

I. Call to Order 7:05

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Guest Speaker Suzanne Onorato – Director of Student Health Services Suzanne Onorato

came to talk to GSS about graduate student health concerns, and also find talk about how graduate students use SHS, and changes they may want to make. There are 442 graduate students on the uconn-provided insurance, approximately 550 seen in the infirmary, and 181 in counseling and mental health services. SHS doesn't have a good sense for how graduates utilize wellness and prevention services but they are working with the graduate school to measure what graduate students want for wellness and prevention. When they have offered services no one came, so they are trying to assess what students actually want. They will be sending a wellness survey to address graduate student issues. The data is anonymous.

Suzanne says she is very focused on wellness and prevention so they want to intervene in issues of stress and anxiety before it becomes as serious problems. Questions?

a. **Cera Fisher** – Does student health services offer pre-natal care or plan to?

i. **On a committee right now examining issues for pregnant and new parents.**

They offer pre-natal care as primary care but not as a specialty.

ii. **Cera** said she uses SHS as primary care and loves it, but has heard that some students didn't feel that SHS offered all the services they needed, like pre-natal or pediatric care.

1. SHS doesn't provide pediatric care, but graduate students do tend to get lost and want to address as many as possible. They need to decide what will be offered and do it well.

b. **Monique Golden** – She works with a lot of graduate students as an executive board member in the union. They get a lot of reports of problems with getting in to see someone as CMS, as well as the possibility of being the TA of someone working the phones/desk at the CMS. Is there a plan to expand staff, and create spaces to facilitate trust?

i. They are hiring new people including a psychiatrist and a case manager to help people find resources in the community.

ii. They are also trying to change the treatment model. One way is to provide immediate walk-in appointments. They have triage for urgent cases. There is a

brief intervention model where you don't get a full appointment but someone is interacting with you and may be able to connect you to resources.

- c. One suggestion was to add some information to our mandatory trainings so people know what is available to them.
 - i. Suzanne reports they would like to have people come and speak, may use social media. They want to talk to graduate students and find out where they would want to receive the information. Maybe during trainings would be an option.
- d. Deepthi – a suggestion for getting information to graduate students is send them to the program coordinators of each department.
- e. One senator asked if Suzanne could talk more about protections provided by FERPA? Has been told in the past the public institutions like UCONN that there is more risk to privacy, particular given the current legislation allowing ISP to sell data.
 - i. As FERPA goes, not even campus physicians can see CMS records without patient consent. Student information is safe.
- f. Monique – what do you see as your role in shaping culture to consider the academic self and the health/wellness self?
 - i. SHS is interested in questions like, What is the difference between high expectations vs. hazing, and what rights do graduate students have when departments are so decentralized? It is a lot about education and communication. They have had conversations at the faculty senate about how their styles impact graduate students.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- a. GSS meeting minutes, 8, March, 2017 (*to be approved by Senate*) – Motion by Cera Fisher, second by Mariele Smith.
- b. GSS Executive meeting minutes, 30 March 2017 (*to be approved by Senate*) – Motion by Mariele Smith, second by Cera Fisher.

V. Unfinished Business

VI. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President – Tony Patelunas
 - i. Committee reports

1. The adobe creative suite may be cutting the personal student licenses because adobe is being difficult. Adobe will not renegotiate the contract based on usage. Adobe wanted to increase the price by 35%. This is not seen as a good use of student fees, but it is used mostly by graduate students and arts students. They have 60 days to continue to negotiate but are also looking for comparable software.
- ii. President's Fee Committee – Tony is sitting on this committee. They talked about the graduate student GUF fee, which should not be changing. They also talked about the compliance fee and course fees.
- iii. Branch campus graduate students – Students from Stamford (who are not in our fee-paying constituency). They have an active student organization and want to be connected with GSS in some way. We are considering a non-voting ex-officio seat. They don't have another way to access decision making in the administration.
 1. Regional campuses need better communications with GSS.
- b. Vice President – Matthew Parent
 - i. Student life committee/survey – On hold for now.
 - ii. Tier-II trainings – Matthew approached the director of campus activities about some people suggesting we should have to do training. Matthew is trying to get it in writing.
 - iii. University Senate – Matt spoke about graduate student parking in Hartford, because instructors will now have to pay for two passes. Scott Jordan assured Matt he is looking into this as a problem.
 1. Also discussed the SET surveys. They are looking into making SETs for graduate students applicable only to things the students have control over.
 2. External grants no longer have to pay graduate student tuition
 - iv. Executive committee elections 2017-18 – Please start submitting nominations.
- c. Treasurer – Harshul Khanna

