**Wednesday, March 28th, 2018**

**I. Call to Order – 7:13 PM**

**II. Recognition of Senators** – Quorum was made at 22 senators.

**III. Guest Speakers –** No guest speakers for this meeting.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

1. Senate meeting minutes from February 24th, 2018
2. Executive meeting minutes from March 26th, 2018

Minor corrections to spelling were made. Shannon Mooney motioned to approve the minutes. Daniel Pfeifer seconded the motion. The Senate approved the minutes unanimously.

**V. Unfinished Business** – There were none.

**VI. Executive Committee Reports**

1. President – Deepthi Varghese
   1. Short-term loans update – The application for STLs is now online and accessible on the GSS website. The extension application is still in paper form, but will be moved to the online form in the near future.
   2. Dean Holsinger review committee – This has concluded and he has been reappointed as the Dean of the Grad School.
   3. Visa compliance fee – Deepthi is still working towards removing, or at the very least, reducing this for non-GA/RA/TAs.
   4. Proposal for GSS travel awards – This will not work out based on the reimbursement requirements determined by the University Business Office.
   5. Proposed fee increase – For the FY 18-19, it has been confirmed directly from the CFO that there will be no fee increase. Any proposed increase will begin the following year.
   6. Grad appreciation week is next week. There are many events happening that are fun, beneficial and offer complimentary refreshments. Examples include the Happy Hour, Grad Formal, Stuff-a-Husky. Here, Tithi put in a plug for the 3 Minute Thesis competition where many grad students from diverse departments will be presenting their work.
2. Vice President – Vignesh Vasu
   1. Student Life committee
      1. There was a meeting earlier this month. About 20 people attended.
      2. The major concerns involved transportation, specifically parking and putting in a walk light button on the other side of the N Eagleville x Discovery Rd cross.
   2. Presentation of travel experience
      1. Last week, Vignesh attended the 255th National Convention of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans, LA.
      2. There he presented his research and shared with researchers from universities, government laboratories and industries both in the national and international community, some of the work that was done here at UConn in the field of Polymer Science.
      3. He shared with the Senate information he learned regarding the conference’s theme “Food, Water and Energy”, specifically more sustainable ways to approach the production of these and how in many ways, this overlapped with UConn’s Metanoia theme for this semester (The Environment).
3. Treasurer – Justin Fang
   1. Budget for 2018-2019
      1. Appeals for individual Tier II budgets have been completed.
      2. A compiled spreadsheet of these will be sent out to the Senate for review prior to the next meeting and so that we can vote on it in the final meeting of the semester.
   2. Quarterly bill – Justin will present and ask for a vote on this in the New Business segment of the meeting.
   3. Special allocation for Tarang – A representative from Tarang will present and ask for a vote on this in the New Business segment of the meeting.
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy
   1. Service award and other award nominations
      1. The GSS Graduate Community Service Award is intended to recognize a grad student who has made exceptional contribution(s) to the UConn graduate community. The announcement for nominations has been made on Soapbox and via the GSS listserv. The nomination period will close on Sunday, April 8th. According to our governing docs (Constitution or By-Laws) the Award Committee will make the final decision on who receives this award, and we will conclude our deliberation by April 10th.
      2. The recipient of this award will be announced during the final GSS meeting on April 11th.
      3. As for the GSS Service Awards ($750 for each semester, totaling $1500 for the year), the Executive Committee has nominated Jen Caffyn, Tom Briggs, Ruth Yuste Alonso, Tony Patelunas and Andrew Meguerdichian for their service.
      4. Nominations for this award were opened to the Senate. No additional nominations were made during the meeting and the Senate seemed to agree on the E-Board nominees.
      5. The E-Board also proposed that each recipient should receive and equal amount to simplify the division of the award. The Senate appeared in agreement as well.
      6. Voting on the recipients of this award will take place during the final GSS meeting.
   2. GSS promotional items
      1. The promotional items that will be ordered include a stainless steel water bottle, a tote bag, a dual-purpose pen/highlighter and a small spiral notebook.
      2. Due to the cost of the order being >$1000, Chau must procure 3 quotes from different UConn-approved vendors before an order can be placed.
      3. We hope to have the order placed before the next Senate meeting.
   3. GFC meeting report
      1. There was discussion at the GFC regarding which organization and/or departments have the authority to make changes to the different sections of the Graduate Handbook.
      2. It was proposed that the GFC create a set of by-laws to guide what kind of friendly amendments to the Graduate Handbook/policies are allowed without a formal voting process during GFC meetings. These would be intended to comprise of minor grammatical or formatting changes and not policy-related changes. There was discourse and disagreement on this proposal.
      3. American Sign Language was added as an approved “Foreign Language” for programs that require one.
5. Activities Director – Alexis Ernst
   1. Grad Formal
      1. It will be taking place next Friday. There will be a dinner, dance and cash bar.
      2. Those of you who have registered, you will be contacted next week to come pick up your ticket. The email will include the times and dates for pickup so stay tuned.
      3. You will need to bring $26 cash to pick up tickets for guests if you are brining one.
   2. GSS Happy Hours – The next one, which we are co-sponsoring with the Grad School, will be held next week on Wednesday April 4th at Huskies Tavern.
6. Parliamentarian – Graham O’Toole
   1. GSS Constitution – Still working out some final details but should be ready for a review and vote for the next meeting.
   2. We will not get to revising the By-Laws during this semester, but this would become a top priority for the Parliamentarian-elect.

