

UConn Senate Student Welfare Committee

January 29, 2026, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. | MS Teams

Charge: This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, and well-being of undergraduate and graduate students.

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions: Nathanael Okpych welcomed to the committee.
2. Approval of Minutes: minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - [11.20.25 SWC Minutes.docx](#)
3. Guest Speakers:
 - Arthur Galinat, International Student & Scholar Services: Arthur Galinat shared a presentation summarizing the ways in which ISSS is supporting international students at UConn. The presentation also highlighted the ways in which their office is supporting international students who are experiencing crises in their home country, such as the violent government response to protests in Iran, as well as highlights of how their office is responding to changing visa limitations and travel bans. They added that their office recently welcomed an immigration attorney to campus to meet with students needing additional support. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued around topics around specific immigration and visas situations.
 - [Bryanna Anderson, Center for Students with Disabilities](#): Bryanna Anderson gave a summary of the current level of services being offered by their office to students on all campuses. There are currently ~7000 students registered with CSD. Students can ask for any accommodation and their office will determine if it is an appropriate request based on a variety of requirements and over time accommodations requests have been increasing at a rapid rate (their case load is currently 700 students). They shared that these accommodations are not limited to academics, but can include meal/dietary needs, snow removal, housing, etc. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued on topics such as student levels of access to CSD services and students with multiple support needs. [Slides](#) were shared after the meeting for committee members to review.
4. Old Business
 - Regional Concerns
5. New Business
 - New topics and Suggested Guests: Dean of Students Office and Institutional Equity

Attending:

- ***Leo Lachut, ISS, Co-Chair, Academic Achievement Center**
- ***Jennifer Tibbetts, Co-Chair, One Stop Student Services**
- *Valarie Artigas, Nursing
- *Alexis Boylan, SFA
- *Arthur Galinat, International Student & Scholar Services
- *Erica Granoff, Student Services (Stamford Campus)
- *Amy McKeon, CAHNR Professional Staff
- *Sarira Motaref, Engineering
- *Nathanael Okpych, Social Work (Hartford)
- *Tracy Rittenhouse, CAHNR
- *Fiona Vernal, CLAS, History (*absent*)
- Jibreel Akbar, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Bryanna Anderson, Center for Students with Disabilities
- Cynthia Costanzo, Interim Vice President for Student Life (Ex-Officio Member)
- Abhishek Dubey, Graduate Student Senate (*absent*)
- Kimberly Duby, Dean of Students Office
- Serena Lee, Undergraduate Student
- Tina McCarthy, SHaW
- Suzanne Peters, Financial Aid
- Megan Petsa, The Graduate School
- Peter Tribuzio, Student Services, Waterbury Campus

*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Exams outside of class time
- Scooter and bike safety concerns on sidewalks (Sue Peters)
- Discussion of potential changes to financial aid as a result of the passing of the “Big Beautiful Bill” (Sue Peters)
- Impacts of ICE activities on student communities (Erica Granoff)
- Impacts of budget cuts and increased enrollment on student experience
- One Stop Initiatives (Jen)
- Kim Beardsley-Carr present on bias concerns to the committee
- Jenn Longa and Sarah Chipman in regard to Title IX violations.