1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:01pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was met with 25 senators
3. **Guest Speaker:**
	1. Suzanne Onorato, Executive Director,  UConn | Student Health And Wellness
4. Keeping the Campus Safe- A 3 tier approach has been implemented and UConn has already surpassed tier 1 which is that all residential students, across all 5 campuses, were tested (~13,000 tests). In person testing for residential students and mail-in Vault tests for off-campus and graduate students. Tier II, surveillance testing, has just begun in which any student who is experiencing symptoms will be tested (~5,000 tests). Also testing campus wastewater for Covid as an additional mechanism to monitor the virus. Another strategy for Tier II is that 2,500 students will be tested each week and the tests will be pooled and sent off. Currently there are 250 isolation rooms for students who have tested positive or are experiencing symptoms. Off campus students will be quarantining in their own spaces.
5. Vaccine and Flu Clinics- Will be held in the student ballroom this semester and vaccines will be free for UConn students. Dates and times will be announced soon.
6. UConn Medical care- Operating at typical hours. Pharmacy is now offering a pick-up service. Mental health visits can now be scheduled online and hours have been extended.
7. Final public service announcement- Please try to follow CDC guidelines, maintain a distance of 6 ft., wearing a mask and washing hands regularly in order to prevent and protect the campus and each other
8. Rob Smith asked if Covid tests are being used from a variety of companies and how quickly are the results? Susan responded that there are 4 different mechanisms; Hartford Healthcare is providing the tests for the Stamford campus, Vault mail-in saliva tests are used for commuter or off campus students, The Broad Institute will be doing the testing for Storrs residential students and Point of care testing will be utilized for students that need rapid screening (45 min.). Several different providers were sought after in the case that one was unable to provide the tests and screening.
9. Nicholas Shrum asked is the flu clinic on campus is only for residential students? Susan said that all UConn Storrs students are welcome to attend these clinics.
10. Elena Robakiewicz asked how the environmental data is being added to the Covid dashboard and Susan replied that this information has not been added to this page yet.
11. Nafis Fuad made a comment that several grad students had issues with the testing provider (Vault) and Susan did everything she could to fill in the gaps.
12. Justin Fang asked if individuals who had tested positive and recovered would be exempt from future testing and Susan said she wasn’t sure how this would be handled.
13. **Unfinished Business:**
	1. Robert’s Rules- Quorum needs to be met for each senate meeting for votes to be taken. Quorum is an equal amount of senators present from the average of the last two meetings.All graduate students are allowed to speak at a senate meeting. Only senators can vote, make motions or second a motion. Senators are only allowed to miss 1 meeting a semester. Any meetings that are missed, another graduate student needs to be appointed as a sit in. There will be an issues forum held at the end of the meeting, after the executive committees.
14. **Approval of consent agenda:**
15. GSS-2020-04-29 Senate Meeting Minutes
16. GSS-2020-05-21 E-Board Meeting Minutes
17. GSS-2020-06-23 E-Board Meeting Minutes
18. GSS-2020-08-20 E-Board Meeting Minutes

*Derrick Kamp made a motion to approve the above consent agenda, seconded by Ryan Scala. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

