**Thursday, January 18th, 2018**

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

**Meeting began 4:20 pm, GSS Office**

**I. President**

1. Campus Wide Graduate Research Symposium
   1. The symposium is currently at risk for cancellation due to the lack of submissions for presentations.
   2. The organizing committee believes it may have been due to the timing of the call for submissions announcement being made at a time which coincided with the start of the holidays.
   3. The submission deadline has been extended and accordingly, the date for the date has also been moved to later in the semester.
   4. Cancellation will only happen if there is still an insufficient number of submissions after the deadline extension.
2. Guest speaker for the next GSS meeting will be the newly appointed Provost who is very excited to come speak to us.
3. Short term loans – Bursar
   1. The bursar said they are working on getting the forms for short term loans online.
   2. Kimberly Miller from the Business Office is very supportive of getting financial forms online to streamline and expedite the process.
4. Metanoia for the Spring semester
   1. The topic is “The Environment”.
   2. Rather than having it take place on a single day, the organizing committee has decided to make it occur over a period of several days.
   3. The metanoia committee meeting needs a representative from the GSS e-board. Deepthi will send out an email when the meeting is to see which one of us can attend.
5. Meeting for CT State Apportionment for higher education
   1. There was a meeting to review higher education policy and apportionment at Hartford City/Town Hall in December.
   2. Coming up in February, there will be another meeting, for which we will need to send representatives. We will ask members of the Government Relations committee to see if they would be willing to volunteer.
6. Dean Holsinger review committee
   1. Dean Holsinger is on his 5th year, which means it’s time for his periodical review.
   2. The review committee asked for a representative from the graduate student body and Deepthi has volunteered as she has worked with Kent on numerous occasions over the past couple of years.
7. GSS President Office Hour

Deepthi is not sure whether to continue these office hours since no one came to the ones she held last semester.

1. Administrative Assistant Search
   1. We have received five applications at this time.
   2. Deepthi is working on a rubric which she will send to us for review.
2. Student Fee Committee Meeting
   1. The meeting will take place 5-6 pm on Tuesday 1/23/18.
   2. Based on availability, Alexis, Justin, Vignesh and Deepthi will go.
   3. It seems like there may be some changes or plans to be announced so we will see what’s going on.
3. Proposal for GSS Travel Award
   1. The Emerging Scholars Travel Initiative was “put on the back burner” (read: killed) after it was sent to the higher-ups of the administration, most likely due to the budget cut crisis that happened in late fall.
   2. As a result, Deepthi is proposing that GSS start a travel fund that would allow for grad students of any year or program to apply, and if awarded, to use for conference travel.
   3. Disagreements ensued amongst the GSS Executive Officers regarding whether or not, and how this should/would be implemented.
   4. We are going to raise the question to the Senate on whether they would like us to further investigate how we can set up a GSS sponsored travel fund, which would not be guaranteed to be annually renewing. If the Senate is in favor, we will put together a plan as best we can to address concerns and how to determine a fair and *relatively* easy way to proceed with it.
4. Representative from MCB
   1. Deepthi spoke with a representative from MCB who has an idea to create an app to anonymously report sexual harassment.
   2. There are many questions that remain regarding what is involved and who/which offices would need to review and approve of this. We understand this and are only bringing it up to start the conversation.
   3. Deepthi will give us more details after further conversation with this unnamed representative.
5. Nominations for new Executive Officers
   1. We will be taking nominations for new e-board officers during the upcoming meeting and keep nominations open until the penultimate meeting, during which time the Senate will vote on the new Executive Board
   2. We will make an announcement during the upcoming Senate meeting to start the process and clarify qualifications.
6. Spring Graduate Orientation
   1. A few of us came to sit at an information booth during the Spring Graduate Orientation.
   2. It had decent turn-out and it’s good that a spring graduate orientation is a thing now.

**II. Treasurer**

1. The due date to submit past due reimbursements is approaching and will be met on January 31st. We will make one final reminder announcement about this during the next Senate meeting.
2. At this time, Justin has only received 1/3 of the expected budgets from Tier II organizations funded by GSS. In the next week, we will send out a reminder to the Tier II executives and senators as well the GBA to make sure they get their budget requests submitted in time.
3. Special allocation request from the Graduate Business Association
   1. Simplified, the request is for a multi-cultural cuisine event.
   2. The amount requested works out to be $7.33/person.
   3. Deepthi approves to bring this to a Senate with a stipulation that a representative of GBA must call in during the Senate meeting to defend their case.
   4. Everyone else voted in favor of the approval with the stipulation as well.

**III. Vice President**

1. Vignesh will call for a meeting of the Student Life Committee soon.
2. He is planning on getting refreshments for this meeting.

**IV. Activities Director**

1. Co-event with Grad School for Spring Orientation
   1. The event was poppin! Way more people came than we anticipated. We had over 150 people show up.
   2. Fortunately, food only ran out during the final half hour of the event, demonstrating the generous portions provided by Huskies Tavern.
2. Grad Formal
   1. The finalized date for this is Friday April 6th.
   2. The DJ has been booked.
   3. We will allow tickets to be purchased for those who want to bring a plus-one for dinner.
3. Upcoming Spring Happy Hours
   1. Dan, our contact at Huskies Tavern, proposed that a possible theme for the next GSS happy hour could be a biergarden. Since GSS can’t pay for alcohol, Dan could offer tickets for a tasting flight. And of course, we would cover the cost of apps.
   2. There was a request to serve different apps next time. Mozz sticks anyone? We’ll see what else Dan can offer.
   3. Chau proposed a GSS sponsored singles mixer that could take place around Valentines Day. To ensure it isn’t exclusionary, we’ll just call it a Mixer. The idea got very approving feedback from the E-Board.

**V. Communications Director**

1. Proposal to increase the travel stipend of Communications Director to the same as the Activities Director as we do a similar amount of work. The E-Board agrees with this notion and will bring it to the Senate.
2. Service Awards
   1. It so happens that the Communication Director is also the named chair of the Graduate Community Service Award Committee. Chau will call for volunteers for the remaining four members of this committee in the upcoming Senate meeting.
   2. GSS can also award up to $250 to graduate students who should be recognized for outstanding voluntary service to the Senate. The total amount awarded shall not exceed $750 per semester.
3. GSS promotional items
   1. Alexis will send Chau the link to the website and contact that she used to order the popular picnic mats.
   2. After the previous tabling session at the Spring Orientation, it became very clear that GSS will need to get a tablecloth with the UConn GSS logo for better aesthetics and professionalism during future tabling events.
   3. Suggested promotional items to order for this year are pens and (non-plastic) mugs. Chau can also take suggestions from the Senate.

**VI. Parliamentarian**

1. Chau will take over Graham’s place as representative to the Graduate Faculty Council on Wednesday afternoons as he has teaching at this time.

**Meeting adjourned – 6:05 pm**