- i. Reimbursements – These are being done. The person in the SABO office is a little behind.
 - ii. Quarterly bill – The QB has been paid up until December 2016.
 - iii. Finance report – The committee has been going through the budgets for the Tier-IIs and making recommendations that will go out to the groups before the weekend. After that meeting times will be scheduled with each group.
 - iv. If anyone has a GSS KFS number, **DO NOT USE IT**. All expenses must be approved by GSS treasurer.
 - d. Communications Director – Jordan Rees
 - i. Usage policy for listserv – There will be a meeting before the next GSS meeting.
 - ii. Promotional items – They are here and we will bring them to the next meeting.
 - iii. Coffee Hour with Ross – We have one on Friday, and another on the 26th. Please stop by!
 - e. Activities Director – Bahareh Deljoo
 - i. Visa seminar – This event went really well and we sent out information and recordings to the listserv for anyone who was not able to attend.
 - ii. Grad Appreciation Week – GSS is co-sponsoring the self-care event tomorrow. Please go!
 - iii. End of year BBQ – Last year we had a post-exam BBQ. There is a budget situation but there will be a BBQ. Not sure about the details but it will be behind the IT building. We will probably have a vendor for BBQ, ice cream and snacks.
 - iv. Google drive – Bahar is going to put all the information for the Activities Director onto a google drive, which will make the job easier for ADs in the future.
 - f. Parliamentarian
 - i. VOID
- VII. New Business**
- a. By-law amendment for travel reimbursements
 - i. Went through the by-law edits (see attached).

- ii. What are the requirements for serving on the e-board and on another group's board? The president, treasurer, parliamentarian and Activities Director cannot hold an executive role in a tier-II group.
- iii. Tom – how does the travel award by-law apply to people who are graduating?
 - 1. You can use your travel money early and then file it at the end of your tenure but before you graduate.
 - 2. Motion to approve the by-law amendment by Mariele Smith, second by Cera Fisher. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Late-fee information from Bursar
 - i. Tony followed up to make sure this would not apply to library fees or services charges.
- c. Financial Policies and Procedure changes (see proposed changes attached)
- d. Commencement tickets – they have moved commencement to Jorgenson. There was concern that only 6 people could go. They said the mezzanine was basically empty. They are recommending if people will go and get their tickets, they can take them to GSS and we can give out extras.
 - i. Tom – can GSS help organize commencement?
- e. Tier-II Budgets
- f. Visa Compliance Stance (see attached).
 - i. Cera asked if we can use stronger verbage?
 - 1. Tom – we can. Just need to discuss.
 - a. Changed “encourage” to urge”
 - b. Motion to approve by Tom Briggs, second by Harshul, approved by voice vote unanimously.
- g. Executive Committee Nominations
 - i. Nominate for Ngoc Chau Vy communications director – nomination accepted
 - ii. Alexis Herrin for AD - nomination accepted
 - iii. Harshul for treasurer - nomination accepted
 - iv. Matt for VP – nomination accepted
 - v. Kevin Boyd for parliamentarian – acceptance deferred.
 - vi. Deepthi for president – acceptance deferred.
 - vii. Thomas Reed – VP – acceptance deferred.

- viii. Tom Briggs for president – nomination declined.
- ix. Ruth Yuste for VP – acceptance deferred.
- h. TSA Special Allocation – Mariel motions to pass, second from Tom Briggs; passed by voice vote unanimously.
- i. Tarang Special Allocation – Mariel motions to pass, seconded; passed unanimously by voice vote.

VIII. Issues Forum

- a. ABD Visa status – Ruth Yuste - Her constituency has brought up that if international students want to continue student status while ABD but live outside of the state, they have to pay \$7000 per semester for 3 credits per semester, as opposed to US citizens who pay a \$400 fee. The amount of money is an anecdote but the person was just quoted this by the administration. Can GSS look into this? The Union can't because it isn't related to work. A person in her department was charged \$7000. Another person asked the same information and was quoted \$7000 too.

IX. Adjournment 9:20.