

**Minutes**  
4 September 2013

- I. Call to Order** at 7:05pm.
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker: Ian Gutierrez**
  - a. Parliamentarian Ian: Do you need to be a senator to sit on a committee or an external committee?
  - b. Vice President Mollmann: Nope, you do not need to
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 24 April 2013, minutes are approved
- V. Unfinished Business**
  - a. GSS 12/13-24: That the Graduate Student Senate approve amendments to the Graduate Student Senate Constitution and Graduate Student Senate Bylaws proposed by the Graduate Student Senate Special Committee on Professional Development, effective upon approval of the Board of Trustees of the amendments to the constitutional amendments or the first day of the Fall 2013 semester, whichever is later.
    - i. Erin Eighan motioned for a discussion, seconded
    - ii. Vice President Mollmann: The executive committee feels uncertain to add another executive position may not be feasible. We suggest to propose another committee, not to fact find, but to perform the job. The chair of this committee would also receive 250 dollars per Senate approval
    - iii. Michael moved to amend the amendment currently on the table , seconded
    - iv. Erin Eighan: Last year one of the big concerns that the committee raised about not turning professional development to an executive position was that there was a lot of work our previous president had done towards professional development and if a committee were to do this it would be repetitive. I do believe a lot of work has been done.
    - v. Senator Lovelace: What is the point to have a professional development committee if someone does this on the board? What is the purpose of doing this?
    - vi. Vice President Mollmann: At the last meeting this was debated strongly and this is an alternative that we are suggesting
    - vii. Director Kurian: Part of the backstory, part of the opposition to forming a new executive position was that some people saw the graduate school as holding the

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- responsibility for this task, and/or individuals' departments. Others thought that having a concerted effort with different disciplines would be hard.
- viii. President Charrette: Basically it came down to the Graduate School thinking that GSS could supplement professional development. But, in your departments you are taught based on discipline. The Graduate School wanted there to be a more uniform way, but because we have a smaller budget, we spoke about this and wanting to see if this was an actual solution.
- ix. Senator Lovelace: To clarify, you perceive this as a financial burden and unnecessary because we have other things in place so it should not be on GSS?
- x. President Charrette: The past couple of years we have seen strict guidelines on spending money. For example you cannot spend money on brownbags, part of the reason for this is that there are limited funds, but those brownbags serve as a professional development. This should be dealt and based off your department where you know what you need.
- xi. Senator San Pedro: I was a part of this committee this last year- a lot of students requested more professional development that we can try and centralized. If departments are not doing this to the first year students, is there a way we can publicize this across schools, and if there is something we would like to do with funding? Maybe we do things that are needed and then we can have a larger voice and body. A lot of these departments are going through transitions and trying to figure out how to do this, but it may be helpful to have a graduate student voice.
- xii. Senator Merceron: I believe this is completely out of the scope of a student organization to do this. Professional people should be doing this, the Graduate School's responsibility is our success and it is a waste to have other graduate students plan this.
- xiii. Senator White: If we want to allocate more money to individual departments for putting workshops on, if this gets cut would this change?
- xiv. Vice President Mollmann: Yes, this would change the current financial procedures

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- xv. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: GSS has the power to make that decision if this is how we want to fund this events moving forward.
- xvi. Derek Doran: I like this idea; sure the debate about the financial debate will be contentious. But part of the charge of the committee is to work with the financial committee. GSS implicitly funds but giving money to tier II and letting them do what they know is best.
- xvii. Senator Coleman: So, what happens if we vote?
- xviii. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: If we pass the amendment then we will not be editing the constitution, if we reject then we talk about the constitution
- xix. Motion Carries
- xx. Senator Germino: For clarification, talking about proposing a special committee for experimental basis. If there is no committee then we as GSS take a step back and not use professional development and then need a new proposal
- xxi. Vice President Mollmann: There is no clear mandated steps, the return of control would be with departments and there would be no person in charge of thinking about this
- xxii. Director Kurian: In the budget there is a professional symposium for this year, there is money in the budget for this, I believe around \$3000
- xxiii. Treasurer Beriša: If this does not pass, then join the finance committee to help allocate this money!
- xxiv. Motion fails

