**Wednesday, October 18th, 2017**

**Present:** Deepthi Varghese, Vignesh Vasu, Alexis Ernst, Ngoc Chau Vy, Justin Fang and Graham O’Toole (by teleconference)

**Meeting began 10:07 am, GSS Office**

**I. President**

1. Short term loan extension meeting with bursar
   1. Bursar pointed out to us that according to our by-laws, there is only one extension allowed. The length of the extension period is 30 days.
   2. Extension applications only open 2 weeks before the due date.
   3. Loans are due in full 90 days after the disbursement date (unless an extension is applied for and approved).
   4. If a student would like to use payroll deductions to pay off the loan, this must be processed within 10 days after the start of the semester.
   5. The short term loan form and promissory note are being moved online to facilitate and speed up processing and disbursement of the loan.
   6. The responsibility of ensuring only one extension is granted rests on GSS, not bursar.
   7. According to our current by-law, short term loans taken in the middle of the fall semester and not repaid until after the start of the spring semester will cause the account to appear to have an existing loan, preventing a new loan from being taken in the spring.
   8. We are working on changing this so that:
      1. A student can take out up to three short term loans per year.
      2. As soon as one loan is paid off, the student can immediately qualify for another loan.
      3. These changes will require a Senate vote as they would mean a by-law change.
   9. The maximum amount allowed per loan is $1500. However, still only three loans are allowed per year.
   10. All mentions of year in the aforementioned refers to the academic year (start of fall semester to end of summer).
   11. The following penalties would be incurred for delinquent payments:
       1. Late fees will apply in a similar fashion to delinquent student fees.
       2. Technically, if the due date of a loan is past the date of graduation, there is currently nothing in place to require repayment, unless one works in the state of Connecticut.
   12. New students can apply for the loan but it will only be disbursed two weeks after the start of the semester.
   13. Bursar has asked that we encourage applicants to enroll in direct deposit so that loans can be immediately disbursed rather than wait for paper checks which are only issued once a week.
   14. Payroll deductions are very difficult to change or revise after they have been initiated so consider it seriously before selecting this option.
   15. Scott Jordan has asked us what the ballpark requirements are for graduate students to live on campus.
2. Meeting with Scott Jordan
   1. Scott Jordan is the CFO of the University. The meeting was pretty casual and a number of topics were discussed.
   2. Visa compliance fees
      1. Scott acknowledged the issues that happened this semester in terms of applying the fee to GA’s and TA’s accounts.
      2. They said that this fee cannot be removed as it is being used to support services and paperwork processing fees for international students.
      3. The suggestion is to make the cost of the fee smaller but to spread it across all international GA and TA grad students.
   3. Support for dependents of GAs/TAs/etc.
      1. Not much can be done at their office.
      2. It was recommended to bring this up to the GEU.
   4. UConn is currently funded until January 1st, 2018. They believe that current students will not be affected but major cuts could effect the number of intake of new grad students.
3. Committee for University level crisis
   1. If any grad student or group of grad students are impassioned enough regarding significant crisis events, they may initiate a committee in response to such crises and inform the GSS Executive Committee. If found appropriate, we can elect to support, back and promote the response committees.
   2. Vignesh mentioned that UConn has government relations personnel, one of whom he has tried to get in contact with to serve as a point of reference for these response committees.
4. Student health service survey
   1. Melissa DePaolo, a previous graduate student in health sciences, is currently working in the Infirmary and would like to start new programs to promote the physical and mental health of graduate students.
   2. She would like to start by sending out a survey to our senator contacts to better tailor these programs to our needs.
5. Transportation update with Tanya Hussick
   1. Our issue with parking was responded with “it’s just a symptom of the start of the semester”.
   2. The future plan of the University is to minimize parking at the core of campus so eventually all the parking lots will be located at the outskirts of campus.

**II. Treasurer**

1. The new form for purchase orders and disbursement requests have been finalized. This will be better for pre-payment options than what was available before.
2. Copies of this will be paid for by the GSS operations budget.
3. A special allocation request was submitted for Tarang. The amount is for rentals for $750 for Diwali as Hillel is not available this year. Deepthi and Vignesh waived their vote as they believed there is a conflict of interest. The rest of the Executive Committee, voted in favor of bringing this special allocation to a senate vote.
4. A special allocation request was submitted for ICOU. The amount is for $3000 for an anticipated attendance of 70-90 grad students. There are also no quotes from this year provided. The executive committee voted to table this until we get a revised request to lower the funds per person (currently it works out to $33 pp). Another point of consideration is that ICOU already has a budget for ~$5k. One suggestion was to charge some of the students attending a charge.
5. SABO went to the SASFAC meeting to request funds.
6. The flow chart is still being revised and improved to work out some details with Kim.

**III. Vice President**

Committees are as filled as they can be.

**IV. Activities Director**

1. Alexis checked our inventory for decorations and there is barely anything for Halloween. She plans on spending ~$30 on décor for Huskies Tavern.
2. The Thanksgiving catering quote for this year increased by over $2600 for the same number of people. We plan on moving 5% of funds from other events and will bring it to a Senate vote next meeting.

**V. Communications Director**

1. Chau requested for Adobe Acrobat Pro to combine PDFs. Graham suggested inquiring with the library to get this software for free.
2. The 2017-18 budget plus the minutes approving it are now posted in both PDF and XLXS form on the GSS website on both the Funding page and Minutes page. And yes, page numbers are included.

**VI. Parliamentarian**

1. Graham just needs a sub for the Graduate Faculty Council meeting today.
2. Graham will review these current minutes and do what needs to be done to draft the by-law changes regarding the short term loans.

**Meeting adjourned – 12:01 pm**