

- I. Call to Order 7:07 pm.**
- II. Recognition of Senators**
- III. Special Guest/Speaker**
- IV. Approval of Minutes:** 10 September 2014 approved.
- V. Unfinished Business**
  - a. 14/15-2: That the GSS amend the Bylaws for the addition of a GSS Service Award
    - i. Senator Gutierrez moved to amend the bylaws. He proceeded to explain the proposed amendments.
    - ii. Senator Patelunas brought up the concern about the wording of “terminal degree” explaining that the understanding is a terminal degree is the highest possible degree earned not any degree that is ended at the university.
    - iii. Senator Treich also brought up the concern about preventing students early in their graduate careers from attaining the service award. Senator Behandish mentioned his agreement with Senator Treich’s concerns. After discussion to reword 3 c ii. of the proposed amendments, Senator Gutierrez moved to strike the clause.
    - iv. The question was split and passed with a majority vote. The motion on the table to amend the bylaws for the addition of a GSS Service Award was approved.
- VI. New Business**
  - a. External Committee Elections
    - i. Senator Piantek brought up that the UConn Reads Committee is now restructuring. The committee will now only be contacting graduate representatives from the departments that are relevant to the committee
    - ii. The following graduates student were elected to the following committees per a majority vote
      - 1. Distinguished Professor Committee – Niko Tracksdorf
      - 2. GEOC – Nicole Coleman
      - 3. Parking Advisory Board – Brandon Benevento
      - 4. Faculty Standards – Morad Behandish
      - 5. Growth and Development – Shanna Graham

6. Master Planning and Advisory Committee – Jeff Wong
7. Student Welfare – Nancy Wong
8. Diversity Committee – Huong Nguyen (Senator Nguyen and Senator Lovelace were both interested in the committee. Senator Amponsah also expressed interest in a previous meeting but was not present. Senators Nguyen and Lovelace both gave speeches to the Senate).

b. Finance Committee Elections

- i. The following graduate students were elected to the finance committee unanimously

1. Tony Patelunas (Senator)
2. Kobby Amponsah (Senator)
3. Greg Treich (Senator)
4. Jordan Ochs (Senator)
5. Bill Craven (Non Senator)

c. Philosophy GSA Student Allocation Request

- i. 14/15-3: That the GSS allocate \$650 to the Philosophy GSA for their conference

1. The president of the Philosophy GSA discussed the allocation request. They are trying to relaunch a conference that was previously done in conjunction with Yale. However, funding fell through on Yale's part. The conference is a collaboration between different departments (cognitive science, mathematics, and linguistics). Speakers are being brought in. The costs listed are mainly for the hotel fee and for a small lunch to all graduate students. A variety of interdisciplinary applicants have been chosen. The guest speaker is Sharon Street, a renowned philosopher from NYU.

2. The motion passed.

**VII. Executive Committee Report**

a. President – Jason Charrette

- i. NAGPS – This is an organization that connects organizations like GSS to other graduate organizations. It will allow us to be part of a larger network and offer

more resources. We would become the first Connecticut school in the organization if we decide to join.

- ii. 14/15-4: We move to authorize the Graduate Student Executive Committee to spend in the amount of \$500 for the purpose of applying for membership in the National Associate of Graduate Professional students
  1. Senator Behandish brought up the question of what the plan would be moving forward. President Charrette described that the main plan is to professionalize GSS. Joining this organization is a way to get us plugged into a larger network of individuals. We could have the opportunity to chair our region and to network and figure out common ground. We have the opportunity to help lobby on behalf of grants etc. The \$500 dollars would be for our membership and it will become an annual \$500 dollar fee. We would have to discuss at a later date how to allocate our funds to send a graduate student to the conferences that the NAGPS holds. Cera Fisher and Bill Craven offered their support in joining this organization.
  2. Senator Benevento motioned and the motion passed.
- b. Vice President – Erin Eighan
  - i. Student Life Committee – Victoria Blodgett (Assistant Dean) and Kay Kimball Gruder (Graduate Career Counselor) has agreed to attend these meetings
  - ii. Issues Forum – Would like for all questions and comments to be brought forth during the issues forum at the end of meeting to allow for fluidity
- c. Treasurer – Michael Ambroselli
  - i. GSS Financial Statement
  - ii. Status of Short Term Loan Fund – Some concern over the Short Term Loan Fund was brought up about whether our side fund of \$50,000 can deplete. President Charrette clarified that the fund will stay at \$50,000 and will continue to be replenished to that amount.
- d. Communications Director – Danielle Wong
  - i. Attendance

