

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
TELEPHONE MEETING**

APRIL 7, 2021

In Attendance:

Trustee Shari Cantor
Trustee Andrea Dennis-LaVigne
Trustee Justin Fang
Trustee Bryan Pollard
Trustee Daniel Toscano
Trustee Ethan Werstler

Others in Attendance:

Eleanor Daugherty, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students
Cathy Downs, Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs
Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Enrollment Planning and Management
Michael Gilbert, Vice President for Student Affairs
Vern Granger, Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Jeffrey Shoulson, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Rachel Rubin, Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees

1. Call to Order:

Trustee Cantor called the meeting of the Student Life Committee to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Participation:

No public participation noted.

3. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, the minutes of the February 2, 2021 Student Life Committee meeting were approved as circulated.

4. COVID-19 Update and Discussion:

Eleanor Daugherty reported on plans for the fall and the target number of students we will bring back to Campus. UConn cannot require students to get the COVID vaccine, but we can, and will encourage students to get the vaccine before returning to campus. Those students that have not been vaccinated when returning in the fall, SHaW will be set up to administer the vaccine. Students remaining on campus over the summer will also be vaccinated. We are also reviewing our return to community for the fall after a very isolated student experience this past year. A recent “do over” survey has gone out to students asking them what matters the most. The data is being gathered and reviewed and will be discussed at a monthly Wellness Workshop with staff

and faculty from across the University. Students will return home this Friday and convert to on-line learning for the remainder of the semester.

5. Food Insecurity on Regional Campuses:

Michael Gilbert asked Jeffrey Shoulson and Trustee Werstler to update the Committee on their work with food insecurity.

Jeffrey discussed the legislature requiring colleges to send out surveys to the student body at Storrs and Regional Campuses on food insecurity. The survey revealed food insecurity on the Storrs Campus as well as the regional campuses. The regional campuses seem to struggle a bit more with this and a Committee has been established with staff from across the University at Storrs and the Regionals to outline strategies for tackling some of the issues. A follow-up survey has been developed and distributed to the regional students and will remain open until the end of April.

Trustee Werstler updated the Committee on the work USG and other Student Organizations are doing to address food insecurity on the Storrs Campus. Two models were established to address this need: A food pantry and an on-line gift card model. The gift card model was developed due to COVID-19 and distributes grocery store gift cards to students in need. This program is confidential and discreet. They continue to work on ways to address this problem. Michael Gilbert reported students can also receive funding from the Students First Fund in the form of Community Meal Plans and Dining Services offers a “swipe program” twice a year to help with meals.

A lengthy discussion took place on the need for increased funds in the Students First Fund Foundation account. This account has seen an increased need from students over the last year.

6. Admissions Update:

Nathan Fuerst reported UConn received a record number of applications for the fall, with an increase in in-state students and a decrease in international students. This is also one of our most diverse classes. Nathan introduced Vern Granger to give a more detailed update on Admissions.

Vern outlined the Admissions Office Priorities and discussed virtual experiences being offered to students to keep them connected and involved. The class of students that have applied have never been on our campus so they established an on-line link to connect students with UConn’s campus communities and review experiences available to them during the spring.

The Admissions Office is rebuilding for fall 2022, onboarding new tour guides and preparing for on campus tours again.

7. Other Business:

Trustee Cantor asked for a briefing on the hate/bias incidents most recently reported as well as the rally held on campus. Eleanor outlined the Bias Response Protocol in place and the steps taken to address these issues. Trustee Dennis-LaVigne has talked with Frank Tuitt and the Board of Trustees Committee for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has asked students to come to their next meeting to discuss their concerns and issues. Trustee Werstler attended the rally and said the underlying tone was not calling out UConn but calling in UConn to work together with the students.

8. Executive Session (as needed):

There was no Executive Session held.

9. Adjournment:

On a motion by Trustee Cantor, the meeting of the Student Life Committee was adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully,

Cathy Downs
Executive Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs