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Standing Committee Annual Reports

Presented by Senate Standing Committee Chairs

Provided in agenda packet

UConn

Curricula & Courses Committee

- The main task of the C&C Committee this year was reviewing and approving hundreds of new/revised/direct transition courses for the Core Curriculum (and a few Gen Eds).
- The C&C Committee was also actively involved, along with CCC+ and other Senate Committees, in key discussions related to the upcoming Core Curriculum, such as 1000-level course cap reserve limits, creating a CC themes subcommittee, the omnibus bylaw motion, Block Transfer, minimum SLOs for all CC courses, course repeatability for CC credit, and TOI changes in approved CC courses.

Four things we LOVE about the Common Curriculum

TOI-1: Creativity: Design, Expression, Innovation

Themes: Interdisciplinary collaboration beyond content focus



CREATIVITY

Structure liberates: Curriculum promotes flexibility for students and programs

Multiple paths: Breadth, depth, and focus built in for different educational needs

CHOICE



CONNECTIONS

Intentional alignment: Assignments aligned with courses and Topics of Inquiry

Multiple designations: Over 70% of courses with two TOI designations

CAREER



Making the implicit explicit: Eight career competencies directly embedded

Planning for the future: Bridge the gap between academics and application

Enrollment Committee

- **KEY DISCUSSIONS**

- **Enrollment Overview** – record # of applicants; over 7,000 new undergraduate students 24-25AY
- **Early Decision** – launch Fall 2025
- **FAFSA** – delays
- **Common Curriculum** – launch Fall 2025
- **Retention** – Retention & Graduation Report – June 2024
- **Housing** – high demand/regional campus expansion
- **CourseLeaf** - new class search

- **ONGOING DISCUSSIONS**

- **Test Optional**
- **Housing**
- **Retention**

Faculty Standards Committee

FSC conducted an extensive review of the Student Experience of Teaching (SET) instrument, establishing a regular five-year review cycle, creating specialized subcommittees, and conducting comprehensive surveys with department chairs and deans to inform potential revisions.

- Dept Chair Survey
- Review of BPIR Data
- Internal Review of Instrument

FSC is recommending that University Senate (Executive Committee?) charge a Task force for the 2025-2026 academic year to review the SET and make recommendations for revision. (Motion passed 5/5/2025).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice & Accessibility Committee (DEIJA) (Formerly JEDI)

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

2024/2025 JEDI Committee Members: *Martha Cutter, Chair, CLAS, English, Africana Studies, SCI; Melisa Adiram, Executive Assistant to the VP for Diversity and Inclusion (ex-officio member); Mary Ann Amalaradjou, CAHNR; *Becky Bacher, CLAS Advising; *Micah Heumann, Enrichment Programs, Honors; *Diane Lillo-Martin, CLAS; Alba Rosario-Medina, undergraduate student (guest); *Eleanor Ouimet, CLAS; *Diandra Prescod, Neag School of Education; *Ingrid Semaan, CLAS (Stamford); *Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, CLAS, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages; *Yaowu Yuan, EEB, CLAS; *Cindy Zhang, Geography, CLAS; Kimberly Curry, The Graduate School; Greg Bouquot, Registrar's Office; Phoenix Harper, Undergraduate Student; Jeffrey Hines, Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ex-officio member); Audrey Silva, Ceter for Students with Disabilities; Haritha Subramanian, Undergraduate Student (*Senate Member 2024/2025)

Main Issues Discussed by JEDI this year (for details see "JEDI Annual Report" and "Appendix One")