**VI. New Business**

- a. Approve GSS Executive Board Summer Pay
  - i. Senator Washart motioned, seconded
  - ii. Vice President Mollmann: this is for 600 dollars for the president and 400 dollars for the treasurer and activities director
  - iii. President Charrette: My main responsibility for the summer was GAIN, Director Kurian did the BBQ, I also attended Board of Trustees Meeting and met with Dean Holsinger and sat it on a dismissal hearing for a student.

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- iv. Director Kurian: I planned a bunch of events; the casino trip, the wine tasting event, and the Rock Cats game. For GAIN I was in charge of the bbq, caterer, and DJ
- v. Treasurer Beriša: Everything that Director Anish did, I needed to look over those contracts and also approve disbursements and loan requests.
- vi. Senator Prior: About how many hours did you work?
- vii. President Charrette: I did not worry quite that much about that but about 30-40 hours physically doing things, contacting, coordinating, and sitting in meetings. I would also encourage you to sit in on the Board of Trustees meeting.
- viii. Treasurer Beriša: I was in the office about twice a week for 2-6 hours
- ix. Director Kurian: With all the events and planning, about 40-50 hours
- x. Vice President Mollmann: These are mandate amounts
- xi. Senator Seda: I would like to point out that summer events are very important
- xii. Senator Washart: I would also like to point out that these guys do a lot of work and get paid very little
- xiii. Senator Tomaszewsk: These are the stipends for the summer that just ended?
- xiv. Vice President Mollmann: Yes
- xv. Senator Coleman: If you break it down, 10 dollars an hour is not an exorbitant amount of money
- xvi. Motion passes
- b. Kopyy Amponsah: How come there is only one female on the executive board? Is that by design or is it just a coincidence?
- c. Vice President Mollmann: It depended on who decided to run when we had elections
- d. Kopyy Amponsah: Maybe there should be a requirement for a male and female to be president/vice president so this does not happen again
- e. Vice President Mollmann: If you would like to add that to the constitution/bylaws you can

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

- a. President – Jason Charrette

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- i. For the year I would like to meet with the Vice Provost and President Susan Herbst to help voice concerns. A lot of what you will hear from me is me helping to communicate with faculty and undergraduates.
  - ii. Health Fee: If you looked at your account they charged you 1522 dollars and then credited it back and charged 75 dollars if you are a single graduate student. If you have any dependents (spouses or kids) the cost reflects that. The actual fee is 75 dollars and you have until open classes (September 9) to go to peoplesoft and get a payroll deduction and you can then take that amount and spread it over pay periods. If you do not change it by September 9 then you pay it upfront. This was changed over the summer, and there is information on the website, it is 20\$ more for the same treatment
  - iii. Guide to dealing with problems: I would to like to bring people in to show you have to fight problems. For example, if you have a problem with an advisor I want to show you who and how to contact those people and how you can amend those problems.
  - iv. Board of Trustees (Rec Center) update: They are still thinking and it is now 100.9 million for 350 dollars a year for graduate students
  - v. External Committees: Graduate students can sit on committees and can get involved and make decisions. They are serve important things and mostly deal with student live, core curriculum, and tenure requirements. These committees are critical.
- b. Vice President – Steve Mollmann
- i. Student Life Committee: This is an internal committee in charge of investigating things in student life. We sent out a survey last year and plan on moving forward in the coming years. If you are interested in serving please come talk to me.
- c. Treasurer – Safet Beriša
- i. Finance Committee: We need five members for the Finance Committee (one of which must not be a senator). These people will come up with the budgeting limitations and decide on what gets funded in the 2014/2015 budget. The Finance Committee does most of its work in the Spring Semester, we could start meeting in the Fall as well.

