

WORKING FOR A BETTER UCONN

UCONN Graduate Employee Union
United Auto Workers, Local 6950
1734 Storrs Rd. Storrs, CT 06268



Testimony of Darby Lacey on behalf of the

Graduate Employee Union Local 6950
United Automobile Workers of America (GEU-UAW UCONN)

Appropriations Committee Public Hearing
Thursday, March 4, 2021

In support of: H.B. No. 6439 (Comm) An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June Thirtieth, 2023, and Making Appropriations Therefor

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representatives Dathan and Nolan, and members of the Appropriations Committee;

My name is Darby Lacey, and I am both a graduate student and instructor of First Year Writing at the University of Connecticut and a member of the Graduate Employee Union (GEU-UAW Local 6950). I research how literary representations of illness and disease shape our memory of major health events, which is directly relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I also teach critical writing skills to first year students. My ability to offer high quality and intensive writing education to students is directly relevant to their future success in the university and beyond. I am writing to testify on the Budget Hearing for Higher Education.

Support for UConn is an investment to develop a highly skilled workforce for the state. In my teaching work with undergraduate students, I prepare them to be effective writers and communicators in their future careers and foster critical skills in media literacy. These skills will help them be successful in their future careers, as nearly all jobs require effective communication skills. Without continued investment, my ability to maintain the quality of education I provide will be diminished as students will be faced with larger classes and overworked instructors who have less time to provide feedback on student writing.

UConn is a vital asset to the State of Connecticut. In the past, the state budget has provided generous support to UConn's important mission of providing education, service, and research to the state and residents of Connecticut, and I strongly encourage you to continue this generosity in the next budget.

Sincerely,

Darby Lacey

Graduate Instructor, UConn English Department

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