**Wednesday, February 21st, 2018**

**I. Call to Order – 7:18 pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators**

**III. Guest Speaker: Karen Bresciano**

1. Karen is our new Assistant Dean and working hard to make our lives easier.
2. April 2-6th is Graduate Student Appreciation Week. One highlight of the events that week is the 3 Minute Thesis competition. If you are interested in participating in the competition, please check out the website.
3. Comment from Carmen Britton – I would like to encourage you to allow everyone who applies to participate. This will depend, of course, on the number of people who apply.

**IV. Presentations from Candidates for Board of Trustees Graduate Reps**

1. Adam Kuegler
2. Glenn Holmes
3. Sam Surrowitz (video message)

**V. Approval of Minutes**

1. Senate meeting minutes from January 24th, 2017
2. Executive meeting minutes from February 13th, 2017

Initial motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin Boyd and seconded by Bahareh Deljoo. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Senate.

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

1. President – Deepthi Varghese
	1. Dean Holsinger review is ongoing and almost done. There was a survey sent out to the student body as part of this.
	2. Admin assistant search - We have hired Elizabeth Asal as our new AA. Her office hours are posted on the GSS website.
	3. SASFAC meeting - We defended our budget to the SASFA committee a couple weeks back. It seemed to go well but we will update you once we hear back on the final approved numbers.
	4. Appropriations meeting – Graham and I presented our case to the state’s appropriations committee to ensure funding for UConn at Storrs do not get reduced.
	5. Health insurance meeting – This meeting is to cover any grad student that aren’t GAs, RAs, or TAs so that they have an option for insurance offered by the school. Some additional benefits were negotiated with the insurance company without an increase in cost for them.
	6. Senator At Large positions – If you are interested in running for the Senator at Large position, please email Deepthi to put your name on the ballot that will be happening in the next few weeks.
2. Vice President – Vignesh Vasu
	1. Student life committee meeting will be happening soon. The announcement for that will be made via the GSS email listserv.
	2. Tithi has volunteered to sit on the search committee for the Director of Fellowships, Outreach and Programming.
	3. We are opening nominations for the new Executive Committee. Only Chau nominated herself for Communications for next year.
3. Treasurer – Justin Fang
	1. Tier II Budgets for 2018-2019 are currently under review. By the next meeting we should have a final proposed budget for all organizations as well as GSS.
	2. Updates on reimbursements – These are up to date and any problem children have been contacted and were informed on how to proceed.
	3. SASFAC presentation went well. Same as what Deepthi had to say.
	4. Student fee review committee – Scott Jordan mentioned to us that the student fees are not expected to change.
	5. Special allocations will be presented later in the New Business segment.
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy
	1. The announcement for the GSS Community Service Award nominations will be made in the coming weeks. We just need one more student to be on the award committee.
	2. We are looking at potential promotional items. A lot of feedback was received and there seems to be an overwhelming request for water bottles and notebooks. Others will probably include pens and maybe one other item.
5. Activities Director – Alexis Ernst
	1. GSS happy hour
		1. The next one will be on April 4th at Huskies Tavern. This happens to fall during the Graduate Student Appreciation Week.
		2. Comment from Tony P. – Big fan of Happy Hour being at Huskies Tavern instead of Huskies Bar.
	2. Grad Formal
		1. The date for Grad Formal is Friday, April 6th in the Rome Commons Ballroom.
		2. The theme is International Formal Attire.
		3. We will open dinner to non-students for a fee.
		4. Keep a lookout for the announcement email.
6. Parliamentarian – Graham O’Toole
	1. Policies and procedures committee – We met to go over the Constitution. We are thinking about adding a page to clearly define certain terminology.
	2. We are going to meet to go over By-Laws. If you are interested, please send Graham an email.

**VII. New Business**

1. GAA special allocation

Motion to approve was started by Bahareh Deljoo and seconded by Dan \_\_. Motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. SASP special allocation

Motion to approve was started by Maria Avitia and seconded by Amy Fehr. Motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. GSAC special allocation

Due to the limitation imposed by the Business Office to only reimburse prizes which are open to all students, the amount requested for gifts must be switched to prizes. With the stipulation of this switch, Kevin Boyd motioned to approve this special allocation. Jennifer Caffyn made the second. The motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. ASI special allocation

Motion to approve was started by Tithi BAsu Mallik and seconded by Cristian Gogu. Motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. ICOU special allocation

Motion to approve was started by Erin Curry and seconded by Bahareh. Motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. AGES special allocation

Motion to approve was started by Bahared and seconded by Sabine Laszakovits. Motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

1. Jennifer Caffyn will be serving as our representative to the Transportation/Parking Committee with the University in March. If you have any concerns that you would like Jen to bring to the committee, please let her know.

**IX. Issues Forum**

1. Question from Amy Fehr – Has attendance been okay? Yes, we verify numbers to check that quorum is met at the start of every meeting.
2. Question from Gyuho – Does Gyuho have to resign as Senator At Large? No, as long as he is voted in as SAL again as this is a one year role and those elections are coming up.
3. Question from Maria – Can prices be reduced for University catering? We would love for this to be possible, but unfortunately, they have a monopoly so there’s no way to make them reduce prices.
4. Question from Mohammed – Can we ask the University to change this? Same answer as C.
5. Question from Cristian about budgets – They will be sent as soon as they become available.
6. Question from Carmen Britton – 12 credit min. (Did not get these last few comments.)

**X. Adjournment**