**Wednesday, January 30th, 2019**

**CHEM A203**

**I. Call to Order – 7:06 pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators**

**III. Guest Speaker – Scott Jordan, Chief Finance Officer of UConn**

1. Presented an update on the University’s budget via a Powerpoint presentation
2. Question from Deepa: Due to budget cuts in to academic departments, the number of TA-ships being offered were reduced, causing TAs to have to work more hours. Is there any additional funding being sought out to fund more TA-ships? That would be a good question for the Provost Office as they allocate the academic funds.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

1. GSS-2018-11-14 Senate Meeting
2. GSS-2018-12-04 E-Board Meeting
3. GSS-2018-12-05 Senate Meeting
4. GSS-2019-01-29 E-Board Meeting

*Deepa Shukla motioned to approve the minutes as shown; seconded by Cristian Gogu. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Senate.*

**V. Unfinished Business –** Approval of past minutes included in section IV.

**VII. Executive Committee Reports**

1. President – Justin Fang
	1. New UConn President – We should find out within the next week on who the new President is.
	2. Provost’s resignation
		1. Provost Kennedy will be resigning from his post, effective March 30th and he will take on a new role as Dean of the Business School.
		2. Question from EEB Senator – The Provost’s resignation just seems a bit peculiar. Was he fired? We looked into this a little bit actually and it seems to be the norm that the President and Provost often come in pairs when joining a University so the new President likely has a Provost that he/she is bringing along.
	3. Foundation student seat
		1. The election for the new rep will be taking place this semester.
		2. We have nominated Becca Colby to keep representation with grads.
		3. Currently collecting signatures; please sign to support her at the end of the meeting.
	4. GEU Outreach Committee for Appropriations
		1. The Union is looking to get people to attend the meeting to demonstrate need so the state does not cut our funding.
		2. If you are interested in getting involved or would like to attend, please contact the GEU or Mary Bugby.
	5. Nominations open for next GSS E-Board
		1. If you would like to nominate someone, including yourself, to run for a position on next year’s Executive Board, please send an email to gssuconn@gmail.com.
2. Vice President – Erin Curry
	1. State Appropriations Meeting
		1. This is an annual event that happens in downtown Hartford for groups to argue why they should get their funding renewed and not cut.
		2. If you would like to attend, there will be buses taking people there and back. You just need to sign up in advance.
		3. If you do go, please wear UConn apparel to better represent our cause.
		4. Also, if you have a special interest, we have two grad student speaker spots open for those would like to make an argument as to why the State should maintain UConn’s budget.
	2. Legal services for grad students
		1. We are looking to potentially partner with the Law School to get non-binding, *pro bono* legal advice.
		2. Many other universities have this in place, particular for help with immigration, and other legal issues as all.
3. Treasurer – Kevin Boyd
	1. Budget proposals for Tier II’s for the FY 2019-20
		1. They are due tomorrow January 31st.
		2. Status –There are several groups who have yet to submit budgets. Kevin shouted them out.
		3. Question from GBA senator: There is a note about discouraging gifts and awards. Is there a way to still put in a budget for awards? The Business Office has strongly suggested to us that we should not allow gifts and awards but at the same time, they can’t explicitly deny us. The issue though is that if you try to get a PO or reimbursement processed, you might get denied by the Business Office.
		4. Follow-up question: When will appeals take place? Probably in early March as the Finance Committee needs to meet a few times in February to review the budgets.
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy
	1. Chau is looking into purchasing promotional items.
	2. Send Chau ideas or requests.
5. Activities Director – Jennifer Caffyn
	1. Happy Hour review – It went very well. Over 150 people attended the event. Jen plans on having one or two more Happy Hours this semesters.
	2. Build-a-Husky event
	3. Other upcoming events
		1. Grad Formal – tentative date is 4/12 or 4/19
		2. Send Jen ideas for the theme.
6. Parliamentarian – Andrew Meguerdichian
	1. By-Laws revisions
	2. Financial Policies and Procedures revisions
	3. These were emailed out last night. Please review them as we will be voting on them on the next meeting. If you have not received them or have any questions, please let us know.
	4. Apportionment will take place once we have finalized enrollment numbers.
	5. Question from Rose: Is there a fixed number of senators or do they scale based on graduate population? The prior. There is a fixed number and apportionment is done a tier basis.

**VIII. New Business**

* 1. Special Allocations
		1. EEB
			1. Post seminar lunch – Requested $200 for refreshments.

*Cristian Gogu motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Danielle Heichel. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + - 1. Campus clean-up event – Requested $450 for supplies and refreshments.

*Rose Dziedzic motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Daniel Pfeiffer. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + 1. SAGE
			1. End of the year BBQ – Requested $1,656 for refreshments.

*Alexis Ernst motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Emily Green. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + - 1. Networking events (2) – Requested $500 for refreshments.

*Bahareh Deljoo motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Cristian Gogu. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + 1. Monthly Bills
			1. November 2018

*Deepa Shukla motioned to approve payment of the bill; seconded by Cristian Gogu. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + - 1. December 2018

*Roman Mays motioned to approve payment of the bill; seconded by Daniel Pfeiffer. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

**IX. Committee Reports**

1. Thomas Briggs – Provost’s Library Advisory Committee
	1. There was a concern brought up in the past about increased costs in thesis printing. What Tom found out is that the library was only a middleman between the vendor and students. Since the vendor increased their prices, there’s not much the library can do.
	2. An important thing to note is that departments can’t technically require hard copies of theses if they can’t pay for them because the University only requires a digital copy.
2. Kevin Boyd – SASFAC and University Senate Budget Committee
	1. Our concern about the fees increasing a huge amount can be temporarily alleviated as the official recommendation is that the increase recommendation should only be around $50. The increase in spending requirements will be covered substantially by a Central fund. Also, the President’s may still reject the recommendation and we may not see any increase.
	2. Summary for the University Senate Budget Committee meeting is that the major source of deficit of our budget is Athletics. However, this is not a set of programs that will change so the University will just have to find a way to deal with it.

**X. Issues Forum –** None discussed.

**XI. Adjournment**  *- Roman Mays motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Alexis. Senate voted unanimously to adjour the meeting at 8:51 pm.*