**Wednesday, October 30th, 2019**

**7pm – 9pm, CHEM-A203**

1. **Call to Order: 7:04pm**
2. **Recognition of Senators:** Quorum was met with 30 senators.
3. **Guest Speaker:** 
   1. Student Health Services; Chetan Joshi and Tina McCarthy
      1. Service line is available to all students and looking to meet all needs for graduate students
      2. Hilda May Williams Building (Located next to the Chemistry building)
      3. 24/7 nurse line and appointments in the evening and on weekends
      4. Some of the services offered are immunizations, physicals, allergy/immunotherapy clinic, overnight stays, nutritionist, phlebotomist and X-ray equipment.
      5. Mental-health services include meditation and yoga classes, counseling, group therapy, access to providers in the area, and 24/7 emergency call services .

-Tulika Paul expressed concern over the 6 week wait time for making an appointment and Chetan explains that the staff is prioritizing appointments.

-Rafael Concepcion asked if there will be more group therapy sessions offered since a friend of theirs was unable to attend them due to time availability.

-Deepa Shukla expressed disappointment about the lack of parking near the facilities and having to miss her appointment because she had to park far away. Tina explained that it is true that there is limited parking (only 4 spaces) and that next time anything like that happens to contact the accessible van.

1. **Approval of Minutes:**
   1. GSS-2019-10-02 Senate Meeting Minutes
   2. GSS-2019-10-28 E-Board Meeting Minutes

*Robert Daniels motioned to approve the minutes as shown; seconded by Daniel Pfieffer. The minutes were approved unanimously by the Senate.*

1. **Unfinished Business:**
2. **Executive Committee Reports:**
   1. President – Justin Fang
      1. Board of Trustee meeting update-
3. President Katsouleas is adamant about reducing UConn’s carbon footprint and wants a excel spreadsheet compiled to find the best options. He also has made plans to make UConn carbon neutral by 2050. If anyone would like to sit on this committee, please contact Justin.
   * 1. Election day transportation-
4. Map shown to display bus schedule for Election Day.
   1. Vice President – Erin Curry
5. Carpooling App Status
6. Someone has been hired to create the App and it should be up and running by Fall of 2020. Designated parking spots will not be in Area 2 Lots. If anyone is interested in sitting in ion these meetings, please contact Erin.
7. Hiring of new GSS office Admin Assistant
   * + 1. Office Hours are now posted on the GSS website.
   1. Treasurer – Nafis Fuad
      1. Announcement to begin assembling Tier II Proposed Budgets (Send in by early January)
      2. GSS SASFAC documents which proposes the budget for the next 2 years
   2. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
      1. Senator list on GSS website now updated
   3. Activities Director – Deepa Shukla
      1. Halloween Party (4pm – 6pm, 10/31/19) and there will be prizes for best costumes
      2. Thanksgiving Lunch tentative date
   4. Parliamentarian – Damaris Thuita
      1. Bylaws change
         1. Incorporate multi-dept TierII RSO’s
         2. Senators requiring Dept. Head approval
      2. Proposed A/A+ grading policy change and removal of the “+”
      3. Proposed grade appeal policy change
8. The grade must be appealed within 10 working days (instead of 6 months)
9. **New Business:**
   1. SASFAC Budget Proposal Vote

-Taylor Tate asked if it was still true that GSS had excess funds from last year and Nafis pointed out that this was true. Nafis also explained that there has been a surplus of funds for several years and the plan is to use this up over time by having more events and promotions. If GSS continues to sit on a surplus, then the amount of money the University provides to GSS will be less.

=Jacob Kellermeier asked if there was a minimum amount the University looks at when considering the budget. Senator from MCB

*Robert Daniels motioned to approve the SASFAC Budget Proposal as shown; seconded by Jacob Kellermeier. The SASFAC documents were approved unanimously by the Senate.*

1. Senator Tate and Steven Nunez (Resolution on divestment)
2. What is UConn invested in?
3. Goal is to divest from prisons and fossil fuels.

