**Wednesday, September 12th, 2018**

**I. Call to Order – 7:07 PM**

**II. Recognition of Senators** – 24 Senators were present at Recognition of Senators.

**III. Guest Speakers**

1. Stuart Duncan, Director of Fellowship, Outreach and Programming in the Graduate School
2. Introduced other staff members from UConn and welcomed them to the University and Senate.
3. Stuart discussed PCP program – focus on graduate students – help them navigate through challenges at the university
   1. PCP stands for **P**rofessional Engagement **C**areer Development and **P**ersonal Growth. New vision for graduate students. Important for training the next generation of faculty members and those interested in pursuing a career in academia. Not all departments or programs have these resources or knowledge of what the job market needs today. Good to get the most from the UConn experience and understand personal growth and wellness during your graduate work.
4. Communication Skills – Communicate your research to diverse audiences, e.g. 3MT (3-minute thesis competition).
5. Career Development – Headed by Kay Gruder; Make an appointment with her to start career planning as soon as possible in your graduate career. Example topics include:
   1. Contract Negotiations – important when understanding job offers
   2. Personal Growth – intellectual but also mental and physical health
   3. Transferrable Skills – self-reflection, personal management – how to work with other people from different levels – team and social dynamics
   4. Establish a Support Network
6. Surveys will be sent out to understand the graduate student needs overall and to learn what is impacting them currently.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

1. Senate meeting minutes from April 11, 2018
2. E-Board Minutes from May 7, 2018
3. E-Board Minutes from July 2018
4. E-Board Minutes from August 2018
5. E-Board Minutes from September 4, 2018

*Tithi Basu Mallik motioned to approve all minutes as shown. Motion was seconded by Rose Dziedzic. The Senate approved the minutes unanimously.*

**V. Unfinished Business**

**VI. Executive Committee Reports**

1. President – Justin Fang
   1. WRTD Bus and UPass
      1. The holdup in renewal was due to negotiations between the University and the bus companies on rates.
      2. The UPass was approved finally and will be good for all public transportation in CT with your student ID.
   2. Mid-Term Elections – Please remember to register to vote and more importantly, please go vote!
   3. Bike Share Program at UConn
      1. This initiative was in part to address the poor parking situation at UConn. Still just in discussion stage at this time.
      2. Sam Surowitz is on the committee and will provide updates as they become available.
   4. Parking
      1. X and L lot will be taken away next year for construction of new Science 1 building. This is supposedly the last year we will be able to park there.
      2. Lots have been planned to be moved to the outer rim of campus.
      3. Question: What’s the plan for replacing the space of the two lots? Check the Master Plan website which is available on the Parking website.
      4. Question: Our current parking passes state that they expire May 31st. A couple Senate members, Tony and Danielle, mentioned that summer parking is free. However, Sam has gotten ticket in summer. We will try to check with Parking and get back to you.
   5. Presidential Search
      1. An outside Search Firm was hired to look for a new president for UConn as President Herbst will step down at the end of summer 2019.
      2. Justin showed a document of qualities important in what we are looking for in the next president. We will send this list out to seek feedback and additions.
2. Vice President – Erin Curry
   1. Complete SOLID trainings for all organizations to prevent being frozen
   2. Complete online training yearly – in person training only once per year
   3. Discussed and recruited members for internal committees – introduced the purpose of the meetings and the purpose of each committee.
3. Treasurer – Kevin
   1. Tier II Treasurer Training
      1. 1 PM on Tuesday, September 25th in BPB 201
      2. 1 PM on Wednesday, September 26th in BPB 201
   2. Quarterly Bills are now Monthly Bills; will need vote in “New Business”
   3. Reimbursement status is on track.
   4. Special Allocation for Linguistics Tier II Groups; will need vote in “New Business”
   5. Kevin have a Powerpoint flowchart presentation on the GSS financial process.
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy (*Absent from meeting*)
5. Activities Director – Jen Caffyn
   1. Summer kickoff BBQ - Approximately 280 students attended; event was so successful we ran out of food in the first hour!
   2. Second summer BBQ – Held so those that missed the 1st BBQ could have a chance to attend. 250 students attended.
   3. Welcome Back Picnic – Approx. 400 students attended.
   4. We welcome comments or suggestions regarding future events. Please send your feedback and suggestions to our Activities Director, Jen (jennifer.caffyn@uconn.edu).
   5. Halloween Event
      1. Will be around the holiday.
      2. Most likely to take place at Huskies Tavern for ~100 people.
      3. No alcohol sponsored by GSS but food will be provided.
   6. Thanksgiving Luncheon
      1. Tentatively plan for the week before the week of Thanksgiving (a lot of people head out that weekend). Final date will be announced next meeting.
      2. Location is Rome Ballroom and there will be two sessions as usual.
6. Parliamentarian – Andrew Meguerdichian
   1. Went over the Senator attendance policy for funding.
   2. Question: Clarification, is it three meetings per senator or three meetings per constituency? The latter. In other words, if a constituency has more than one senator, only one senator from that constituency has to come in order for that constituency to count as being present.
   3. Question: Should existing senators resubmit the declaration form? Yes. It’s the only way for us to verify who is representing what, and also will get us info on the financial point of contacts.

**VII. New Business**

1. Executive Committee Travel Funds

*Cristian Gogu motioned to approve the Executive Committee travel funds, amounts as shown in the GSS 2018-19 budget, just once per fiscal year. Motion was seconded by Olivia Baldwin. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

1. Quarterly Bill

*Rose Dziedzic motioned to approve payment for 1st quarterly bill as shown; motion seconded by Danielle Heichel.* *The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

1. Second Quarterly Bill

*Cristian Gogu motioned to approve payment for the 2nd quarterly bill as shown; motion seconded by Olivia Baldwin.* *The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

1. Monthly Bill for July

*Jennifer Akosa motioned to approve payment for the July monthly bill as shown; motion seconded by Cristian Gogu.* *The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

1. Special Allocation Request for Linguistics
   1. How many students expected to attend? 30
   2. How many grad students? 25
   3. Printing? GSS can cover posters not flyers.
   4. How much money in SA budget? Justin answered.
   5. Quotes for all food? Yes. Amount reflects quotes.

*Rose Dziedzic motioned to approve the special allocation request*

* + - *$1260 for refreshments*
    - *$300 for travel*
    - *$30 for supplies*
    - *$20 for printing*

*Motion was seconded by Cristian Gogu. The Senate approves the motion unanimously.*

1. Senator-at-Large

Deepthi Varghese, Deepa Shukla, Alexis Ernst, Bahareh Deljoo, Gabrielle Corso and Iyomali Abeysekera obtained sufficient signatures to become Senators-at-Large.

*Jennifer Akosa motioned to make these candidates GSS’s new Senators-at-Large; motion seconded by Roman Mays.* *The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

**VIII. Committee Reports**

**IX. Issues Forum**

1. Daniel Pfeiffer would like to promote Harry Potter trivia night at Grill 86 on Wed. Sept 26th. Cost is $8 pp and there will be a prize for winning team. Please see the posters in the back for details.
2. Sam Surowitz is our Board of Trustees rep and would love to bring up any issues on the graduate students’ behalf to the Board.
3. SAGE would like to promote the Grad Students Involvements Fair. It is in SU Ballroom from 12-2 pm on September 19th.
4. The Student Fee Advisory Committee requires a rep. Nominations are due the 14th and Sam has a form for whoever would like to join.

**X. Adjournment -** *The motion to adjourn was started by Rose Dziedzic and seconded by Roman Mays. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm by a unanimous Senate vote.*