**VII. New Business**

1. Tarang Special Allocation
   1. Tarang put in a request for an additional $1000 for refreshments for their upcoming Holi event.
   2. Some questions were asked about the remaining Special Allocation budget as well as how much money was already allotted to Tarang for this event.

The motion to approve this Special Allocation request was made Jennifer Caffyn and seconded by Amy Fehr. The request was approved unanimously by the Senate.

1. Quarterly Bill
   1. Justin presented the quarterly bill using Invoice 6649628, which included a breakdown of the charges.
   2. The amount of funds requested from the Senate, which equaled the total on the bill was $3,529.57.

Joseph Skaleski motioned to approve the funding request to pay the quarterly bill. Cristian Gogu seconded the motion. The Senate unanimously approved the motion.

1. Elections for the New Executive committee
   1. Nominees are listed below following the position for which they were nominated.
   2. Winners of the election are bolded and underlined. Congratulations to the new GSS Executive Committee of the 2018-19 schoolyear!
2. President – **Justin Fang**
3. Vice President – **Erin Curry**; Manish Goyal; Andrew Meguerdichian
4. Treasurer – **Kevin Boyd**
5. Communications Director – **Ngoc Chau Vy**; Manish Goyal
6. Parliamentarian – Gabrielle Corso; **Andrew Meguerdichian**
7. Activities Director – **Jennifer Caffyn**

**VIII. Committee Reports**

1. Metanoia Committee
   1. Presented by Jennifer Caffyn
   2. The theme for this semester is “The Environment”. Events can be found at the following website: <https://theenvironment.uconn.edu/>
2. Transportation Committee
   1. Also presented by Jennifer Caffyn
   2. Issues that Jen has brought up and other Senators would like to bring up:
      1. Get grad parking to be closer to campus as we work weird hours.
      2. Sidewalks and crosswalk lights
      3. Handicap transportation
      4. Late night shuttle service
      5. Bike sharing
      6. Red Line availability in summer?
   3. Contact jennifer.caffyn@uconn.edu for questions and concerns

**IX. Issues Forum**

1. The GEU is currently in negotiations with the University. Please support them by joining in on sit-ins, petitions or elections that are required to create impact or move actions forward.
2. The motion to extend meeting by 10 minutes was started by Sabine Laszakovits and seconded by Cristian Gogu. The Senate approved to extend the meeting by a majority vote.
3. Tithi had issues with tax documents as she received someone else’s paperwork. Just be aware that our personal info may be compromised if tax documents are being improperly distributed by the University.

**X. Adjournment – 9:09 pm Jen**