

# JEDI Meeting Minutes

## March 25, 11:05-12:30

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Meeting ID: 287 415 533 892

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### Attendance:

- **\*Martha Cutter, Chair, CLAS, English**
- \*Mary Ann Amalaradjou, CAHNR (*absent*)
- \*Becky Bacher, CLAS Advising
- \*Micah Heumann, Enrichment Programs, Honors (*absent*)
- \*Diane Lillo-Martin, CLAS
- \*Eleanor Ouimet, CLAS
- \*Diandra Prescod, Neag School of Education
- \*Ingrid Semaan, CLAS (Stamford) (*absent*)
- \*Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, CLAS, Literatures, Cultures, and Languages
- \*Yaowu Yuan, CLAS
- \*Cindy Zhang, CLAS
- Kimberly Curry, The Graduate School
- Greg Bouquot, Registrar's Office
- Phoenix Harper, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Jeffrey Hines, Office for Diversity and Inclusion (ex-officio member)
- Audrey Silva, Center for Students with Disabilities
- Haritha Subramanian, Undergraduate Student

\*Senate Member 2024/2025

- I. Approval of Minutes of February meeting: [2025 0225 JEDI Minutes.docx](#): the minutes were approved with one abstention.
- II. Announcements and Updates
  - A. ABR and other one-credit courses update: Martha Cutter shared that ABR course updates are currently being developed by Africana Studies and questions were raised regarding the current status of Pop-Up Courses. Michelle Everard informed the committee that UICC is currently reviewing Pop-Up Courses from a curricular perspective.
  - B. From AAUP**  
STEP UP FOR OUR FUTURE  
PROTECT HIGHER ED FROM FEDERAL ATTACKS!

## THE NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AT UCONN: APRIL 17th

In cutting federal grants and putting student loans in question, in threatening free speech and the curriculum, and in striking fear into the hearts of immigrant and international faculty and students, the Trump administration is taking aim at the future of the university.

Cutting student loans and Pell Grants threatens to put a college education out of reach for anyone but the very rich. Cutting research and outreach funding will halt vital studies and programs that improve the lives of millions while also threatening the careers of current students who aspire to become the scientific leaders of the next generation. Attacks on “DEI” are having a chilling effect on academic freedom, prompting faculty to revise courses and grant proposals out of fear. And since Trump’s inauguration, there have been credible fears of ICE on campus that threaten the very presence of some community members in this country.

We have had enough. On Thursday, April 17, faculty, staff, and students at UConn are joining colleagues all over the country for a National Day of Action. Join us for a rally at the UConn-Storrs campus from 12-1:30pm (location TBA) organized by the UConn-AAUP (co-sponsorships forthcoming). Senator Richard Blumenthal will likely be joining us as a speaker.

Other events may also be planned for that day. A simultaneous rally is in the works for the Waterbury campus, and we welcome anyone willing to help start a rally at the other regional campuses. If you would like to join the planning committee for this action, please email Chris Vials at [vialschris@gmail.com](mailto:vialschris@gmail.com)

Silence is getting us nowhere. Demand that our state legislators shore up public higher education. Stand up for our future!

### **C. Roundtable discussion on the vulnerabilities that colleagues are facing (see attachment)**

From Jeffrey Hines/Michael Bailey/SCI department

April 7, **1:30-3:00** Hybrid and In Person (Beech Hall WGSS Conference Room, Roundtable discussion on the vulnerabilities that colleagues are facing amid increasing political attacks on specific fields of study and the changing legal landscape for institutional policy and funding.

Special Guests:

Jeffrey Hines and Michael Bailey

This conversation will provide a space to share experiences, identify challenges, and discuss strategies for institutional and community support and advocacy.

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**See attached flyer and please circulate!**

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**Dial in by phone**

[+1 475-282-1761,657968196#](tel:+14752821761657968196) United States, Bridgeport

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 657 968 196#

- D. ODI Updates from Jeffrey Hines as it relates to executive orders and our response: Jeff Hines shared a PowerPoint presentation summarizing the recent executive orders, their impacts on our community and infrastructure, and ongoing legal challenges. The floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued.

III. Old Business:

1. JEDI Name Change to DEIJA will be voted on as of the Senate meeting on March 31, 2025 (see attached)
2. JEDI DEI Resolution Passed with some amendments:  
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.  
From our Strategic Plan:  
\*A Stronger, More Inclusive University  
Our faculty, staff, and students reaffirmed our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) during this strategic planning process. We believe UConn can set the standard across higher education for how to embrace these principles and infuse them across everything we do.
3. Subcommittee to focus on positive DEI messaging and community resources. Kim Curry, Phoenix Harper, Micah Heumann, Haritha Subramanian, Cindy Zhang. **Who is chairing this?**

IV. New Business

- E. Annual Report: Look for a draft here before the next meeting:  
[JEDI Committee Annual Report 2024-25.docx](#) (this link may need to be fixed)
- F. Other new business?

- V. Change next meeting time to Tuesday?: The committee decided to keep the 4/29 2 p.m. meeting date/time and will meet in a hybrid format in the University Senate Conference Room and Teams.  
Tuesday 4/29 2:00-3:30--10

Wednesday 4/30 11:05-12:30--9  
Both work for me—4

Next Meeting: Tue 4/29/2025 2:00-3:30