

Senate Student Welfare Committee

Minutes

January 30th, 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 (absent)
 - *Andy Bush, CLAS
 - *Kate Fuller, UConn Libraries
 - *Erica Granoff, Student Services (Stamford Campus)
 - *Nathanael Okpych, Social Work (Hartford) (absent)
 - *Jennifer Pascal, Engineering (absent)
 - *Tracy Rittenhouse, CAHNR
 - *Sarah Scheidel, Enrichment Programs (absent)
 - *Mike Shor, CLAS
 - *Fiona Vernal, 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
 - Peter Tribuzio, Student Services, Hartford Campus
- *Senate Member 2024/2025

Welcome

Approve Minutes - November meeting: minutes were approved unanimously

Old Business

Call for agenda items

Regional Concerns

DEIJ Ongoing concerns

New Business

Guest – Vern Granger, Director of Undergraduate Admissions- Early Decision, enrollment strategy

Leo Lachut introduced Vern Granger and welcomed him to the floor to present on the Early Decision process, enrollment strategy and general updates. Vern Granger shared a PowerPoint presentation which summarized the reasons behind the University's decision to launch an Early Decision program, and how it works. Vern Granger added that January 15 was the deadline for Early Decision applicants accepted to their first-choice campus and first-choice major to accept their offer of admission. In total, approximately 1200 applicants were received, and total admit offers stand as follows: Storrs (686 Binding Admit offers, 159 Non-Binding Admit Offers, 89 Deferrals); Regional Offers (49 Binding Admit Offers, 173 Non-Binding Admit Offers); Honors Offers (87 Storrs, 2 Hartford, 4 Stamford); Merit Scholarship Offers of 267. Approximately 27 students had their admit decisions taken away and their application moved to the regular admission pool. At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor was opened to questions and discussion ensued.

Guest - Fany Hannon, Dean of Students: Supporting Undocumented Students – UConn's plan

Leo Lachut introduced Fany Hannon and welcomed her to the floor. Fany Hannon started with discussing the history of how UConn has been supporting undocumented students since 2014, and how the university will continue to support them moving forward. The Undocumented Student Advisory Board has been in place since 2014 and it continues to work and advocate for UConn students under this new administration. Fany Hannon summarized that students are protected under FERPA and advised on what faculty and staff should do in case a student were to disclose their status to them and need support (send them to the Dean of Students Office). She also referred to the message sent by President Maric earlier this week guiding faculty and staff on how to support undocumented students. The floor was opened to questions and additional resources were shared: <https://undocumented.uconn.edu/faq> | <https://www.acluct.org/en/known-your-rights/immigrants-rights>

Fany Hannon also shared that support for LGBTQIA+ and particularly trans students is a key area of support at this time.

Discussion ensued and a focus on communications, guidance and support was prominent. A question was raised on how the university will celebrate Black History Month now that it is no longer federally recognized and Fany Hannon added that the university is moving forward with Black History Month celebrations as originally planned.

Tabled until a future meeting due to time constraints:

- Nurse Navigators at Regional
- New Fee structure
- Parking
- Transportation issues, Less availability of routes, Hours, ridership?
- Clearer weather policy for class cancelation