

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Executive Board Minutes 2 October 2013

I. President: Jason Charre

President: Jason Charrette a. Speakers at Meeting

- i. The slate is currently open and Jim Wohl will be coming next week. I plan on inviting Charmanne from the Graduate School and Cinnamon Adams but also wanted to know if you guys had any suggestions.
- **b.** USG
 - **i.** I want all of us to meet together (both executive boards) in the upcoming weeks and have a joint meeting. It would be beneficial for us to open communication between the two groups.
- c. GSCA
 - **i.** I am going to be working with Sandy to help create a peak association so they are properly represented.
- d. Graduate Faculty Council
 - **i.** The graduate faculty council is going to pass a legislation about fees. Before meeting with them I would like to have a more concrete list about things.
- e. Apportionment
 - i. Sandy wanted to help target departments that should have GSS representation who are not showing up to meeting. We want to make GSS the face and need to have the most representation. Danielle and Ian will be meeting up next week to discuss this and go over the numbers and current constituent representation.

f. External Committees

- i. Jason: We need to get people signed up for external committees
- **ii.** Ian: Yes they are important and we need more people
- iii. Jason: Nicole agreed to stay on, we have a parking representative, and also have 3 out of 6 of University Executive committees so that's good so far
- g. Agenda: external committees, Jim Wohl is the speaker
- h. External committee: Sec university senate/Grad faculty council

II. Vice President: Steve Mollmann

- a. Parking
 - i. The Parking committee presented at the University Senate meeting. I believe this is a big forum which we can say about parking, and it seems like this semester has been particularly problematic. We paid more for something differently than we had in the past. Is this a good idea to bring up?
 - **ii.** Jason: we should create a formal statement
 - iii. Steve: Okay so far I have lost spaces, information has not been consistent, lack of area 3 permits key
- **b.** Stipend
 - i. Could GSS compile stipends and fees info at other universities top 10/15 so we can see what other universities are doing? Bing mentioned he would do this
 - **ii.** Jason: I did that today for peers for aspirant fees, I have this information, and stipends are hard to gather because they vary by department and within department. I will email you everyone my findings. So far the highest among our peers is Rutgers.
 - **iii.** Safet: I met with my advisor today and realized that faculty do not realize how much we actually pay for fees, they think we only pay \$300. We need to make this known.
 - **iv.** Steve: We also need to take into consideration if universities have high fees if it is remittent in their stipends. Also what benefits do they have? We want to see if info is



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useful. Kent's task force will not be meeting for a long time. We are trying to figure out student cost affecting grants and will have a report by the end of semester.

- **c.** *Professional development*
 - **i.** Steve: What are we going to do with the \$3000 we put aside for professional development?
 - **ii.** Anish: I emailed Ian Yue and also we can send email out telling constituents that we have extra money and allow tier II apply
 - **iii.** Steve: I would be nice if we can use money for professional development. We can structure the finance committee can help allocate this
 - iv. Jason: Maybe we could set aside money for brownbags
 - v. Safet: If we do we need to define what a brownbag is
 - vi. Ian: More generally we need to make major revisions to finance policy and procedures
 - vii. Steve: I do not like brownbags funded by GSS, because it should be more wide known, for people to pay outside people to come in and for training
 - viii. Safet: We need to really define
 - **ix.** Jason: I like the idea setting apart money, we clearly have different ideas on how to define, maybe something we bring to the senate, it is a significant amount of money that we can give
 - x. Steve: What do we do with the \$3000 and what do we do moving forward
 - **xi.** Anish: We have a special allocation budget
 - xii. Steve: Money can be put in special allocation
 - xiii. Jason: Put in but we will encourage it for professional development
 - **xiv.** Steve: I think it's more simple to dump it there and then the finance committee can help figure out this problem
- d. Health Insurance
 - **i.** Steve: Would it be beneficial to create a special committee on health insurance that can get feedback on health insurance and contact the right people?
 - ii. Safet: We create a sub committee in student life committee
 - **iii.** Ian: I would like the student life committee to be more about advocacy. With these big issues it would be nice for people to work together
 - iv. Jason: What do we need to handle
 - v. Steve: I'm sure student health get random feedback from random people, find out info on things rather than being everywhere
 - vi. Jason: So we need to centralize health complaints
 - vii. Ian: We should have a committee on advocacy
 - viii. Jason: We have that, people do that in their external committees. It needs to be a permanent member of exec to do this, Steve, have a person do this and then sift through Bing can do this only thing moving forward is give input and having point of contact with the Vice President.
 - ix. Ian: More like a liaison
 - **x.** Anish: Need to tell VP when they are renegotiating
 - xi. Steve: Okay I will do it, we'll see how it goes
- e. Agenda: Student life committee, Graduate stipend and fees