- 1. Threats to DEI:** Numerous conversations over the year about this, and about ongoing actions to protect it. Action: Cutter proposed this resolution at the March University Senate meeting, which was approved: Resolved: The University Senate at the University of Connecticut affirms its support for and solidarity with individuals (faculty, staff, and students) feeling threatened here or elsewhere due to religion, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, immigration status, or other factors. In accordance with our strategic plan's focus on a "Stronger, More Inclusive University,"* we affirm our commitment going forward to diversity, accessibility, justice, equity, and inclusion and to infusing these principles into everything we do.
- 2. Student Protests, Student Life Policies, and uneven enforcement of University policies:** JEDI has concerns with the treatment of student protestors in Spring of 2024 and uneven enforcement of University policies regarding public space, noise, tents, etc. After numerous reports from University officials, we remain concerned about this and will follow up next year.
- 3. Exit Interviews for UConn faculty and staff:** JEDI was troubled by the high rate of separations of faculty from UConn, especially Black faculty, and there is little data concerning these separations. In August, guest speaker Lakeesha Brown, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer, spoke extensively with JEDI about a process to capture pending exits of faculty and staff from UConn. DEIJA will follow up with this next year.
- 4. Strategic Plan and KPIs (Key Program Indicators):** Last year, JEDI asked for representation on the Committee working on KPIs for the Strategic Plan. We were not given representation, and ultimately when we saw the KPIs presented we found that they lack specific attention to diversity. We subsequently formulated a list of KPIs and sent this to Phil Hunt and Margaret Feeny. This also needs follow up next year.
- 5. Updates on ABR (Anti-Black Racism) and other Anti-Racism classes:** JEDI was concerned about what department was taking this over and what the timeline was for implementation of it.
- 6. JEDI name change:** JEDI voted to change its name to DEIJA: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility. The vote was approved during the Senate's meeting on April 9, 2025. Updating the JEDI acronym has been discussed in the committee for the last few semesters (particularly citing this article as to why).
- 7. JEDI Review of the "Final Report of the Salary Equity Analysis Working Groups"** from December 5, 2022, https://provost.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/2165/2023/03/Salary-Equity-Analysis_Final-Report_Fall-2022.pdf (see appendix one)

Scholastic Standards Committee

- Bylaw Changes
 - Summer/Winter Bylaw
 - Block Transfer Bylaw with CCC+
 - Readmission Bylaw
 - Class Attendance/Closure Bylaw
- No Action Taken
 - Pass/Fail Policy Review
 - Exam Support for Non-Dominant English Speakers
- Ongoing Discussions
 - Academic Integrity
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Class Engagement/Attendance
 - Lab Transfer Credit
 - Final Exam Schedule

Student Welfare Committee

Key Topics & Progress:

- Non-Binary Identifier in PeopleSoft: In development
- Regional Campus Support: Transportation, housing, parking, health services
- Student Populations: First-gen, international, undocumented, LGBTQIA+
- AI & Academic Integrity: Highlighted for future policy work
- Mental Health: Prioritized through student input and service reviews

Collaborations & Guest Insights:

- Financial Aid reform and FAFSA transparency (Sue Peters)
- Health-promoting campus initiatives (McComb & Pagano)
- Crisis response protocols and student communication (Armstrong & Stevens)
- International student support and housing challenges (Galinat – CISS)
- Parking, safety, and infrastructure data (Andy Kelly)

Ongoing Priorities:

- Growth in class size and strain on resources
- Regional campus infrastructure and health access
- Equity in financial aid understanding and access
- Improved communication around university policy
- 24/7 support for new residential housing at regional campuses

Impact & Gratitude:

- First-Gen Week and inclusion efforts
- Helped clarify scope of services like Nurse Navigators
- Reviewed SWC charge to reflect both undergrad and grad populations
- Thanks to all members, student reps, and collaborators!

University Budget Committee

Co-Chairs: Michael Morrell and Lisa Park Boush

Engaged in information gathering and discussions on:

- University Budget
- State Funding
- 5-Year Fiscal Sustainability Plan
- Program Planning
- Federal Funding of Research
- Athletics

The Committee is grateful for the work, transparency, and responsiveness of Reka Wrynn, Kelly Wihbey, and the rest of the team in the Office of Budget, Planning and Institutional Research, as well as Executive Vice-President for Finance & Chief Financial Officer of UConn and UConn Health Jeffrey Geoghegan.

Recommendations:

Improved timeliness of communications and greater involvement in planning process.

University Planning Committee

Addressed:

- Mail issues
- Parking concerns
- Purchasing

Ongoing:

- Travel/procurement challenges
- Artificial Intelligence

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Budget Update

Presented by Vice President and CFO Jeffrey Geoghegan

Provided in agenda packet; please reference page #s

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