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- ii. Ian Yue: If you are interested in serving, would like to point out that the time burden is predominantly in the spring semester
- iii. GSS Loan: We offer 1000 dollar loans with an extension for up to 4 months. Most students find it useful and pick it up in the summer
- d. Secretary – Danielle Wong
  - i. Public Relations Committee: This committee deals with public relations for GSS and for the events that we put on. I only need at least one more person. If you would like to join please contact me.
  - ii. Debt/GAIN Survey: If you have not already please fill out this survey, the Graduate School is looking for more information on student debt and we also would like to try and plan better events for you. It only takes 2-3 minutes.
  - iii. New GSS Logo
  - iv. Attendance: Senators can only miss up to two meetings in order for their constituencies to get funding from GSS
- e. Activities Director – Anish Kurian
  - i. Activities Committee: I need 3-5 people to join my committee. We also may have old committee members rejoining
  - ii. GAIN BBQ recap: 550 people attended. We had a different caterer this year, the rain held off, we had a great DJ. Thank you exec and activity people who came to help.
  - iii. Ted’s Social Night – Tuesday, September 10, 5-7pm
  - iv. Breakfast with the President- Oct 1, 8-9am, will send out an email inviting you to RSVP, senators will be asked first and then the graduate student population. It will be limited to about 30 people.
  - v. GSS “Thanksgiving Dinner” Lunch – Wednesday, November 20, 12-2pm, Student Union Ballroom 330/331
  - vi. Social Mixers, Speed Dating, other good Fall 2013 Activities ideas?
- f. Parliamentarian – Ian Gutierrez
  - i. Procedures Committee: Join!
  - ii. Registering Senators and Constituencies: Don’t forget to register! The paperwork is on the GSS UConn website

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**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. Graduate Stipend and Fee Task Force – Steve Mollmann
  - i. Vice President Mollmann: the committee would like to see what each department pays, who is making money, who is taking money. They want more fact finding and seeing what is going on. They are trying to see the debt load and are interested in hard data. If you have any more information please contact me.
- b. Vice Provost for University Library Search Committee – Safet Beriša
  - i. Treasurer Beriša: Martha Bedard has accepted her position so she is the new Vice Provost for University Libraries.

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. **Health Insurance:** Senator Ambroselli: I have a question about the health insurance, so they have taken a pretax and now we have a posttax? How come this changed
- b. President Charrette: We are not classified as employees and it has changed since last year
- c. Senator Coleman: If we waive out then there are no fees correct?
- d. Secretary Wong: Yes
- e. President Charrette: You can go online and do it through Baileys ([www.studenthealthdesk.com](http://www.studenthealthdesk.com)) If enrolled, you are not automatically enrolled. You need to put your dependents in. Whatever you enroll in will be put in the bill and you will have the option to distribute through. Dental is also part of this. There are waiting periods and you will need to be here for a year. If you have a dependent then you need to have proof of that dependent. We do get coverage everywhere, and the copay has gone up.
- f. Derek Doran: We are automatically in healthcare but not enrolled in dental
- g. Senator Prior: Did they talk to graduate students about this?
- h. Vice President Mollmann: No they did not; there were a lot of background issues. We now have a decent commitment moving forward.
- i. Senator Prior: I feel like we need to have feedback on the individual healthcare
- j. Vice President Mollmann: I have been grabbing a lot of it
- k. President Charrette: We can always create a committee to help develop a form of contact
- l. Senator Lovelace: Regarding enrollment is there a late enrollment? Is there a specific date from the last health insurance?
- m. President Charrette: There is overlap with the old and new health insurance

