**Wednesday, February 20th, 2019**

**CHEM A-203**

**I. Call to Order – 7:06 pm**

**II. Recognition of Senators** – Quorum was met with ~27 senators.

**III. Guest Speaker – William Biel, GEU Representative**

1. There is a budget hearing at the State of CT Capitol Building in Hartford on March 7th.
2. The GEU is working with GSS to put to together a group of graduate student attendees and speakers.
3. Between 5-7 pm, there will be students from UConn giving testimonials.
4. At 7 pm there will be a general public hearing. The GEU has asked that Union members please come in their Union shirts so that the Union’s presence is felt.
5. Also, if you can, please submit testimonials, either in person at the meeting or online.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

1. GSS-2019-01-30 Senate Meeting
2. GSS-2019-02-20 E-Board Meeting

*Deepthi Varghese motioned to approve the minutes as shown; seconded by Nafis Fuad. 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. Request for speakers – Both of the individuals Justin has invited to speak at GSS have responded and will not be able to attend. If you have any requests for speakers, please email Justin and let him know.
     2. Nominations for awards – Feb 22nd deadline
     3. Campus infrastructure upgrades – Justin is compiling a set of suggestions for infrastructure updates and upgrades. If you have anything to add, please send them to Justin.
2. Vice President – Erin Curry
   1. State Appropriations Meeting – William already covered this in his presentation. For any additional questions, please contact Erin.
   2. Legal services for grad students
      1. We looked into this and it seems like there are some complications with law students giving advice.
      2. There are some legal clinics that are available.
3. Treasurer – Kevin Boyd
   1. Tier II budget proposal update
      1. We have completed the initial review of all the submitted budgets.
      2. The total requested amount was $85,000 total. We need to get the allotted amount down to ~$60,000. With current cuts, the total is $65,000, so we will meet again next week to make some more cuts. After we make the final decision, Kevin will send out the recommended budget to all the Tier II groups.
   2. SASFAC presentation – We presented last week and were pretty successful so
4. Communications Director – Ngoc Chau Vy
   1. GSS Service Award – Fall 2018 nominations?
   2. GSS Graduate Community Service Award -
5. Activities Director – Jennifer Caffyn
   1. Build-a-Husky event will take place during Grad Appreciation Week. The exact date is TBD.
   2. Grad Formal
      1. Date is set for March 15th.
      2. There will be a grad student only dinner from the start until 8 pm. The RSVP form will be sent out soon.
      3. After that, anyone is welcome to come.
      4. The theme will be the Roaring 20’s/ Great Gatsby.
   3. We will have a final happy hour in late April. TBD on the exact date.
6. Parliamentarian – Andrew Meguerdichian
   1. **Andrew Me**
   2. **By-Laws** and Financial Policies and Procedures update – Renee Rotolo motioned to approve the documents as shown; seconded by Deepa Shukla. The Senate approved the updated ruling documents with Jessica Gramajo abstaining from the vote.

**VIII. New Business**

* 1. Special Allocations
     1. GSS Happy Hour – $1250 for refreshments.

*Daniel Pfiefer motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Catherine Gensler. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + 1. GSS Grad Formal – $2000 for refreshments.

*Cynthia Gerber motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Olivia Baldwin. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* + 1. CAGE Pi(e) Day – $145 for refreshments and supplies.

*Mo Akshik motioned to approve the SA request; seconded by Rose Dzieddzic. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

* 1. Executive Travel Reimbursement Presentation – Andrew Meguerdichian
  2. Monthly Bill – January 2019

*Eric Camp motioned to approve the monthly bill; seconded by William Biel. The Senate approved the motion unanimously.*

**IX. Committee Reports**

* 1. Stephany Santos – Diversity Committee
     1. There are a few new initiatives that they are starting.
     2. The first is to take a look at the diversity in faculty.
     3. The second is a gender-inclusive initiative, with a push for pronoun use.
     4. The third is a gender-neutral bathroom initiative. If you see that there isn’t one in your building, please let Stephany know.
     5. Finally, the committee is working to change Columbus Day to Indigenous People’s Day. Unfortunately, the problem with doing that at UConn is that we are part of the state and the state still calls it Columbus Day. They are now working to get other universities in the state to push the initiative to the state as well.

**X. Issues Forum**

1. Our graduate student representative running for the student Foundation spot, Rebecca Colby, got her required signatures. When the vote opens, Chau will send out a mass email to all grad students. Please vote for her then.
2. The Graduate Art Alliance is having their open house on March 14th 7 – 9 pm. Please come and check out their work.

**XI. Adjournment**  *- Deepthi Varghese motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Alexis Trench. Senate voted unanimously to adjour the meeting at 7:51 pm.*