1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:01pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was met with 34 senators**.**
3. **Guest Speaker:** 
   1. **Carl W. Lejuez,** Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
4. Graduated from West Virginia University and then spent 15 years as faculty at University of Maryland. From there, he became an interim Provost at Kansas state University where he worked closely with the Graduate Student Senate there.
5. Explained the role of a provost- unlike the president who is the face of University, the provost is the internal execution across all academics.
6. UConn’s goals- Expanding the research footprint, life transformative education, and UConn as an engine for the state. How do we make these priorities meaningful at each of the colleges and departmental levels? Also wants to prioritize sustainability and mental well-being for all students.
7. Mental health- How can we build more mental health in the classroom? A course is now being offered to undergraduate on personal wellness and ways in which we can support mental health for all students. The Provost would like to connect students with mentors as a way to provide mental health and emotional wellness for students. The Provost and the President will be conducting an annual action plan as a way to address the student issues each year. A strategic plan will be designed and will be analyzed each year to determine how much funding will be
8. Tier II RSO guest speaker series- Hosting out of state guest speakers will be tricky for the upcoming year because CT has strict regulations on out of state travel. Provost Carl would like Tier II’s to have in person events and encouraged bringing in more local speakers from UConn or a guest in CT. Each circumstance will have to be evaluated individually.
9. Activities Director, Deepa Shukla, asks what the plan is for next semester, specifically for the winter and colder months when events cannot be held outside. Provost Carl suggested that folks have a reasonable safety plan and 100 attendee cap will likely be the maximum allowance, however he added that he would be willing to make exceptions for the graduate population. Provost Carl expressed her eagerness to work with the graduate student population on this.
10. Senator Spencer Sonnenberg asked how will the discussion begin with faculty and staff to begin building in an awareness of mental health through their curriculums and course design? Provost Carl said he would be happy to create a sub-committee on this topic and then asked Nafis to add this topic to their agenda to discuss.
11. The Provost provided his email [carl.lejuez@uconn.edu] and would like to have the graduate voice expressed more in the decision making of the University.
12. **Approval of consent agenda:**
13. GSS-2020-09-16 Senate Meeting Minutes
14. GSS-2020-10-6 E-Board Meeting Minutes

*Senator Daniel Pfeiffer made a motion to approve the above consent agenda, seconded by Senator Hannah Taylor. The minutes were approved unanimously.*

1. **New Business:**
   1. Vice President Election
      1. Nominees:
         1. Maggie Khuu- Second year PhD student in Physiology and Neurobiology and wants to be a representative for her broader graduate student community. Maggie stated that she is eager to implement change and would like to highlight her experience of being the co-chair for the brain scholar program which allows minority and underprivileged children the opportunity to study science.

*29/33 voted for the nominee and 4/33 abstained.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
2. Senator Piyush Arora asked if we would be discussing committee vacancies and Nafis stated that any interested parties should email him directly.
3. Nafis stated that he has seen students without masks. Every classroom on campus has a sign which states that masks are required within that space. Failure to follow the guidelines may be due to students becoming too relaxed with how well UConn has handled case numbers.
4. Senator Daniel Pfeiffer asked when the state legislature and UConn decides on its budget? Nafis asked Robert Daniels (treasurer) to clarify about the Tier II budget and Robert said that the meeting is scheduled in November and will have more information on that in the next few weeks.
5. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Nafis Fuad
      1. Campus updates
         1. Spring Semester- Email was sent from the Provost’s office this week to declare the modification to the Spring calendar by the Scholastic committee.
         2. Dr. Brix praises UConn Covid re-opening- Ability to maintain low Covid cases.
         3. Asynchronous courses need more interaction to attract students-
      2. Spring planning
         1. Fall reopening- Please communicate any concerns that was not addressed during the reopening to Nafis so they can be talked about.
   2. Treasurer –Robert Daniels
      1. TII RSO treasurer training- If any Tier II treasurer did not receive the information that was sent out via email last week, let Robert know.
      2. Finance committee- Seeking 5-6 senators to serve on this committee and interested parties should email Robert.
   3. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
6. 2019/2020 GSS Promotional items- Pick up dates will be Oct. 15 and 16 from 1:15-2:15pm in the GSS office (SU-213).
   1. Activities Director – Deepa Shukla
      1. Events for this semester- Two events are in the process of being planned. Plan is to have stuff the Husky and Thanksgiving luncheon.
      2. Graduate Student P/F option for Fall 2020- They are planning to train the graduate advisors.
   2. Parliamentarian – Irio Schiano
      1. Senator status – Apportionment is currently being calculated and open spots will be available for several departments.
      2. Tier II Funding- For any Tier II to be eligible for funding for the next year, senators can only miss one meeting.

1. **Committee Reports:**
2. Committee format- Any graduate student that would like to provide an update on the committee they serve on should send Nafis an email prior to the senate meeting so he can add it to the Senate Agenda.
3. Deepa Shukla, Director of Mental health services search committee-
4. UConn Chief of Police committee- Seeking a graduate student to serve on this committee and interested parties should email Nafis.
5. **Adjournment:** *Senator Daniel Pfeiffer motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Senator Hannah Taylor. Senate voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm.*