**Wednesday, April 11th, 2018**

**I. Call to Order – 7:05 pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators –** Quorum was made with 23 Senators.

**III. Guest Speaker: Dean Kent Holsinger**

1. Question from Cristian Gogu – For what duration of time can we expect the same financial commitments to graduate education in terms of the fellowships and scholarships from the Administration? Each school and college, including the Graduate School were asked to propose how they would handle a 3% budget cut. Each group has allocated and spread that out differently. There are not, to the Dean’s knowledge, cuts to support for current students. If anything, there may be a reduction to admission of incoming students.
2. Question from Sam Surowitz – In terms of revenue generation, has the Graduate School considered setting up Graduate Certificate programs and aggressively recruit students for these programs? Yes, these have been ongoing and under consideration. There are also a few “entrepreneurial” Masters programs that serve as stepping stones for students to pursue further degrees or professional school.
3. Comment from Carmen Britton – Congratulations on the reappointment and thank you for your responsiveness over the years.
4. Question from Daniel Pfeifer – What are the conversions that are being had in terms of keeping the University’s values in terms of promoting scholarship while moving to a more entrepreneurship
5. Question from Amy Fehr – The Humanities is also good for Connecticut. Funding for GAships often follows majors,
6. Question from Marjorie – Is the Grad School considering holding the Converge conference again?
7. Question from Sam Surowitz – Would the University be interested in partnering with more companies who would sponsor and hire international students post-graduation?

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

1. Senate meeting minutes from March 28th, 2018
2. Executive meeting minutes from April 9th, 2018

Motion to approve both sets of minutes was started by Cristian Gogu and seconded by Lorraine Apuzzo. Sam Surowitz abstained from voting. Minutes were approved by a majority vote of the Senate.

**V. Unfinished Business –** None to report.

**VI. Executive Committee Reports**

1. President & President Elect – Deepthi Varghese & Justin Fang
   1. Short-term loans update – Moved online
   2. Visa compliance fee – We are asking for greater transparency in how the money is being spent. Also, while the fee cannot be removed, we want to work towards reducing it.
   3. Transportation update – North Eagleville Road will become a one-way road, similar to last summer. In addition, part of Hillside Rd will be closed.
   4. Breakfast with President Herbst – It will be this Tuesday morning in the School of Business Rm 321 at 8:30 am in the Student Union. If you are interested in attending, please come up at the end of the meeting to sign up and provide your dietary restrictions.
   5. Final report from President Deepthi Varghese
2. Vice President & Vice President Elect – Vignesh Vasu & Erin Curry
   1. Student Life Committee – We will be holding one more before the year is over.
   2. Presentation for Exec travel reimbursement – Vignesh presented what he learned from his attendance at the National ACS convention in New Orleans, LA. There was quite of bit of technical chemistry terms and statements which I will refrain from paining you with by not repeating it here.
   3. Final report by Vice President Vignesh Vasu.
3. Treasurer & Treasurer Elect – Justin Fang & Kevin Boyd
   1. Budget for 2018-2019 vote
      1. The comprehensive budget for the FY 2018-19 was sent out with the meeting reminder and displayed on the screen for review.
      2. The Senate was given the opportunity to ask questions or make revisions. No questions or revision requests were brought up.
      3. Cristian Gogu motioned to approve the budget as presented; seconded by Mohammed Akhshik. The FY 2018-19 budget was approved unanimously by the Senate.
   2. New quarterly bill
      1. The new quarterly bill was presented.
      2. Motion to approve payment for the quarterly bill was made by Tithi Basu Malik; seconded by Maria Avitia. Payment for the new quarterly bill was approved unanimously by the Senate.
   3. Special allocations – These will be presented during new business.
   4. Final report by Treasurer and President Elect Justin Fang.
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy
   1. GSS Community Service Award – Based on a majority consensus of the Community Service Award committee, this year’s award goes to Dana Francisco Miranda.
   2. GSS Service Award
      1. As proposed in the previous Senate meeting, the GSS Service Award amount of $1500 for the total academic year will be split evenly between 5 recipients, namely Jennifer Caffyn, Ruth Yuste Alonso, Thomas Briggs, Andrew Meguerdichian and Tony Patelunas, for an amount of $300 per recipient.
      2. Amy Fehr motioned to pass this proposal; seconded by Sam Surowitz. The motion was approved unanimously by the Senate.
   3. GSS promotional items
      1. There were some logistical requirements hindering this order but them have been sorted.
      2. These will be ordered and given out during the next GSS event(s).
   4. Presentation for Exec travel reimbursement
      1. Chau recently visited San Francisco for a tech industry networking event to scope out the career and business opportunities in science and technology in the Bay area.
      2. She talked about her meeting with representatives from various companies and findings via a Powerpoint presentation.
   5. Final report from Communications Director Chau Vy.
5. Activities Director & Activities Director Elect – Alexis Ernst & Jennifer Caffyn
   1. Grad Formal – Close to 300 people attended, which is close to what we budgeted for. We got great feedback and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves.
   2. GSS Happy Hour – 85 people attended and it was a good time!
   3. End of the year barbecue – Coming up! Details will be announced soon!
   4. Final report by Activities Director Alexis Ernst.
6. Parliamentarian & Parliamentarian Elect – Graham O’Toole & Andrew Meguerdichian
   1. GSS Constitution
      1. The GSS Constitution was sent out with the meeting reminder and pulled up for review.
      2. Gyuho Sung motioned to approve the updated Constitution; Motion was seconded by Cristian Gogu. The Senate approved the updated Constitution unanimously.
   2. Final report of Parliamentarian Graham O’Toole, read by Vignesh Vasu

