

UConn Senate DEIJA Committee

April 27, 2026, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | MS Teams

Agenda:

1. Approval of Minutes: minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - [Minutes of March 30, 2026 DEIJA Meeting](#)
2. OICR Updates (Jeffrey Hines): Jeffrey Hines shared that he has discussed concerns about what is happening at UPenn with SEC Chair Bob Day and the administration and will give any additional updates as needed.
3. Democracy & Dialogues (Brendan Kane, Nana Amos): Micah Heumann welcomed Brendan Kane and Nana Amos to the committee, and they shared a [presentation](#) highlighting the history of the Democracy & Dialogues Initiative (DDI) and ways in which committee members can support this work and get involved. Nana Amos also reviewed some strategies that people can employ to help support more constructive dialogue, highlighting the community dialogues supported by their programming. Brendan Kane shared that since 2016, they have trained more than 1,000 people on campus and in the community on the fundamentals of structured dialogue, adding that DDI has hosted 57 events in the 2025-2026 academic year alone. The presentation concluded with highlights about the dialogue competency and how dialogue in the classroom has immense impacts on a student's sense of belonging and impact. Micah Heumann thanked Brendan Kane and Nana Amos for their presentation, and the floor was opened to questions.
4. Communications Accessibility at Gampel (Audrey Silva, CSD/UCIS): Audrey Silva gave a summary of the communications accessible available at Gampel.
 - There are captions on a ribbon board at all home games for the men and women's basketball games, which is above minimum requirements, since 2024. Information that is shown elsewhere (such as names and numbers of players) is not captioned if it is posted on the jumbotron.
 - At this same time, ticketing policy was also changed for season ticket holders, and some accessibility complaints have arisen as a result of this. Prior to 2024, they had the same seats every year. After 2024, all season ticket holders have to choose seats based on the season ticket tier that they are willing to purchase.
 - For the XL Center and sometimes at Mohegan, those entities control the available technology. CSD can provide services online using a mobile phone at the very least and additional support depending on the venue's technology.
 - Live sign language interpretation is arranged by request

Marie Coppola thanked Audrey for this information and opened the floor to questions. Discussion ensued.

5. [DEIJA Annual Report](#): Marie Coppola shared the annual report draft with the committee, which was also sent to the committee via email for review. Discussion ensued and final edits were requested by EOD tomorrow, April 28th.

Attending:

- **Micah Heumann, Co-Chair, EP/Honors**
- ***Marie Coppola, Co-Chair, CLAS**
- *Mary Ann Amalaradjou, CAHNR
- *Martha Cutter, CLAS, English
- *Beth Ginsberg, CLAS (Stamford Campus)
- *Eleanor Ouimet, CLAS (*absent*)
- *Karen Skudlarek, ITS
- *Eduardo Urios-Aparisi, CLAS
- *Timothy Vadas, College of Engineering (*absent*)
- *Yaowu Yuan, CLAS (*absent*)
- *Cindy Zhang, CLAS
- Kimberly Curry, The Graduate School
- Vanessa Heigel, Graduate Student
- Greg Bouquot, Registrar's Office
- Jeffrey Hines, OICR (ex-officio member)
- Angelo Montes Diaz, Undergraduate Student (*absent*)
- Jose Narcisse, Undergraduate Student
- Audrey Silva, Center for Students with Disabilities

*Members are Senators, AY 2025-2026

Potential Upcoming Topics:

- mobility disability access at athletic events (specifically basketball at Gampel)