

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE  
UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
CONFERENCE CALL**

**April 21, 2020**

In Attendance:

Chairman Daniel Toscano  
Trustee Shari Cantor  
Trustee Andrea Dennis-LaVigne  
Trustee Justin Fang  
Trustee Bryan Pollard  
Trustee Nandan Tumu  
Jaci Van Heest, Senate Observer

Others in Attendance:

President Thomas Katsouleas  
Joe Briody, Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Student Activities  
Elly Daugherty, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students  
Cathy Downs, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs  
Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Suzanne Onorato, Executive Director of SHaW

Call to Order:

Trustee Cantor called the meeting of the Student Life Committee to order at 5:04 p.m.

Public Participation:

No public participation noted.

Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Tumu, the minutes of the February 26, 2020 Student Life Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

COVID-19 Update and Discussion:

Michael Gilbert asked Elly Daugherty to give an update on the work the Student Affairs Corona Preparedness Group is accomplishing. Elly reported their focus right now is to ensure that our students are not alone. There are currently 830, between the Storrs and Stamford campuses, students on-line learning and all have access to medical, residence life staff and other virtual levels of support. The workgroup is focused on summer B term and fall opening options as well as getting students back to campus to pick up their belongings in June. Two new initiatives have been established: Ukindness, is keeping our students connected on and off campus and

Huskylink pairs up staff and faculty with groups of students to keep them engaged. Drive up testing at SHaW has been in place for a couple of weeks and is going well.

Trustee Cantor thanked Elly and Student Affairs for their support for students.

Mental Health Initiative Updates and Discussion:

Michael Gilbert asked Suzanne Onorato to present on the work underway at UConn to enhance student mental health services and to comment on work since our last Student Life Committee meeting.

Suzanne Onorato outlined mental health services and creating a culture of health and wellness at UConn. She outlined national student mental health trends, SHaW's Stepped Care Model implemented in 2017, new enhancements (evening hours, in-person triage in addition to telephone triage, electronic appointment scheduling and 24/7 in-person, on call year round), Keeling Review, JED Campus partnership with Undergraduate Student Government and UConn Wellness Coalition. Please see attached presentation.

Elly Daugherty reported on the President's Task Force on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing. They are approaching their work with four different work groups: Community Wellness: Prevention and Partnerships; Mental Health Continuum and Coordination of Services; Diversity and Inclusion: Culture, Language, Workforce; and Training Research. The full Task Force and Committee Chairs have been meeting and will meet through May and the beginning of June. A report should be ready for the President in the fall. A website has been established for this Task Force: [projectwellness.uconn.edu](http://projectwellness.uconn.edu).

Discussion took place regarding diversity and inclusion, retention programs, changing campus culture and support from Trustees.

Constitution Updates:

Joe Briody outlined constitution updates for the following groups: Daily Campus, UCTV, - Nutmeg Publishing, UConn PIRG, Stamford Associated Student Government, Undergraduate Student Government, and School of Social Work Graduate Student Organization.

Other Business:

Trustee Fang shared he met with a group of graduate students planning to present a list of demands on COVID-19 to the administration. President Katsouleas received this letter and is working with Dean Holsinger and the Provost to prepare a response.

Trustee Tumu asked on the status of the petition circulating regarding Pass/Fail. President Katsouleas informed the Committee the Provost is working with the Senate and should have a decision in the next few days.

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Adjournment:

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, seconded by Trustee Dennis-LaVigne, the meeting of the Student Life Committee was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully,

Cathy Downs  
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs