

THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT A GLANCE



What is USG?

USG is the voice of the undergraduate student body here at Storrs. We work closely with UConn's administration to advocate for students. We are one of seven Tier-III student-run organizations, meaning that we are funded by a \$45 fee paid by all students.

What does USG do?

There are two main responsibilities of the student government:

- ❖ **Advocating on behalf of all students through its four committees and beyond**
- ❖ **Funding 600+ student Tier-II organizations**

When does USG meet?

The Senate meets every Wednesday, at 6:30pm, either in a caucus session or a Senate session (we alternate each week). Every member of USG except for full time staff are present at sessions of the Senate.

Where is USG?

Due to COVID-19, the USG office (SU 219) will be open to a decreased number of students. Most of all our meetings and activities will be virtual, please check out our website for our calendar of events, or check out our instagram page ,@usguconn. If you have any questions please email info@usg.uconn.edu

→ Advocacy Committees ←

There are four committees through which USG conducts the majority of its advocacy. They meet weekly and are each led by a Director, and their deputies. They each operate under a different focus to collectively advocate on behalf of all students.

External Affairs



EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Contact: externalaffairs@usg.uconn.edu

The External Affairs Committee leads advocative efforts at the University, within the town of Mansfield, and at the State Capitol. Members engage in strategic thinking, and help bring undergraduate issues to the table at all levels of government. The Committee works with public officials to ensure preservation of state funding for institutions of higher education, keeping the cost of a UConn education affordable, helping students exercise their right to vote, and maintaining a positive relationship with the community.

Over the past years the External Affairs committee accomplished the following:

- Organized student-led efforts at the Connecticut State Capitol in Hartford for preserving state contributions to the University of Connecticut budget
- Established a sophisticated network of connections with legislators from across the State, collaborating on a number of issues
- Founded the “HuskyEngage Summit” for undergraduate students, aimed at facilitating conversations with statewide leaders on student issues
- Participated in the regional decision-making process with the Town of Mansfield, arguing for student causes and bringing a student voice to local government
- Testified before members of the Connecticut General Assembly on laws affecting student life and access to Election Day Registration

Student Services



STUDENT SERVICES

Contact: studentservices@usg.uconn.edu

The Student Services Committee is responsible for quality of life issues relating to Health, Dining, Recreation, ResLife, Transportation, and Safety. Some of their current initiatives include Tampon Time, mental health advocacy efforts, and the JED Initiative.

Over the past years the Student Services committee accomplished the following:

- **Tampon Time - installing free menstruation products throughout campus**
- **Hosting Husky Market - to provide accessible nutrition to food insecure populations in our campus community**
- **Water Bottle Refill Stations - providing clean, safe drinking water around campus to promote reusable water bottles.**
- **Womxn's Health & Empowerment Fair**
- **Extending SHaW-MH hours later into the evenings**
- **Working with SHaW to allow students to make appointments online rather than via a telephone call.**
- **Provide Mental Health First Aid Certification Training**

Academic Affairs



**ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS**

Contact: academicaffairs@usg.uconn.edu

The Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for positively influencing the academic experience for all undergraduate students. This committee works with university academic organizations associated with each school and college.

Over the past years the Academic Affairs committee accomplished the following:

- **Started HuskyPrint Series that provides free printing during midterms and finals**
- **Expanded Finals Fair to a collaboration with SHaW**
- **Passed legislation on Textbook Price Transparency**
- **Extended Dining Hall Hours during finals week.**
- **Started an academic climate task force charged with creating surveys for the student body.**
- **Data on general education requirements have been gathered**
- **Faculty Student Luncheon collaboration with the Student Union - Resolution by the committee on a Universal Pass/No**
- **Record policy in response to COVID19**
- **Reaching out to Universities about their Test-Optional programs. The university will now be entering a pilot program of its own.**

Student Development



**STUDENT
DEVELOPMENT**

Contact: studentdevelopment@usg.uconn.edu

The Student Development Committee is dedicated to the cultures brought to campus by students and the overarching spirit of UConn. In order to cultivate a deep sense of pride that extends beyond a student's tenure at this University, Student Development works to help students realize the importance of diversity, sports, interest clubs, and continued work for social education on campus. Advocacy work concentrates on the increased visibility of the students associated with these groups and issues as well as campaigns for university consciousness in relation to them. The committee is dedicated to empowering the voices of all students, regardless of background or identity, and promote reforms in order to address the gaps created by institutional inequity at UConn.

