

Thoughts from our Current Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustee, Kevin Braghirol

What is a Student Trustee?

There are 2 student trustees on the UConn Board of Trustees, one undergraduate and one graduate student. They are both full voting members of the Board, members of committees, and privy to executive discussions and meetings. The primary role of the Student Trustee is to bring a student perspective to discussions in which the student body is a key stakeholder. Examples of major topics discussed in the last 4 years include setting tuition/fees, transitioning to the UConn Bookstore, closing the Torrington Campus, and dealing with cuts to the University's block grant from the State.

What is the time commitment like?

The time commitment varies significantly from week to week. The Board meets approximately every 4-6 weeks. Full Board meetings with some committee meetings taking anywhere from 2 to 4 hours. There are also several University functions that occur throughout the year which the student trustees are invited to. These include events with state legislators, UConn Foundation events, as well as a variety of different UConn events (graduations, ceremonies, academic showcases). Being in touch with other students is also very important as the experience of the student body is vastly different across the campuses. A good trustee is one who stays in touch with the leadership of the Student Governments so as to be more representative of the current student culture as a whole.

What was it like being the Graduate Student Trustee?

Serving 2 years as the Graduate Student Trustee on the UConn Board of Trustees was an incredibly gratifying experience. Through the role, I was able to gain a better understanding of how a large University and University Health System functions. The other Board members are amazing people who care deeply about UConn. They come from a vast array of different backgrounds in politics, the insurance industry, the local business community, and finance industry. I found them to be incredibly kind and always open to my opinion on every topic discussed. Additionally, through this experience I gained several mentors and relationships which I value greatly. I learned several valuable life skills which will help me significantly in my professional career. My role as Student Trustee has also been a frequent topic of discussion at job interviews and interviewers are always excited to hear about my experiences.

I also had the opportunity to interact with a wide variety of administrators and staff members who have all been really awesome to work with as well. They were always eager to help me gather information about topics I was not familiar with and were always available to answer any questions I might have,

Finally, and most importantly, I had the tremendous opportunity to serve the UConn Community. As an alum of CLAS '14 who is graduating the Medical School this May, I owe all of my success to this point to the University. Having the chance to give back to the University has been incredibly rewarding.

Would you recommend I run for the Student Trustee position?

Of course! I am truly sad that my term is ending.

How can I contact you for more information?

If you are considering running and have additional questions about my experience, email me at Braghirol@UCHC.edu