III. Treasurer: Safet Berisa

- **a.** *Finance Presentations*
 - i. Safet: I want to make presentations easier to process. Should I have one at the end of month or end of the semester. I could attach more information to minutes. I also have dealt with all the quirks, balanced the year, have loan data and on google drive, and right now we have 120k in loans.
- b. External Budget Committee



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- i. The external budget committee met and we talked about work study programs and financial aid. Also on Monday we need to nominate the new finance committee.
- c. Graduate Assistant
 - i. Safet: We need a new Bing. Generally the selection committee consists of the president, another member from exec and a member of the senate.
 - ii. Anish: Last year the selection process took about two months
 - iii. Danielle: We should make up an application to send out
- **d.** Special allocation fund
 - i. The Psychology department is asking for 2500 dollars for a speaker. The speaker will come and speak about different skills and what jobs and opportunities are out there. They would give other options to students regarding the intensive methodology training we get at graduate school. It would be open to all departments but would be helpful to departments like Psychology, Linguistics, Biological Sciences, etc.
 - **ii.** Danielle: I think 2500 dollars is too much looking at this list
 - iii. Jason: Yes, travel does not need to be this expensive
 - iv. Safet: I think the amount that GSS gives should be way less than this
 - v. Steve: Do we really need to have two dinners?
 - vi. Safet: I propose it be 1200 dollars
 - vii. Passed: Needs to go into new business
- e. Agenda : overview spent, External budget com
- **f.** New bus: finance committee

IV. Secretary: Danielle Wong

- a. GSS Survey
 - i. My computer broke so I am waiting until next week when I get my new one to start looking at the data that we received. I will have everything for you guys by next exec meeting.
- **b.** *External committee form*
 - i. I will make a new external committee form since the one we currently have is old.
- c. Agenda: External committee form, PR committee
- Parliamentarian: Ian Gutierrez
 - a. Constituency

V.

- i. The new constituency form is now posted with the right years and new logo, if constituents used the old form its okay. The Saudi student organization also wants constituency but we need to see if they graduate student association. I emailed them back but right now the ball is in their court and will see what their response is
- **ii.** Steve: When I was parliamentarian I had a criteria to help justify the form of representation
- iii. Ian: I would like procedures committee formalize this, have a form with some criteria
- **b.** At Large Senator
 - i. I would like to change the way we handle at large senators. The fact that these elections happen in the spring and online makes it difficult. I think it makes sense to have the elections happen when we come back, I sent an email to our two at large senators to notify them about our meetings and will also send an email to the grad students about Joey Koporive, mike Robalard, sent email to two of them, saying senator at large come to emails
 - ii. Steve: how many at large senator seats do we have?
 - iii. Ian: 6, I have had a couple of people mention they are interested in these positions: Sebastian Barrazo, Lindsey Ellis, Derek, and Alex Merceron
 - iv. Steve: We need to see if these people have senate positions
 - v. Anish: We should email people so they know about the elections



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- c. The Commons
 - i. Ian: What are we going to do about the blog Commons?
 - **ii.** Danielle: I made the decision to delete it because no one was ever really reading it. I plan on utilizing the website more.
- d. New business: at large elections, external committees
- e. Agenda: constituency form, presidential pay

VI. Activities Director: Anish Kurian

- **a.** I met with the activities committee and we are talking about doing a Halloween or holiday party since we have the budget, The Physics department wants to collaborate. Thanksgiving dinner is set and Ted's was good, about 150 people came out.
- **b.** Breakfast with the President
 - **i.** Breakfast with the President is set. I have emailed the senate and have 10 responses so far.
 - ii. Jason: What are we going to do in terms of agenda
 - iii. Anish: I have written in my email asking for questions and Steve will moderate.
- c. Agenda: breakfast with pres, activities, thanksgiving dinner, teds