- ii. Committee Report Form – Director Wong presented the form for graduate students who are graduate representatives on any external committees. Executive members who hold committee meetings should also be filling out these forms.
- iii. Committees
- iv. Public Relations Committee
- e. Activities Director – Nicole Flaig
  - i. Happy Hour Wrap Up – We had just enough food and stayed within budget. We had a great turnout and will be hosting more at the Nathan Hale. They have evening activities with Karoke/bring your own pint.
  - ii. Halloween Party – Physics is no longer holding its annual Halloween party so we will be hosting it. We are working hard to make this a decent event.
  - iii. Activities Committee
- f. Parliamentarian – Pat Butler
  - i. Procedures Committee – The committee is in charge of overseeing elections that happen, reviewing the interpretation of constitution and bylaws and also we are charged with the apportionment of the senate
- g. BOT Graduate Representative – Jeremy Jelliffe
  - i. Report – We have had a couple meetings the GEU came to the board to petition them to basically ramp up negotiations – it went well with showing support. The board members interested. I have been discussing about how important research grants are. The committee does have its own student life committee and other trustee committees. I will be getting involved in some of these committees. If you have any questions you can email or contact me. My office is in SU 217.

**VIII. External Committee Reports**

- a. Graduate Faculty Council – Pat Butler
  - i. Two main points were made in the meeting. One was about the nature of graduate student housing on campus – Pamela Shapani spoke in lieu of John Armstrong. She mentioned how graduate students are most capable of living off campus. They have provided the space in the past but it was shown that grad students were not taking advantage of the space – only half the recently 52 seats

were actually utilized. It was found that most grads do not want to live on campus because of the environment. She would be open on creating a real study on the availability/student responses to graduate student housing. Moving forward we can figure out how to create a study.

**IX. Issues Forum**

- a. Housing - Thomas Briggs
  - i. They keep going back and forth on whether there is housing or no housing for graduate students. We just need to have some clarity or a word about what is going to happen. Senator Jeff Wong brought up a concern that having no housing for graduate students is especially problematic for international students. They are not familiar with the area. There is only one place international students can live if they don't have a car. It is important if this is going to happen that the bus schedule is changed. Cera Fisher brought up that the union is going to be requesting action for the bus schedule. President Charrette mentioned that part of the reason why this is happening is because of Next GenCT. The university is increasing the enrollment for undergraduate students without having the necessary housing.
- b. Union - Cera Fisher
  - i. Tomorrow at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the graduate school we will be handing out t-shirts for a 5:30pm rally in front of the gubernatorial debate. BOT Rep. Jelliffe asked what the point of coming in mass to the gubernatorial debate. It is an opportunity to become visible. The question of whether or not the union was supporting/endorsing a particular candidate was posed. Senator Gutierrez mentioned yes, that the union is supporting Governor Malloy in favor of Tom Foley.
- c. Diversity and Sexual Assault on Campus – Ian Gutierrez
  - i. Senator Gutierrez is looking for people to discuss this issue on campus. He is interested in the possibility of creating a student task force to address these problems. There was some confusion on the committees and task forces that have been created with the university.

- ii. <http://today.uconn.edu/blog/2014/09/its-on-us-to-eliminate-sexual-assault-harassment/>

**X. Adjournment 9:17pm**



**GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE**  
*University of Connecticut*

**Minutes**  
1 October 2014

**Attendance:**

Bylaw XIII: GSS Graduate Community Service Award

1. Name
  - a. The name of the award shall be "The GSS Graduate Community Service Award."
2. Purpose
  - a. The GSS shall institute the annual awarding of the GSS Graduate Community Service Award to honor a graduate student who, through his or her exemplary service, has made a significant contribution to intellectual, cultural, and professional capital of the graduate student community at the University of Connecticut.
3. Eligibility
  - a. Eligible award candidates must:
    - i. Be enrolled in a graduate-degree granting program at the University.
    - ii. Be in good academic standing.
    - iii. Have completed at least one full year of study at the University at the time of awarding.
  - b. Individuals ineligible to receive the award shall include:
    - i. Current executive officers of the GSS.
    - ii. Current Service Award Committee members.
    - iii. The Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees.
    - iv. Past award recipients.
  - c. Preference for the award shall be given to:
    - i. Nominees whose service to the graduate student community was primarily uncompensated and/or voluntary in nature.
    - ii. Nominees who are expected to receive their terminal degree within one year following the granting of the award.
4. Service Award Committee
  - a. Each year, the GSS shall form the Service Award Committee (hereafter, "the award committee") to certify nominations and award the nominee who has demonstrated the most significant contribution to the graduate student community over the course of his or her graduate career at the University among those nominated.
  - b. Membership
    - i. The award committee shall consist of five voting members.
    - ii. The Communications Director shall serve as the chair of the award committee.
    - iii. All committee members, including the chair, must represent different constituencies.
    - iv. All other GSS officers shall not be members of the award committee.
    - v. All other graduate students may be members of the award committee.
    - vi. All committee members shall be appointed by the Senate.
    - vii. Nominations for award committee membership shall be open at the beginning of the first spring semester meeting of the GSS.
5. Nominations
  - a. Nominations for the GSS Service Award shall open March 1st and close March 31st. The Communications Director shall announce this fact via the graduate student listserv, the faculty/staff daily digest, and the GSS website.
  - b. Nominations may be submitted by graduate students, faculty, or staff of the University.
  - c. Nominations shall be submitted to the Communications Director.



