

UConn Senate Student Welfare Committee

October 30, 2025, 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: the committee welcomed new members and went around the virtual room for e-introductions.
 - Welcome to Student Representatives Abhishek Dubey, Jibreel Akbar, & Serena Lee
2. Approval of Minutes: minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - [09.25.25 SWC Minutes .docx](#)
3. Guest Speakers:
 - Regional Campus Strategic Plan, Amy Gorin: Amy Gorin gave an update on current strategies for the regional campuses, which will be presented at the December Board of Trustees meeting. They added that the plans are data-driven with a focus on capacity and existing resources. Feedback was requested and discussion ensued.
 1. Avery Point: working to get some industry buy-in to get engineering and business majors active on campus with no financial commitments yet. Highlighted great research work being done there, and the great marine science program.
 2. Hartford: new dormitory coming online Fall 2026, which will transition Hartford to a truly residential campus.
 3. Waterbury: slowly declining student body – ongoing conversations around Waterbury Hospital and UConn Health. With the Allied Health program there already; will be leaning into a health focus for this campus
 4. Stamford: has grown year-over-year and has a lot of interest, particularly from out-of-state students. Stamford has a wider array of majors with residential options and will need to be strategic to handle more growth in a positive way.
 - Black Student Experience in relation to Anti Black Racism Course Bylaw discussion, Alicia McKenzie, Director, African American Cultural Center: Alicia McKenzie shared stories and feedback from students as a part of their role in the African American Cultural Center; they added that they also requested feedback from multiple student organizations and other student networks. They shared examples of both micro aggressions and over racist events that students have experienced on

campus. Leo Lachut thanked Alicia McKenzie for their presentation and discussion ensued.

- International Student Affairs Updates, Arthur Galinat: Arthur Galinat encouraged committee members to [view the presentation recording to The Graduate School Timely Topics series](#). This topic was tabled to a future meeting due to time constraints.
4. Old Business
 - Regional Concerns: not discussed
 5. New Business
 - New topics and Suggested Guests: not discussed

Attending:

- ***Leo Lachut, ISS, Co-Chair, Academic Achievement Center**
- ***Jennifer Tibbetts, Co-Chair, One Stop Student Services** (*absent*)
- *Valarie Artigas, Nursing (*absent*)
- *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) (*on sabbatical Fall 2025*)
- *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
- 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, Hartford Campus

*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Exams outside of class time
- Proposed rule which was recently announced by the federal government that may limit how student visa holders maintain their status in the U.S. (now status comes from duration of degree program and new rule proposes fixed dates separate from their enrollment) (Arthur Galinat)
- 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 Sara Chipman in regard to Title IX violations.

Scheduled for January: Center for Students with Disabilities Trends, Bryanna Anderson