, Undergraduate Student; Jessica Chrabaszcz, Athletics; Jeffrey Geoghegan, CFO (Ex-Officio Member); Mannat Kadian, Undergraduate Student; Anne Langley, Library; Steve Marchillo, Social Work; Michael Vertefeuille, Fine Arts; Reka Wrynn, Budget, Planning and Institutional Research; Gopi Yalavarthi, Graduate Student **indicates 2023/2024 Senate member **indicates Spring 2024 Senate member*

Enrollment

- **Committee charge:** This committee shall review all matters relating to the recruitment, admission, enrollment, and retention of an outstanding and diverse student population.
- **2023-2024 topics of discussion:**
 - Implications of 2023 Supreme Court decision on use of race in admissions
 - Test optional admissions
 - Use of student interest in admissions
 - Housing-related issues (on campus and off campus) given enrollment projections and local development efforts
 - Classroom space usage and limitations
- **Committee membership:** *Catherine Little, Chair, Education, Educational Psychology; *Robin Bogner, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Science; *Jamie Caruso, Waterbury, Staff; *Miranda Davis, CLAS, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology; *Bryan Huey, School of Engineering, Material Science & Engineering; *Natalie Munro, CLAS, Anthropology; *Nat Trumbull, CLAS, Geography, Avery Point; *Anastasio Tzingounis, CLAS, PNB; *Wang, Xiaojing, CLAS, Statistics; Zachary Boudah, Undergraduate Student; Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Enrollment Planning & Management (Ex-Officio Member); Vern Granger, Office of Admissions; Jess Lockwood, Undergraduate Student; Jennifer Morenus, Puerto Rican Cultural Center; Mansour Ndiaye, CLAS Academic Services

Faculty Standards

University Senate Faculty Standards Committee (FSC) Annual Report (April 2024)

- **Committee charge:** This committee shall continuously review University policies and practices relating to tenure, academic freedom, workloads, rank and promotion, remuneration, retirement, and other matters affecting the faculty and shall propose any desirable expression of Senate opinion on these matters, including proposals to the Trustees for modifications in their rules and regulations on these matters.
- The FSC membership for academic year 2023-2024 included: ***Dan Burkey, Chair, Engineering, Associate Dean**, *Bede Agocha, CLAS, Africana Studies Institute, *Mary Ann Amalaradjou, CAHNR, Animal Science, *Valarie Artigas, School of Nursing, *Scott Campbell, CLAS, English, *Kelly Herd, Business, Marketing – sabbatical Spring 2024, *Lisa Holle, Pharmacy Practice, *Elizabeth Jockusch, CLAS, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, *Elaine Lee, CAHNR, Kinesiology, *Vicki Magley, CLAS, Psychological Sciences, *Betsy McCoach, Neag, Educational Psychology, *George McManus, Marine Sciences, Avery Point – retired February 2024, Gladis Kersaint, Office of the Provost (ex-officio member), Jada Lexie, Undergraduate Student, John Richardson, Fine Arts, Art & Art History, Martina Rosenberg, CETL, Faculty Development;
- *Senate Member 2023/2024
- Detailed minutes from all meetings are available on the Senate website.
- **Major Items of Discussion**
 1. *Results of the SET+ Task Force, including recommendations on language surrounding the SET, SET+ and overall assessment of teaching effectiveness. This culminated in several motions proposed and passed at the March Senate Meeting.*
 2. *Discussion on the creation and implementation of the Revisions to Faculty Workload for Major Life Events policy.*
 3. *Discussion with the Office of Outreach and Engagement on a task force examining including societal impact and engagement in the PTR process.*
 4. *Discussion of the existence of the Syllabus Repository, with encouragement from students to promote awareness and use of this campus resource.*
 5. *Updates on both the CIRE Professional Development Working Group report and the Emeritus Faculty post-retirement engagement report.*
 6. *Annual PTR forum for TT and CIRE faculty, held on April 12.*

JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion)

University Senate Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee Annual Report (April 2024)

Committee charge: This committee shall review University policies, practices, and conditions relevant to supporting and promoting justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion among students, faculty and staff.