1. **Executive Committee Reports:**
	1. President –Nafis Fuad
2. Welcome to all returning and new graduate students.
3. New GSS YouTube- Videos added that explain what GSS is. GSS E-Board is a team of 6; President Nafis Fuad, Vice President vacant, Treasurer Robert Daniels, Communications Director Gabrielle Corso, Activities Director Deepa Shukla and Parliamentarian Irio Schiano.
4. UConn Reopening Status
	* + 1. Campus- UConn is dealing with the pandemic well compared to other universities. Testing is high and cases are low.
			2. Research- Rafael Concepcion states that his department just opened a few days ago which means they have not had a chance to progress and what UConn’s plan is when the campus shuts down again. Nafis replied that as of now there is no plan to shut down but this decision is also based upon what the state orders. In regards to facilities not being available, he has talked to the administration about this and this is a matter of who is managing each building. Nafis asked the senate to bring this matter to his attention if the graduate student does not have adequate working facilities.
5. Committee reps for 2020- Seeking grad students to join University committees as a way to participate in governance. Grad students that sat on a committee last year are asked to serve again and if interested, send an email Nafis.
6. Vice president resignation – Seeking nominations for this E-Board position and the reelection will be at the next senate meeting.
7. Wall street journal and NYT subscriptions- Undergraduate Student Government suggested providing all UConn students with a newspaper subscription, especially during these unprecedented times. However, GSS decided to leave this subscription to be voted on by the senate since the graduate student population will eventually be paying for the subscription.
8. Guest speaker for next meeting(s) : Asking for suggestions – Current list includes the Dean of Students, Provost, Dean of Grad School, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee and Vice President for Research. The Chief Diversity officer and President Katsouleas were two names brought up by Justin Fang.
	1. Treasurer –Robert Daniels
		1. GSS Short Term Loan- Loans have been extended till Dec 1 and amount has been increased from $1500 to $3000. Deadline for any loans taken out after Sep. 1 will be back to a 3 month loan period. It may be good to postpone the deadline to 3 months after the point when Gov. Lamont declares we are out of a National emergency. If any senate member has a suggestion as to how handle the deadline they can contact Robert.
		2. TII-RSO Reimbursement - System change requires all financial requests to be submitted online. This online platform will be further discussed during the treasurer trainings for Tier II treasurers in the coming weeks.
	2. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
		1. Website integration- All GSS senator forms must be submitted online using the google doc on the GSS website. GSS is no longer accepting paper forms.
	3. Activities Director – Deepa Shukla
		1. Fall BBQ – Typically the Welcome Back BBQ is capped at 500 grad students but during the pandemic, this number is too high so for now our limit will be 100. Any suggestions would be appreciated in terms of attendance for outdoor gatherings and comfortability. Ryan Scala said that he would not feel comfortable attending an event of this nature. Nafis stated that any event GSS has will be compliant and similar to other events being held by the University.
	4. Parliamentarian – Irio Schiano
		1. Senator status – Senators need to let GSS know if they will be an academic senator or for a Tier II organization because there are an allocated amount of senators per each department.
9. **Committee Reports:**
	1. **Senate Executive Committee, Nafis Fuad-** Planning for the Spring Semester and when it should begin, how long it should be and if Spring break will be modified.

*Irio Schiano made a motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes and Emily Green made a motion to extend the meeting, seconded by Josh Bell.*

* 1. **University Budget Committee, Robert Daniels-** This committee looks at the University budget and the first meeting was about how much money UConn is going to lose. Best case scenario would b opening Aug 31 and going through Nov. 20. Worst case scenario would be closing before Nov. 1 which would be a loss of $2,000,000 per week due to a loss of housing and student meal plans. Deficit will be anywhere between $25-115,000,000. Discussion was had with the faculty unions to o a possible furlough which would have saved around $2,500,000 per day but the unions said they do not want to do the furlough so this is off the table for now. Fiscal working group is expected to have a cut for the 2020-2021 year. Rainy day fund contains $200,000,000 and if UConn is in a dire straight these accounts could be tapped into but this would be a last resort scenario.
	2. **Board of Trustees Building Grounds and Environment Committee, Justin Fang-** Previously, the GSS senate complained about the lack of push to cross buttons on North Eagleville Road. After negotiations, push to cross buttons will soon be installed for four sides, however, there will not be one from NW Discovery Drive to SW N. Eagleville side because these two roads do not line up so there are technical restrictions on how much a road needs to line up for a crosswalk to be installed.
1. **Issues Forum:**
2. Nafis requested all senators to reach out to their constituents to relay any issues that graduate students are experiencing.
3. Daniel Pfieffer raised the issue that GSS Senate meetings tend to run long and because they do, the issues forum tend to get shortened. Daniel recommended that the meetings are run more concisely so more senators are able to attend the issued forum part of the senate meeting.
4. **Adjournment:** *Daniel Pfieffer motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Julianna Herman. Senate voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm.*