

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
STORRS CAMPUS, ROOM 29
233 GLENBROOK ROAD, STORRS, CT**

October 23, 2019

In Attendance:

Trustee Shari Cantor
Trustee Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
Trustee Justin Fang
Trustee Bryan Pollard
Trustee Nandan Tumu
Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs

Others in Attendance:

Cynthia Costanzo, Executive Director, UConn Recreation
Elly Daugherty, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Cathy Downs, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Donna Korbel, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of the Center for Students with Disabilities
C. Dennis Pierce, Executive Director, Dining Services

Partial Attendance at this Meeting:

President Thomas Katsouleas
Stephanie Reitz, University Communications
Harry Zehner, Fridays for the Future
Individuals from the Press

Call to Order:

Trustee Cantor called the meeting of the Student Life Committee to order at 1:05 p.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

On a motion from Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Tumu, the Student Life Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2019.

Chairperson's Report:

Trustee Cantor was pleased with the two new Degrees offered: Masters of Arts Degree in Race, Ethnicity, and Politics and Master of Arts Degree in Politics and Popular Culture. Trustee Cantor also welcomed Bryan Pollard and Justin Fang to the Student Life Committee and asked them to share their backgrounds with the Committee.

Student Trustees Report:

Student Trustee Tumu shared student concerns on the Charter Oak incident, food insecurity on campus, climate change and dissatisfaction with the dress code policy at the Student Recreation Center. Trustee Fang shared graduate student concerns on affordable housing and parking.

Vice President for Student Affairs Report:

In the interest of time and preference of the Committee, Michael Gilbert curtailed his remarks to put on the agenda discussion on the recent Charter Oak incident and the actions taken. Michael asked Elly Daugherty, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, to discuss this issue.

UConn received notification on October 11th of this incident and we followed our University Bias Protocol. The UConn Police Department and Community Standards were notified, and we immediately engaged individuals in the community involved/affected by the incident. We are continuing to work closely with students, the NAACP Chapter, the Undergraduate Student Government, and other student leaders. The UCPD made arrests and Community Standards is investigating the incident, two separate investigations. Our students need to feel comfortable and protected and this is not their responsibility to bare, it is ours as a University. We will continue to have reflective conversations with our students and we are also in the process of searching for a Chief Diversity Officer.

UConn Student Action related to Climate Crisis:

Elly Daugherty and Michael Gilbert discussed the background on the Climate Crisis and Fridays for the Future. Harry Zehner, one of the lead organizers for Fridays for the Future, discussed their organization and the demands that were presented to UConn. President Katsouleas' letter to the University regarding UConn's Climate Action plan, was also shared with Committee members. President Katsouleas gave credit to the students for their activism and working with the University and their goals. The Trustee-Administration-Faculty-Student Committee (TAFS) has been charged with discussing the function, membership and processes of a working group at UConn that will take responsibility for "Coordinated analysis, policy formulation and strategic planning on issues of sustainability, particularly reducing emissions."

Food Insecurity on Campus:

Elly Daugherty shared the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of the Provost are launching a survey of UConn's student population to measure the level of food insecurity within our community (see attached survey). In addition to Elly working with the Provost's Office and the Legislature on this subject, Michael, Elly and staff from the Division of Student Affairs have convened a Working Group to work with students on this. Dennis Pierce, Executive Director of Dining Services explained the meal swipe program they have been doing since the 90s and the various ways they give back to the community. This year, one of the meal swipes will be for the Students First Fund to help award Community Meal Plans to students who need it.

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UConn Recreation Center Update:

Cyndi Costanzo, Executive Director of UConn Recreation reported on the increase in numbers of participation since its opening in August 2019. Cyndi also reported on the UConn Rec Center's Dress code, which is not a new policy and follows industry standards. Discussion took place on the \$500 student fee and its use to support the Rec Center.

Center for Students with Disabilities Positions Update:

Donna Korbel, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of the Center for Students with Disabilities, updated the Committee on the increase in their staffing and the support for the new positions. These new positions in CSD are strategic priorities that Student Affairs has identified.

Other Business: Trustee Cantor noted that standing agenda items for our Committee would be updates on Food Insecurity, Climate Change Activism, and Diversity and Inclusion.

Adjournment:

The meeting of the Student Life Committee ADJOURNED at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully,

Cathy Downs
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs