1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:03pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was met with 30 senators.
3. **Approval of consent agenda:**
   1. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 3/9/2021 meeting
   2. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 2/17/2021 meeting

*Senator Ryan Scala made a motion to approve the above consent agenda, seconded by Senator Daniel Pfeiffer. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.*

1. **New business:**
   1. GSS E-board elections- Postponed to next GSS meeting because we did not meet quorum initially and announced that we would not hold elections. Gabrielle did pose the question to the senate what it would take for any of them to step up and take on a GSS E-board position. Senator Ryan Scala said that as a second year PhD student, he doesn’t think he could commit to the time requirements and thinks many other students feel the same way. Senator Molly James mentioned it would be helpful to have a clearer idea as to what the duties and time requirements are for each position and Tanu Mehta seconded this as well. Senator Ryan Scala also mentioned that if GSS plans to hold meetings in person for next year he may not be a senator because the travel time would be too much for him.
   2. GSA Special allocation- Rafael Concepcion- $600 is requested for the Masters of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition. Students need to pay for more than what was previously planned for since the event had to be pushed ahead of the timeframe it was supposed to be held.

*Senator Emily Green made a motion to approve the special allocation, seconded by Senator Daniel Pfeiffer. The special allocation was approved unanimously.*

* 1. GSS Special allocation- Spring senator’s gift items have been selected and the quote is $562 over budget. Gabrielle stated that senators could pick up their gifts at the Storrs campus in April but would be willing ship gifts to regional campus senators.

*Senator Ryan Scala made a motion to approve the special allocation, seconded by Senator Rafael Concepcion . The special allocation was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
2. GEUrepresentative- Thomas Reid- Encourages all graduate students to apply for the GEU E-board positions. All positions currently are available for applicants and there are no incumbents running for any of the positions. Another way to become involved with the GEU is to become a steward which is another officer position but is more focused on a particular department or geographic area on campus. Any questions about the positions can be directed to Thomas Reid. Senator Molly James asked how long the terms are and Thomas replied that it depends on the position but generally 2-3 years, however, many E-board members do not stay on for the entire term.
3. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Nafis Fuad
      1. Vaccine – The plan keeps changing and although there was a bit of confusion when HR declared that front line workers/graduate students would be eligible for the vaccine and then revoked the opportunity, it is important to keep in mind is that the University has no control whatsoever on who will be receiving the vaccine but the State that decides this. As of right now, all persons under the age of 45 will be eligible to register for the vaccine on April 5, 2021. Senator Molly James stated that one of her colleagues who is a graduate student in New You was deemed a front-line worker and received the vaccine and it may be worthwhile to lobby directly to the CT governor to push for CT graduate students to have the vaccine.
      2. Faculty planning academic assessment/class during the spring recess
      3. Mirror Lake Swing- This fundraiser is for the replacement of the swing tree. President Katsouleas has already donated $1000 of his own money. Please read some of the testimonials from student mental health [here](https://magazine.uconn.edu/2018/02/09/a-little-push/) with testimonies of CMHS professionals.
   2. Treasurer – Deepa Shukla
      1. GSS Budget- The proposed budget for the 2021-2022 year has decreased from previous years due to attendance. The general operations, E-board travel reimbursements, administrative budgets, GSS activities fund and Special allocation budgets have remained the same. Deepa presented the Tier II organizations that will be eligible for funding next year and the amounts they requested and were allocated. Senator Tanner Matson asked when he should request for the special allocation to hold the Fall 2021 EEB symposium for his organization. Deepa said as long as they meet the attendance requirement for this semester, they can apply in September but it must be submitted 14 days prior to meeting date. Senator Cassie Burt asked if multiple senators could represent their organization and if they can trade off for attending meetings. Irio stated that her department is eligible for 3 senators but all 3 senators must attend.

*Senator Emily Green made a motion to approve the above GSS annual budget, seconded by Senator Molly James. The GSS annual budget was approved unanimously.*

* 1. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
     1. GSS Service Award- Two GSS service awards were allocated by the GSS Service Award committee to Justin Fang and Spencer Sonnenberg for their continual support and representation for GSS.

*Senator Molly James made a motion to approve the above GSS Service Awards, seconded by Senator Ryan Scala. The GSS Service Awards were approved unanimously.*

* + 1. GSS Community Service Award- This year we had a record number of nominations, almost 40 in total. The committee met this past week to review nomination packets and has voted on two deserving nominees. Awardees will be announced at the next GSS Senate meeting.
  1. Activities Director – Rebecca Oramas
     1. Events for this semester- Pick up your stress relief kit in April. There will be 150 kits available on first come first serve, please see the Daily Digest for more details.

1. Committee Reports:
   1. Scholastic standards committee-- Maggie Khuu— Motion to add the no record Covid grade to the Bylaws was passed. This grade is particularly pertinent for students who had to withdraw a class during the pandemic. Secondly, the language in the Bylaws was changed to state that syllabi needed to be ready on the first day of class instead of the first day of semester. Finally, Fresh Start is a committee that will overlook grades of students who have taken an extended leave of absence (several years) so that their older grades do not affect their future successes.
   2. Strategy Planning Committee- Nafis Fuad—This group will be working into the summer and are seeking representation from graduate students. This will focus on how the new Provost envisions the University to run. Any graduate students who wish to serve on this committee please contact Nafis.
2. **Adjournment:**

*Senator John Dabrowski made a motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Senator Derrick Kamp. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.*

|  |
| --- |
| Attendance GSS 03/17/21 |
| Name |
| Rafael Concepcion |
| Daniel Pfeiffer |
| Hannah Taylor |
| Nicolaus Schrum |
| Cindy Barreto |
| Emily Green |
| Spencer Sonnenberg |
| Derrick Kamp |
| Jessica Maita |
| Francis Masese |
| Shayani Parida |
| Eric Berg |
| Julianna Herman |
| Molly James |
| Elena Robakiewicz |
| Nicole Tillquist |
| Victor Volkman |
| Justin Fang |
| Ryan Scala |
| Faisal Algosair |
| Daria Larson |
| Gianna Raimondi |
| Gabrielle Corso |
| Emily Parrish-Mulliken |
| Jacob Kellermeier |
| Zaili Hou |
| William Hughes |
| Maggie Khuu |
| Mikayla Moody |
| Alquan Higgs |
| Tanner Matson |
| Alev Ecevitoglu |
| Tanu Mehta |
| Rebecca Oramas |
| Deepa Shukla |
| Thomas Reid |
| John Dabrowski |
| Isabell Sluka |
| Cassidy Burt |
| Utsav Awasthi |
| kaustubh Prabhu |
| Nafis Fuad |
| Nissi Varghese |
| Namitha Pais |
| Irio Schiano |