

# UConn Senate Student Welfare Committee

March 26, 2026, 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
2. Approval of Minutes: minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
  - [02.26.26 SWC Minutes.docx](#)
3. Guest Speakers:
  - Liza Boritz, Director of Planning, Assessment & Evaluation for Student Life & Enrollment: Campus Change Data
  - Leo Lachut introduced Liza Boritz who gave a presentation on students who go through the campus change process from regional campus to Storrs. . The presentation highlighted how UConn undergraduate students who begin their academic experience at one of the four Regional Campuses are less likely to graduate in 6 years rather than their counterparts that begin at the Storrs campus or transfer students from other universities or community colleges. In order to help support these students, the following risk areas were identified: (1) academic integration (2) social integration (3) financial stability (4) institutional match/fit. . In summary, the data shows that Regional Campuses are for the most part “pulling up” the institutional average in nearly every indicator of academic and social integration. However, they show less favorable rates in measures of financial security and institutional match/fit. SERU data suggests regional students have a higher level of academic and social satisfaction, so why is there a substantial discrepancy in 6-year graduation rates for students who begin at a regional campus (83% vs 64%?). High level findings of this analysis show that students’ satisfaction increased in most educational experiences except quality of instruction, class size and the perception of academic rigor (dramatic increase) after transitioning to Storrs. Additionally, a student’s sense of belonging and value decrease when transitioning to the Storrs campus from a regional, and the data shows that these data points are a leading contributing factor in a student’s overall well-being and success. The needs assessment found that (1) 6-year graduation rates can be explained (in part) by a decrease in sense of value and increase in academic rigor coupled with reduced classroom connection (2) on-campus housing during transition semester could improve these outcomes by increasing a sense of belonging (3) need for increase consistency in the student experience among the regional campuses and

Storrs. Liza Boritz also highlighted some campus specific risks and protective factors and broke the data out by campus as well as demographic. The qualitative summary highlighted that many students found the Storrs campus to be less friendly and more isolating compared to their regional campus experience and noted academic challenges. Students also noted the increased cost of living and studying in Storrs and though more resources were available to them, they struggled to know where to go and how to access those resources. Liza Boritz added that despite these challenges, some students appreciated the broader opportunities available at Storrs and saw the campus change experience as a chance for personal growth and increased independence. The floor was opened and discussion ensued particularly on students' sense of belonging and how to ensure regional campus students can access housing, citing access and financial barriers.

4. Old Business

- Regional Concerns

5. New Business

- New topics and Suggested Guests

1. Leo Lachut shared that course releases are no longer being granted for Q or W center directors at Regional Campuses...

2. Leo Lachut shared about the change in funding for PhD students that will soon need to be paid by departments as an upcoming issue. Megan Petsa shared that it was discussed at the Graduate Faculty Council meeting and that next year is the shadow year before it goes into effect and Dean Shor was explaining it, adding that many details need to be sorted out especially around grants.

3. Bryanna Anderson asked if there was a process to get campus change students to do a required orientation and where this stands because it seems like it would be a helpful support for this group. Liza Boritz shared that there are discussions, but nothing final. Erica Granoff added that years ago there used to be mandatory campus change meetings that were highly attended and helpful. However, those went away after COVID and have not been brought back as mandatory; now they are highly encouraged and at least on the Waterbury campus, all information shared at these meetings are shared publicly online. Discussion ensued and many committee members supported the idea of an orientation for campus change students.

## Attending:

- **\*Leo Lachut, ISS, Co-Chair, Academic Achievement Center**
- **\*Jennifer Tibbetts, Co-Chair, One Stop Student Services**
- \*Valarie Artigas, Nursing
- \*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)
- \*Tracy Rittenhouse, CAHNR
- \*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)
- 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, Waterbury Campus

\*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

### Potential Upcoming Topics:

- Exams outside of class time
- 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