1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:05pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was not met.
3. **Guest Speaker(s):** 
   1. Dr. Andrew Agwunobi, Interim President of the University of Connecticut
4. Welcome! President Agwunobi gave a brief introduction on his background as a trained Pediatrician, his completion of graduate studies in CA, and his deep passion for education and believes education is the solution to a lot of the problems we have.
5. Huge thanks to the graduate students for their representation at the University. 25% of UConn students are graduate and professional students and we would not be where we would be today without them.
6. Covid-19 is still on the front burner and although we are only a few week into the semester, things are going very well and the positivity rate remains low. Only 22 staff and faculty have tested positive and student positive rate is only .02%.
7. Another topic that is important to graduate students is equity and social justice and many initiatives are in the works to strengthen our ambitions. Any and all suggestions are welcome.
8. The impact of continuing budget cuts have been affecting the size of graduate programs. Although 2/3 of graduate student are masters students, almost all PhD students are supported by teaching assistantships and Dr. Agwunobi wants to investigate more thoroughly as to how cuts will effect different departments.
9. Communications Director, Gabrielle Corso, asked how he transitioned from medicine to academia? President Agwunobi explained that he first started in medicine and shifted to running health systems which eventually led him to running health systems in academia. Dr. Agwunobi shared that his father was a surgeon and growing up he always felt as though he wanted to be a doctor, though his father was also a businessman. After he finished his residency in pediatrics, he went to business school. From there he joined a hospital system and quickly became the CEO of a health system in GA.
10. Grad Union Rep, Amy Fehr, asked about budget cuts and funding. She explained that due to the pandemic, the MLA and other professional organizations have recommended granting students an extension to graduate. Amy wants to know how he plana to accomplish this with all the planned budget cuts? Andy said he will make sure that he is well informed about the cuts and how exactly that will impact departments in regards to extending graduations.
11. Senator Mikayla Moody states that as a Biomedical Engineer PhD student at UConn health, her cohort is grouped with the Storrs students yet they are ineligible for GEU benefits. He requests for her to send him an email so he can further investigate this issue. Amy Fehr also requests an email from Mikayla.
12. Senator Jackson asks about his reaching out to different communities and organizations in CT and wants to know exactly who he is trying to help out. Andy said he goes to Stanford every Friday to the office and tries to learn how he can help more, as well as Hartford and Avery Point campuses as well. Additionally, he is talking with state legislators. He believes regional campuses will be a big part of our future and therefore wants to study them each very carefully.
13. **The Basics of GSS Presentation:**
14. E-Board introductions- Irio Schiano, Daniel Pfeiffer, Deepa Shukla, Gabrielle Corso, Thomas Pilnik, and Julianna Herman.
15. Meeting Attendance- You are only allowed to miss 1 meeting per semester so it is imperative that you sign in with Parliamentarian, Julianna Herman, at every meeting!
16. GSS operates using the Bylaws, Constitution and Robert’s Rules for standard operating procedure. All of these can be found on the GSS website.
17. All graduate students can attend GSS meetings but only senators can vote. In order for the Senate to vote on anything, Quorum must be met! Quorum= average numbers of senators at previous two meetings.
18. Voting- GSS votes on minutes/budgets/allocations, tabling discussions, extending the meeting time beyond 2 hours and adjournment.
19. Funding- There are two types of funding; General/Budget Allocation and Special allocations. In order to request a general allocation, your Tier II must be in good standing. Special Allocations are one-time requests for events that benefit the entire graduate community. Tier II’s do not need a budget to request a special allocation and the special allocation must be submitted prior to the event.
20. **Approval of consent agenda:**
    1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 4/21/2021 meeting
    2. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 7/13/2021 meeting
    3. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 8/4/2021 meeting
    4. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 9/7/2021 meeting