-Tanner Matson asks what the profit incentive is to invest in prisons? Steve answered that he doesn’t know but he does know that the Foundation had 575 million dollars.

-Chase Lonas asked if there was a contact website or email to join? Steve responds that he is working on a coalition and interested students can email him personally [steven.nunez@uconn.edu].

-Daniel Pfieffer shares his thanks for bringing this to our attention and asks to have Steve share what he finds at another meeting

-Derrick Kamp asks what kind of social change Steve expects to sees and Steve replies he is open to a broad range including sit ins and pressuring the Foundation

-Senator Tate mentions that Steve will be sitting on meetings with President Katsouleas

-Rob Smith asks if Steve would be willing to join force with Friday’s with the Future and divesting from Fossil Fuels. Senator Tate explains how essential the transparency statement is in the resolution.

1. Emily Tarconish (Disability Awareness & Inclusive Teaching Training)
2. Works with Graduate students that have a disability.
3. Graduate students tend not to disclose their disability and many that apply, do not get the accommodations.
4. Post docs are not being training to teach students with disabilities and 60% of graduate students with disabilities that do not end up graduating.
5. Spent 2 years focusing on 4 disabilities (ADHD, anxiety, traumatic brain injuries, autism) and qualitatively analyzed the data as well as interviewed the students about what their advisors did to help or hurt them. 5 videos have been created based off this data.
6. Emily urges senators to take a survey and have access to watch all 5 videos

-Jacob Kellermeier asks what are the benefits to taking the trainings and designing a course that is all inclusive? Emily responds that there is evidence that says its better and it will also save you time.

-Deepa Shukla suggests that graduate students that work at CSD to take the trainings.

1. **Committee Reports:**
   1. Daniel Pfeiffer (Student Welfare)
2. Tha main topic of this meeting was bussing- Have bussing times changed? Is there a need to run the busses after 9pm when so few students are taking the bus? Could there be an uber or lyft partnership made in the next coming week.

-Taylor Tate mentions that the mornings are when students need bussing the most and experiencing the longest wait times.

-Emily Green asks if the new car system would allow students to go wherever they want to go on campus or anywhere? Daniel responds that it would only be on campus.

* 1. Nafis Fuad (SASFAC)

1. No fee increase for this year
2. Fringe rates for GSS and USG are covered so our student fees will not have to be raised. UConn Rec asks for funds to cover their fringe rates but were denied so UConn Rec will likely cut hours of their staff.
3. If you book Audio Visual as a Tier II then there will be no charge
4. Robert Daniels asked why did the UConn Rec Center switched from towels to wipes and their response was that their laundry facilities couldn’t handle the load and wipes are more sanitary.
   1. Nafis Fuad (University Senate Budget Committee)
5. President Katsouleas wasn’t to remove the fringe rate button from research. They would like to do it but do now know how they would get the funds (For Storrs it is 4 million annually). UConn Foundation started very late so it is not easy to alleviate these fringe rates as easily as other Universities do.

-Taylor Tate asks what exactly a fringe rate is? Nafis explains that it is a liability that the State of CT has to pay to its employees.

1. President Katsouleas’s claim to provide free tuition for any student whose parents make less than $50,000 is thought not to be a burden. They cannot increase the in-state tuition to be more than out-of-state tuition. Some faculty propose to level the tuition between in-state and out-of-state.

-Taylor Tate think this plan will lead to more diversity issues and less black and brown people and Nafis explains that the committee is interested in increasing revenue so they need more out-of-state students.

*Daniel Pfieffer motioned to extend the meeting by 10 minutes; seconded by Renee Rotolo.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
   1. Daniel Pfieffer promoted a hygiene and non-perishable food drive at the Thanksgiving Lunch so please bring items.
   2. Roman Mays promoted SAGE Halloween Event happening tomorrow.
   3. Stephany Santos is on the Provost Search Committee so please come see Stephany if you would like any issued taken into consideration for the new Provost.
2. **Adjournment:** *Roman Mays**motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Daniel Pfieffer. Senate voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm.*