

Senate Student Welfare Committee

Agenda

February 27, 2025

Charge: This committee shall review the conditions that contribute to the academic success, personal development, physical and mental well-being of students, and available forms of financial aid. It may seek the opinion of the Senate on such matters and make recommendations.

2024/2025 Student Welfare Committee Members

*Leo Lachut, ISS, Co-Chair, Academic Achievement Center
*Tina McCarthy, Co-Chair, Student Health and Wellness
*Alexis Boylan, SFA
*Andy Bush, CLAS
*Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries
*Erica Granoff, Student Services (Stamford Campus)
*Nathanael Okpych, Social Work (Hartford)
*Jennifer Pascal, Engineering
*Tracy Rittenhouse, CAHNR
*Sarah Scheidel, Enrichment Programs
*Mike Shor, CLAS (absent)
*Fiona Vemal, CLAS, History
Jibreel Akbar, Undergraduate Student
Bryanna Anderson, Center for Students with Disabilities
Cynthia Costanzo, Interim Vice President for Student Life (Ex-Officio Member)
Kimberly Duby, Dean of Students Office
Arthur Galinat, International Student & Scholar Services
Nina Lemash, Undergraduate Student
Katherine McCarthy, One Stop Student Services Office
Suzanne Peters, Financial Aid
Megan Petsa, The Graduate School (absent)
Peter Tribuzio, Student Services, Waterbury Campus

*Senate Member 2024/2025

Welcome :

Approve Minutes - January meeting: minutes approved unanimously.

Old Business

- Nurse Navigators at Regional : Leo Lachut introduced the topic, summarizing that there are concerns coming from regional campuses that students are misinterpreting the services offered, due to the name “nurse,” which may imply direct patient care. Tina

McCarthy clarified the role of this service and asked the committee for feedback. Nathanael Okpych suggested a name change to “Student Health Navigators.” Others suggested “Health Navigators” on its own, to avoid the implication that it’s a student-run service. “Husky Health Navigators” was also suggested. Tina McCarthy thanked the committee for their feedback.

- New Fee structure: Tina McCarthy stated that fee structures as they relate to eligibility for certain services would be something to dig into at a future meeting, perhaps by inviting a speaker to address this.
- Parking: Leo Lachut introduced the topic and summarized the many ways in which this topic has been raised and addressed in the past. Erica Granoff raised concerns about parking enforcement on regional campuses. Kim Duby shared that Andy Kelly has addressed some of these issues with her office, particularly for students who have fewer than 54 credits (and are not granted on-campus parking), sharing that his report showed a surplus of parking spaces on campus, but in less desirable locations (like Discovery Drive). Clarification for a further parking plan was also requested. Cynthia Costanzo shared concerns that the shuttle schedule from the parking options on Discovery Drive does not offer services on the weekend. Additional concerns were raised regarding the accessibility of parking fees, citing them as too expensive. Concerns were also raised regarding the increase in electrical scooters and other small, motorized vehicles on campus, and the safety surrounding this. Tina McCarthy recommended connecting with the UConn Transportation Advisory Committee that focuses on motorized transportation on campus and is run through the Office of Sustainability. In summary: lack of enforcement, lack of spaces, and financial barriers are the key issues of concern.
- Transportation issues, Less availability of routes, Hours, ridership?: addressed in the above
- Clearer weather policy for class cancellation: tabled considering the motion being brought forward at the March 3, 2025 Senate meeting by the Scholastic Standards Committee. Cynthia Costanzo shared that there is additional work ongoing with weather impacts on staff and she can bring that information to a future meeting.

Regionals

New Business

- Call for agenda items
- Review of proposed edits to Student Welfare Committee charge: Leo Lachut introduced the topic and discussion ensued. Discussion particularly centered around “financial stability” and discussion will continue.
- Kat McCarthy, Asst. Director, One Stop: Decision Release Information: Kat McCarthy shared that admissions decisions will be released tomorrow at 5 p.m.

and added that admissions received more than 62,000 applications this year, which is double the number in a decade. Additionally, financial aid decisions are going out with admissions offers. Due to this high volume, Kat McCarthy shared that high call volumes are expected, and the office is planning accordingly.

- Supporting regional campus students and class attendance: Leo Lachut shared that he has heard of this concern and asked the committee for any insight they may have about how this issue is being addressed. This conversation will continue at a future meeting.
- On campus Housing for fall 25 concerns: Cynthia Costanzo shared that every single incoming student for Fall 2025 will have housing. The demand exceeds the supply, and it has been a challenging situation to manage.
- Tina McCarthy shared a brief update from the February 26th Board of Trustees meeting.

Will mention here: starting Monday March 3rd the top floor / book store- Storrs

USG is holding a professional clothing closet