

University Planning Committee Meeting  
11/4/24  
Virtual (MS Teams)

Committee Members:

- \*Bonnie Burr, Co-Chair, CAHNR
  - \*Amvrossios Bagtzoglou, Co-Chair, Engineering
  - \*Oksan Bayulgen, CLAS
  - \*Christian Brueckner, CLAS
  - \*Beth Ginsberg, CLAS (Stamford Campus)
  - \*Justin Rogowski, Law Library
  - \*Del Siegle, Neag School of Education
  - Maria Groza, UPDC
  - Kanwardeep Sandhu, Undergraduate Student
  - Dan Schwartz, Office of the Provost (Ex-Officio Member) (*absent*)
  - Julie Schwager, OVPR
  - Tyler Sowers, Undergraduate Student
- \*Senate Member 2024/2025

Agenda:

1. Welcome: a round of welcome's around the room and a welcome to new Undergraduate Student members
2. Review & acceptance of [October 7, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#): the minutes were approved with one abstention.
3. Discussion/reflection on Andy Kelly's presentation at the 10/7/2024 Meeting. Any action items or recommendations from this committee?
  - a. Parking: Beth Ginsberg raised concerns about accessibility parking and how far away it can be in zones outside of Area 1. Beth Ginsberg suggests carving out accessibility parking so that they can park in any accessible spot in any lot, regardless of zone; they also suggested checking on the legalities of a potential proposal. Bonnie Burr raised concerns regarding students parking in Area 2 lots to which they do not have permission to park and could be a question to follow-up with Andy Kelly about.
  - b. Mail Services: Bonnie Burr introduced the topic and discussion ensued regarding the prioritization of issues that are put forward to this committee and how its best we handle them, particularly considering that resources overall seem tight. It was proposed to check with the SEC on the potential to send a survey to Senators asking them their opinion.
4. Questions this Committee would like Procurement to address in their upcoming presentation (Dec meeting) on Contracts
  - a. Discussion on Travel/Concur to be postponed until further information from their office

- b. Bonnie Burr introduced the topic and asked the committee for their questions to send to Joseph Thompson
  - i. Complicated, time-consuming process to purchase something as simple as pizza and soda for a party (Beth Ginsberg)
  - ii. How they can modify procedures related to research grants – example: the need to “go out to bid” when that is not feasible (i.e. with a grant). It took 6 months to get an MOU, and by the time it was approved, the school year was over, and it was no longer a viable project. (Del Siegle)
    - 1. Julie Schwager added that there are state procurement rules that must be adhered to. They added that working toward long-term legislative change is slow but would be the most helpful way to ease restrictions on grants and research.
  - iii. Concerns around the timeline for contracting – expectation that it will take at least two months for a contract to be looked at, when for example, it is a one-year project (Del Siegle)
  - iv. Why are we only allowed to use JMA for branded items, even if we could get them cheaper from other vendors? (Bonnie Burr)
  - v. Who to contact in Purchasing when you have questions about a purchase (Christian Brueckner)
- 5. Upcoming Topics:
  - a. USG Avery Point last week met with Sean Dunn, their Undergraduate Student rep to the Board of Trustees, and had raised the question of campus-to-campus transportation, at least Wat-HTFD or Storrs to Avery Point. (Tyler Sowers)
    - i. Justin Rogowski shared that students can get a [U-Pass for public transportation](#), and ride busses/trains for free. Tyler Sowers shared that there is no direct route between Avery Point and Storrs and that a train and two busses is the only way via public transportation for students, which is not reasonably feasible. Discussion ensued on the proper pathways for these concerns to be addressed between USG, this committee and the SEC, as well as the potential new Senate Standing committee to focus on regional campus concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.