Over the past years the Student Development committee has accomplished the following:

- Established the Cultural Appreciation Series, a series dedicated to collaborating with the various Cultural Centers to empower the diverse voices of the student body.**
- Released various Statements on Position Regarding: Expansion of the Native American Cultural Programs, Indigenous People's Day, International Day of People with Disabilities, Adding Gender and Sexual Identity Questions in All UConn Applications."**

↪ Organizational Structure ↩

Much like the structure of the U.S. government, the USG is organized into three branches. There are checks and balances in place between each branch to ensure we operate to our fullest potential. We as a collective come together and comprise USG.



LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch is composed of Senators elected by various constituencies across the Storrs Campus. This branch is led by the **Speaker of the Senate**, a **senator** elected by The Senate every year to lead the bi-weekly Senate Sessions; a **Deputy Speaker**, and the **Parliamentarian**.

→The Legislative Branch is responsible for carrying out the will of the student body through drafting and passing Legislation, and enacting policy for the Undergraduate Student Government.



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Executive Branch

The Executive Branch is composed of the **President**, **Vice President**, **Chief Diversity Officer**, and **Comptroller** (all of whom are elected by the student body), as well a **Chief of Staff**, **Administrative Director**, four **Advocacy Directors**, the **PR Director**, and the **Funding and SOC Supervisors**. The Branch is led by the President.

→The Executive branch is responsible for carrying out the daily operations of USG and implementing the Constitution, Bylaws, and Legislation. Each member of the branch has a specific and unique role and all work closely with members of the Legislative Branch.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

Judicial Branch

The Judicial Branch is composed of seven **Justices** who are nominated and confirmed by the Senate, and the **Elections Oversight Commissioner**. The branch is led by a **Chief Justice**, who is selected by the Justices at the beginning of each year. The Judiciary meets on an as-needed basis.

→Similar to that of the U.S. government, the Judicial Branch aims to ensure that everything USG does is constitutional and just. The Justices all have extensive knowledge of our governing documents, and bring that knowledge to Senate sessions, committee meetings, and can be referred to for any constitutional or procedural inquiry. They also help oversee elections and are responsible for handling all filed cases.

→ The Governing Board ←

➤ Who makes up the Governing Board ?

❖ **President, Vice President, Advocacy Directors, Chief Justice, Comptroller, Chief Diversity Officer**

➤ **The Governing Board is a communicative body within USG that consists of all of the leaders of the three branches. Chaired by the President, the board is where all of the officers of the branches come together to discuss issues of primary significance to the student body.. The Governing Board meets on an as-needed basis. While the membership is already finalized for this year, anyone may attend the meetings.**

Leadership Contact Information

EXECUTIVE

President

president@usg.uconn.edu

Vice President

vicepresident@usg.uconn.edu

Chief Diversity Officer

diversity@usg.uconn.edu

Comptroller

comptroller@usg.uconn.edu

Chief of Staff to the President

preschiefstaff@usg.uconn.edu

Public Relations Director

publicrelations@usg.uconn.edu

Administrative Director

admin@usg.uconn.edu

Funding Staff Supervisor

fundingboard@usg.uconn.edu

LEGISLATIVE

Speaker of the Senate

represent@usg.uconn.edu

Deputy Speaker

internal@usg.uconn.edu

Parliamentarian

parliamentarian@usg.uconn.edu

JUDICIARY

Chief Justice

judiciary@usg.uconn.edu

Elections & Outreach

eoc@usg.uconn.edu

Commissioner