- d. The award committee shall determine the method and procedure for accepting nominations.
- e. Self-nominations shall not be considered by the award committee.
6. Voting
  - a. The award committee shall meet to select the recipient of the GSS Service Award within one week after nominations close.
  - b. The award committee shall select the recipient of the GSS Service Award from among those nominated by a majority vote of the committee.
  - c. The award committee may, in the absence of a meritorious nominee, elect to suspend granting of the award for that year by a majority vote.
7. Presentation of Award
  - a. The Vice President shall notify the awardee and invite him or her to the next meeting of the senate.
  - b. At the next meeting of the Senate, the awardee shall receive a certificate of award and \$500 as a token of the Senate's appreciation for his or her service.
  - c. The awardee shall be given the opportunity to address the Senate.

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  - b. The award committee shall select the recipient of the GSS Service Award from among those nominated by a ~~four~~ majority vote of the committee.
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**Instructions:** Please fill out and email this form within 7 days of your committee meeting to [danielle.wong@uconn.edu](mailto:danielle.wong@uconn.edu) with the subject header “Committee Report Form” and the date of the next GSS meeting at which it will be presented (i.e., “Committee Report Form 11-7-12”). To fill out the form, click on the editable fields and enter the specified information.

**Official Committee Name**

**Date**

<i>Chair:</i>	Name	<i>Representative:</i>	Name
	UConn Affiliation		UConn Affiliation
	Email Address		Email Address

<i>Website:</i>	URL Address	<i>Committee Type:</i>	GSS
	Internal/Standing		

**Overview of Report**

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Were the details of the meeting confidential?

Was anything of relevance to graduate students?

- List, in brief, the major issues/topics of relevance to graduate students addressed in the meeting
- This should be used as a “Quick Glance” reference for Senators
- The detailed report will be given below

**Detailed Report**

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Please report in full on the issues relevant to graduate students. The detailed report should be presented in paragraph form with topic heads for each paragraph. See example below.

EXAMPLE SUBJECT HEADING

This is a description of the subject at issue. I might include any of the following information in this paragraph: context for the issue, explanation for the committee's decision on the issue, rationale for that decision, an action plan for the committee, etc.

**Action Items for Senate**

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- List any action items that you would like to present to the Senate or another Committee
- Include any points for discussion to be raised during the Issues Forum
- Ask for Senate feedback on particular issues

**Attachments\***

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Do you have any attachments? Should they be displayed during your report?

*\* Please only include an attachment if the document is not (or will not become) available publically elsewhere AND if you cannot excerpt from it to include in your detailed report AND if it is a necessary accompaniment to your detailed report. Attach it as a .doc file (if possible) separately.*

**Philosophy GSA Special Allocation Request**

*Organization* Philosophy Graduate Student Association  
*Event* 1<sup>st</sup> Annual UConn Philosophy Graduate Conference  
*Proposed Date* 11/08/14  
*Contact Person(s)* Madiha Hamdi  
*Date Submitted* 09/16/14  
*Exec. Approval* Unanimous  
*Presented to Senate* 10/01/14

**Proposed Budget**

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Outside Revenues</b>	<b>Exec Rec.</b>
624 Lodging	Keynote speaker	\$300.00		\$300.00
624 Travel	Keynote speaker	\$200.00		\$200.00
620 Refreshments	Catering	\$150.00		\$150.00
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>\$650.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>

**Summary**

This special allocation request was presented to the GSS Executive Committee by Treasurer Ambroselli. The unanimous recommendation of the Executive Committee is that the Graduate Student Senate allocate \$650.00 to the Philosophy Graduate Student Association, for their event "1st Annual UConn Philosophy Graduate Conference".