**VII. New Business**

1. EEB special allocation - $700 ($300 for refreshments; $400 total for supplies).
   1. Question from Marjorie: Is the cleanup geared towards just central campus or more spread out on Horsebarn Hill, etc? Keeping it on central campus for now.
   2. Amy Fehr: I think this is a great idea but what would we be doing that is different than what Facilities people already do? There are a number of places that are trashy, a little bit further away such as the tennis courts, X lot, etc.
   3. Junyeol Kim motioned to approve EEB’s special allocation request; seconded by Lorraine Apuzzo. The Senate approved EEB’s special allocation request unanimously.
2. GBA special allocation - $750 ($700 for refreshments and $50 for supplies).
   1. Carmen Britton: Is this open to all grad students? Yes, always. But it’s usually GBA students that attend.
   2. Is this something departments should be funding? No because departments usually take care of events geared strictly towards academics. This is more social and motivational.
   3. Sam Surowitz motioned to approve GBA’s special allocation request. Jennifer Caffyn seconded the motion. The Senate approved the special allocation request unanimously.
3. AAPS special allocation - $1000 ($750 refreshments; $50 printing; $200 travel)
   1. No questions for this one.
   2. Kevin Boyd motioned to approve the request; seconded by Mohammed Akhshik; Senate approved the AAPS special allocation request unanimously.
4. GSS Activities Director special allocation
   1. The Activities Directors Alexis Ernst and Jennifer Caffyn requested for a special allocation of $10,000 for the end of the semester/summer barbecue. They will split up the categories based on the quotes received but this value is based on the $8,000+ value used for the Fall semester kick-off barbecue and this value was barely enough.
   2. Sabine Laszakovits motioned to approve the request; seconded by Maria Avitia; The Senate approved the Activities Directors’ special allocation request unanimously.

**VIII. Committee Reports**

1. Jennifer Caffyn – Transportation and Parking Committee
   1. The purple line and other bus routes will be shut down either partially or wholly due to construction. Alternative bus routes may be implemented.
   2. A FCFS call in shuttle service was put in place to shuffle people from place to place. It was difficult to find information about this service. The idea is that service availability will be increased this summer.
   3. The master plan of construction is to make central campus more pedestrian friendly. That means parking will be moved further away from campus.
   4. Many roads will be closed for construction so it will be difficult to drive through campus.
   5. X lot will remain open through the summer. That’s because Science 1 construction won’t start until summer of 2019.
   6. New parking lots will be put in on Discovery Rd. and behind the old Rec building.
   7. More details will be provided to you as they become available. Also check updc.uconn.edu.

**IX. Issues Forum**

1. GOLS is holding a mixer on April 24th at 5:30 pm in the SU Rm 321.
2. Department of Art and Art History student exhibition is currently on view at the Benton. Talks are next Wednesday, April 18th. Please come support their work.

**X. Adjournment – 8:54 pm**