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- n. Vice President Mollmann: The old plan ended on August 31
  - o. **Rec Center:** Erin Eighan: I would like to follow up on the Rec Center fee increase, when is the vote?
  - p. Senator Coleman: I am not quite sure what you are talking about
  - q. President Charrette: The university wants to build a new rec center to become more attractive to undergraduates, there will be a complete space and new facility
  - r. Parliamentarian Gutierrez: The university tends to think of us as students, it is hard because we are outnumbered and a lot of us live off campus
  - s. Sebastian Barraza: This will start in 2015?
  - t. Vice President Mollmann: No one that cannot use the rec center will be paying
  - u. Senator Tomaszewsk: The undergraduate fees will be different correct?
  - v. Vice President Mollmann: Yes
  - w. Erin Eighan: There was a pamphlet the rec center put together
  - x. President Charrette: We can scan it
  - y. Ian Yue: Rose Barham was working on this; can we can get more information on this and ask her?
  - z. President Charrette: Yes I will ask tomorrow
  - aa. **Parking:** Neila Seda: Parking increased 50 dollars and now we are parking in the dirt with there are glass bottles everywhere
  - bb. Vice President Mollmann: We really need a GSS Representative on the parking advisory committee, anyone can join
  - cc. **At large senator:** Derek Doran: how does being an at large senator work
  - dd. Vice President Mollmann: You need to be nominated by a current senator and it is a closed ballot. We need to figure out how many spots we have
- X. Adjournment** at 9:09 pm.



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<b>Name</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Constituency</b>	<b>Senator</b>
Jason Charrette	jason.charrette@uconn.edu	Political Science	President
Steve Mollmann	steve.mollmann@uconn.edu	English	Vice President
Safet Beriša	safet.berisa@uconn.edu	Linguistics	Treasurer
Danielle Wong	danielle.wong@uconn.edu	Political Science	Secretary
Anish Kurian	anish.kurian@uconn.edu	Psychology	Activities Director
Ian Gutierrez	ian.gutierrez@uconn.edu	Psychology	Parliamentarian
Alexandra Merceron	alexandra.merceron@uconn.edu	GSCA/Communications	Yes - At Large
Kate Williamson	uconnasp@gmail.com	Student Association School Psychology	Yes
Indu Upadhyaya	indue.upadhyaya@uconn.edu	Animal Science	Yes
Michelle San Pedro	michelle.sanpedro@uconn.edu	Anthropology/MAF	Yes
Claire Coleman	claire.coleman@uconn.edu	Art (visual)	Yes
Matt Bowman	matthew.bowman@uconn.edu	Art History	Yes
Song Li	song.li@uconn.edu	Chemistry	Yes
Becky Germino	rebecca.germino@uconn.edu	Economics	Yes
Mike Mudrick	michael.mudrick@uconn.edu	Ed Leadership/NGSA	Yes
Shawn Washart	shawn.washart@uconn.edu	Educational Leadership	Yes
Eleanor Reeds	eleanor.reeds@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Emily Slater	emily.slater@uconn.edu	English	Yes
Chanee Ford	chanee.ford@uconn.edu	HDFS/GSCA	Yes
Luke Pryor	john.pryor@uconn.edu	Kinesiology	Yes
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Nicole White	nicole.2.white@uconn.edu	Langsa	Yes
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Ross Dardani	ross.dardani@uconn.edu	Political Science	Yes
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Ian Yue	ian.yue@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	No
Kobby Amponsah	kwabena.amponsah@uconn.edu	Ag. and Resource Econ	No
Joseline Raja	joseline.raja@uconn.edu	Animal Science	No
Meera Surendran Nair	meera.nair@uconn.edu	Animal Science	No
Neila N. Seda	neila.seda@uconn.edu	CEE Advisory Board	No
Sahil Vora	sahil.vora@uconn.edu	Chemical Engineering	No
Udayarka Karra	udayarka.karra@uconn.edu	Civil and Envee Engineering	No
Derek Doran	derek.doran@uconn.edu	Computer Science and Engineering	No
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Tanesia Beverly	tanisia.beverly@uconn.edu	Educational Psychology	No
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Alyssa Webb	alyssa.webb@uconn.edu	Political Science	No
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