*Tabled until next senate meeting because quorum was not met.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
   1. GEUrepresentative- Amy Fehr-
2. Our Bargaining is up for renewal so please fill out bargaining survey ASAP! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUZni3XrnfQa2b9ApifsNrJIc1Bi07wrS2Kb93U5SunFmBEg/viewform>
3. If you are not yet a member, please see her afterwards so you can sign a card and sign up.
4. Parking pass for Gas is still an ongoing issues and the GEU fought very hard to get Area 2 parking for students this year.
5. Rec Center reimbursement will be processed on 9/24 paycheck.
6. Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, September 29th .
7. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Irio Schiano
      1. COVID update- Grad students have reached a 97% vaccination rate.
      2. Diversity Report- Faculty and staff are more diverse than ever before.
      3. GSS Loan adjustments- Loans for graduate students have been increased from $1500 to $3000. Senator Zachary Muscavitch asked if there is any danger to keep the value so high and Irio said as far as he knows, there is not. Senator Greene asks where the amount is coming from and is there a way to increase the total loanable amount since right now graduate students are in need and we ought to keep it as high as possible.
      4. Withdraw/Add Drop adjustments- This date will be changing from the 9th week of the semester to the 11th week of the semester. Justin Fang states that he is in favor of the adjustment.
   2. Vice President – Daniel Pfeiffer
      1. Administrative Assistant- Katya Hunt has been hired and she works 10 hours a week and will hold virtual office hours on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. Information on her virtual hours are posted on the GSS website. You may also contact her directly @ gssuconn@gmail.com.
   3. Treasurer – Deepa Shukla
      1. Tier II treasurer training- Will be held Sep. 27th and an email will be sent out. Then on September 30th, another meeting will be held that all treasurers must attend. You will be provided with all the knowledge to submit forms for events and money.
      2. GSS Finance committee- Call for committee members! Anyone interested please contact [GSSTreasurer@uconn.edu](mailto:GSSTreasurer@uconn.edu).
      3. Tier II Annual Budgets- Will be due the last week of January
      4. Financial Assistant- GSS is funded by graduate student activity fees and this money funds Graduate Tier II Organizations GSS hires a financial assistant to help with moving documentation and help GSS run smoothly. TSOS is insisting that a financial assistant must be hired for 14 hours at the same price and will be unionized so therefore cannot be fired.
   4. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
      1. Call for senator forms- Please submit your senator form ASAP on the google doc that was sent out.
      2. Email list update- Please email her Gabrielle if you are not currently receiving emails.
   5. Activities Director – Thomas Pilnik
      1. Welcome Back BBQ report- The BBQ was a success and 250 graduate students attended.
      2. Status Report on upcoming events- Halloween Event (Oct. 28), Thanksgiving Luncheon (Nov. 14th), Grad Formal (Apr. 1).
      3. GSS activities committee- Need assistance with event setup/breakdown. You do not need to be a senator! Please email Thomas.pilnik@uconn.edu.
   6. Parliamentarian – Julianna Herman
      1. Attendance- If you are attending the meeting virtually, please send your name, email, NetID and what Tier II you are representing in the chat.
8. **Committee Reports:**
   1. Justin Fang- Board of Trustees Representative- In the interest in time, this discussion was tabled until next meeting.
   2. Open Committees
      1. Senate Growth and Development
      2. Faculty Standards
      3. Transportation and Parking
9. **Adjournment: Meeting ended at 9:01pm.**

**Attendance**-

Irio Sciano

Daniel Pfeiffer

Deepa Shukla

Gabrielle Corso

Thomas Pilnik

Hulianna Herman

Katayoun Matloubi

Hannah Taylor

Amy Fehr

Aaron Proudfoot

Jessica Maita

Ummul Khaira

Karla del cid-ledezma

Koushan Mohammadi

Israt Jaham

Gianna Raimondi

Nicole Tillquist

Durga Joshi

Md Billal Hossain

Jackson Calhoun

Bailey Fryer

Jinzhou liu

Bryan Greene

Julian Biddle

Elena Robakiewicz

Katherine Gabriele

Zachary Moscavitch

John Dabrowski

Amanda Mankovich

Henry Frye

Marie Nour Nakhle

Islam Kabil

Nama Adutwum

Luis Seoane Estruel

Isabell Sluka

Lauren Barrett

William Hawkins

Megan Tresca

Cristian Corza

Louvins Pierre

Mary McGuinness

Sierra Trudel

Adanma Akoma