NEW SEASON, NEW STRUCTURE!

In March 2015 the Student Union Board of Governor’s Constitution went to referendum to the Student Body. In this new constitution the board restructured in efforts to prepare for the increasing class sizes slated to enter UConn. This new structure adds responsibility to a wider net of committee members, and streamlines communication within the organization.

The most prominent change was the realignment of the Executive Board – transferring some Outreach responsibilities to the President, and adding a second Vice President for Programming. With two VP’s for Programming, these members are able to devote more time to their programmers, and focus on retention efforts.

Another major change involves the Outreach aspect of SUBOG. Formerly responsibilities and Retention chairpersons—these responsibilities have been centralized, and we now have two Co-Outreach Chairpersons whose priorities focus on SUBOG branding, recruitment efforts, and managing marketing chairs who are representatives from each committee.

Programming changes began with the reassignment of the Travel Chair and Daytime Chair responsibilities. Rather than concentrating travel efforts within one committee, all programming committees within SUBOG are now encouraged to travel. Past semesters, the Travel Committee has averaged four to five trips away from Storrs – in this first semester, SUBOG is traveling to 8 different locations – including a trip to tour NBC Headquarters in New York City, a film premiere, sporting events, and to Salem, Massachusetts.

Lastly, the Daytime Committee was absorbed by the Special Events Committee who now has an event every other week, engaging their growing committee membership.

Overall, these changes have reduced the number of board members to 15, but has increased the involvement and responsibilities of general SUBOG committee members. This year’s board has done a wonderful job embracing these changes, and setting SUBOG up to be successful in years to come.
PETER LAKE, NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION LAW EXPERT VISITED CAMPUS, COURTESY OF THE M. KEVIN FAHEY FUND FOR STUDENT ACTIVITIES

On October 21-22, 2015, UConn was fortunate to have Peter Lake, J.D., visit our campus to educate students and staff on a variety of legal issues. On Tuesday, WHUS Program Coordinator Jason McMullen hosted a panel that included Lake and Leslie Levin from the UConn Law School; the topic was free speech in a civil society. We were fortunate to have Mr. Fahey join us at the program, and afterwards, several current and former leaders from SUBOG (Joe Rosa, Quian Callender and Eric Bouchard-who now works in the Programs Office) hosted Mr. Fahey for dinner.

On Wednesday, Lake met with four groups. First, with students in the Higher Education and Student Affairs master’s program to talk about timely legal issues. Next, with members of UConn Student Affairs Incident Response Team to talk about student safety issues. Lake also facilitated a discussion about working with millennial students for student affairs leaders from the Storrs campus, as well as Avery Point, Greater Hartford, Stamford, Torrington, and the Waterbury campuses. Finally, Lake met with student leaders from the media groups about freedom of speech in student media.

We want to thank Jason McMullen for introducing the topic of freedom of speech and hosting the panel. Thank you to Cindy Mottisette, Sylvie Godbout, and Kim Miller for hosting the regional staff members. Thanks also to Cathy Cocks for facilitating the discussions with HESA and the Student Affairs staff, and to Mary Shaw for making all of the program arrangements. Finally, a great big thank you to Kevin Fahey and the donors to the fund in his name; the generosity of these folks meant that we were able to provide information and insights to enhance the student experience at UConn.

SUBOG ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
SARAH TAGGART (LESSARD) 2002-2004

From 2002-2004 Sarah Lessard, now Sarah Taggart, served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. After graduation, fully equipped with a UConn Business degree, Sarah worked for several years as a conference/meeting planner. Then in 2010, itching to tap into her creative side a bit more and work on a more personal level with clients, Sarah started her own boutique event planning company called A Polished Event. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG. From 2002-2004 Sarah served as the Special Events Chair and Vice president of Programming for SUBOG.