The JEDI membership for academic year 2023-2024 included: ***Martha Cutter, Chair, CLAS, English;** *Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, CLAS, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; *Becky Bacher, CLAS Advising; *Caitlin Elsaesser, School of Social Work; *Kristen Govoni, CAHNR, Dean's Office; *Micah Heumann, Institute for Student Success, ACES; *Diane Lillo-Martin, CLAS, Linguistics; *Sidratul Muntaha, Undergraduate Student; *Eleanor Ouimet, Anthropology; *Greg Reilly, Business, Management; *Diandra Prescod, Neag, Educational Psychology; *Yaowu Yuan, CLAS, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology; *Cindy Zhang, CLAS, Geography; Greg Bouquot, Registrar's Office; Stuart Duncan, The Graduate School; Angelo Montes, Undergraduate Student; Mackenzie Robinson, Undergraduate Student; Stephany Santos, School of Engineering, Biomedical Engineering; Audrey Silva, Center for Students with Disabilities; Frank Tuitt, Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ex-officio member). **Senate Member 2023/2024*

Detailed minutes from all meetings are available on the Senate website.

Major Items of Discussion

1. Academic Probation, DFW rates, and retention of BIPOC Students: Discussion centered on how the committee can help faculty and staff become more aware of the problematically high rates of Academic Probation and DFW (Dismissal, Failure, Withdrawal) rates of BIPOC students and lower rates of retention. Discussion has centered on how to make this data more widely available and how to make faculty and students more aware of resources available for student support and success.
2. Impact of recent anti-Affirmative Action decisions on admissions at UConn. Frank Tuitt, Preston Green, and Jeff Hines meet with JEDI and discussed "UConn after SFFA v. Harvard & UNC." The committee continued to brainstorm ideas about how to create diversity in admissions of graduate and undergraduate students after this decision.
3. Faculty Hiring and Diversity: We continue to monitor this issue and are advocating for more information on this topic and an exit survey.
4. Budget crisis's impact on DEI at UConn: JEDI is concerned about DEI in the wake of the current budget crisis. A DEI fellowship for graduate students had already been cut due to the budget crisis. The increase in tuition will adversely impact first generation and BIPOC students. JEDI is paying attention to this topic moving forward.
5. JEDI's role in the Strategic Plan: JEDI has asked for a role in the strategic plan, especially around issues of "inclusivity."
6. Enriched Mentorship Programs for Graduate Students
7. Peer-to-Peer Support for Students on Academic Probation:

Scholastic Standards

Committee Charge: This committee shall prepare legislation within the jurisdiction of the Senate concerning those scholastic matters affecting the University as a whole, and not assigned to the Curricula and Courses Committee, including academic programs, the marking system, scholarship standards, and the like.

Co-Chairs: Jamie Kleinman, CLAS, Psychological Sciences, Avery Point and Karen Bresciano, The Graduate School

<https://senate.uconn.edu/scholastic-standards-committee/>

Major items of Discussion and Action

- Juneteenth: SSC supported this as a non-teaching day, no bylaw language regarding summer/winter courses, Work in progress.
- Election Day: No practical way to make this a non-teaching day, encourage flexibility to students to vote, No bylaw change.
- Last Date Academic Engagement: Field added to Peoplesoft for F/U/I/X/N grades, No bylaw change.
- Temporary Grades: Education and communication needed, No bylaw change.
- Bunched Finals: Revisit in a year after using new scheduling process, Work on hold.
- 10th Day Rule: Create list of best practices for students and instructors, Work in progress.
- Denial of Space for Non-Attendance: No bylaw change.
- **Learning Accommodations Task Force:** Resources and pedagogy needed, outside of scope of SSC, Resolution Passed 2/5/24
- **Undergraduate Academic Dismissal Bylaw Change:** Change terminology, streamline and modify the process, add transparency and clarification. Motion Passed 4/1/24

End-of-Year Report for Student Welfare Committee - Academic Year 2023-2024

Committee Overview: The Student Welfare Committee focuses on enhancing student academic success, personal development, and well-being, along with financial aid support.

September 21st, 2023 Meeting Highlights:

- Reviewed end-of-year report.
- Addressed concerns about Hartford students in Storrs.
- Provided COVID-19 updates.
- Discussed regional concerns and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I) matters.

November 16th, 2023 Meeting Highlights:

- Updated on ongoing concerns like the Book Bundle program.
- Discussed campus safety and housing policies.

January 18th, 2024 Meeting Highlights:

- Discussed impacts of budget cuts.
- Reviewed regional concerns and the new email system rollout.

February 15th, 2024 Meeting Highlights:

- Continued discussions on fall break and budget cuts.
- Addressed campus safety and NCAA tournament response.

March 21st, 2024 Meeting Highlights:

- Presented Fall Break Report, no changes proposed.
- Discussed regional concerns, DE&I initiatives, and campus responses.

April 18th, 2024 Meeting Highlights:

- Regional Concerns:** Updates on Nurse Navigators and graduate student housing.
- D, E & I Concerns - Campus Climate:** Monitoring ongoing; addressed campus poster issues.
- Off-campus Housing for Graduate Students:** Discussed pricing for new rentals.
- Campus Response to NCAA Tournaments and Safety:** Positive feedback on safety during NCAA events.
- University Response/Communications to Loss of Students:** Assistance offered by Maureen Armstrong; concerns on communication speed raised.
- Academic Misconduct (Use of AI):** Presentation on AI and academic integrity by Guest Brian Goepfrich; overview of UConn policy and recent cases.
- Co-Chair Proposal - Tina McCarthy:** Accepted co-chair position.

University Planning

- **Strengthening Pre-Award Infrastructure and Facilitation of Grant Applications** - The OVPR's office responded to the UPC on five recommendations that were raised. In addition to the following, they restructured the contracts units into two teams (federal, Non-federal) to help alleviate the backlog in processing. They are also restructuring to create an award set-up team this year who will work solely on award acceptance allowing post award to focus on award administration and billing. * ***The UPC will continue to follow up on recommendations and responses by the OVPR's office.***
- **Parking** - There is currently a university parking committee that has been working with AAUP to identify ways to improve access to parking for faculty (as well as staff, commuter students and others). The Parking Transportation Advisory Committee (PTAC) shared information which highlights south campus parking availability will not be increasing, but rather decreasing and Area 1 is also much tighter. Area 2 still has plenty of availability up in F Lot and is easily accessible by bus which drops people off at the Husky next to Gampel within 6 minutes of boarding. Illegal parking is acknowledged. EV parking options continue to be challenging for those who need to charge their vehicles on campus. * ***The UPC recommends continuing discussions on how to increase communications and make parking changes/issues more transparent so PTAC continues to identify ways to find parking solutions for all the user groups identified.***
- **Travel/Concur** - Joe Thompson and Peggy McCarthy addressed challenges with the UPC about Travel/Concur. They explained they reconstituted Lloyd Blanchard's committee (keeping everyone on – and apologized if they inadvertently left people off). This new Travel Committee identified 30 points of pain and of those, 15 are policy related. They broke those down with 7 being related to process and configuration and 8 that can be addressed through education and clarification. Other points of pain are likely a result of audit findings and can't be changed. The Travel Committee is presenting to senior administrators now and will then present to JACC. Mr. Thompson was not aware he could/should share findings with the Senate but is very open to discussing this further. * ***The UPC looks forward to working with Purchasing and Travel to offer additional thoughts and follow up on process and educational components of how to make these systems more user friendly to those who do not work with them on a regular basis. The UPC will follow up further.***