1. **Guest Speaker(s):**
2. Karen Bresciano *Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Affairs*
3. What the Graduate School wants to do for you! The Graduate School helps with graduate student problems such as late drop or leave of absences. TGS also does professional and career development such as the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT), postdoc summer series, graduate student appreciation week, and collaboration with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
4. New initiative to find out the needs of graduate students that are parents and a website is currently in the process of being developed.
5. Three main initiatives to help BIPOC students; improve advising experiences, analyzing the graduate student policies and procedures and building the graduate school staff for supporting BIPOC graduate students.
6. Providing faculty with the tools to be excellent advisors. What does faculty think is good advising and what do students think is good advising? Focus groups will be held separately with faculty and graduate students to gain a better understanding of this question. Graduate students who are interested in this discussion can email [karen.bresciano@uconn.edu](mailto:karen.bresciano@uconn.edu).
7. Senator Jackson Calhoun asked if the graduate student is a GA is a yearlong contract, why must students who would like to take a winter break course have to pay for them? The Asst. Dean replied that not all GA contracts are yearly and the tuition goes elsewhere?
8. Daniel Pfeiffer says that he was surprised to hear that 30% of graduate students are caregivers and asks what types of initiatives are in place to help parents? Resources such as where to find good childcare, information for emergencies, etc. Students that are interested in this topic should contact Mrs. Bresciano.
9. Justin Fang asked about developing a resource that can match graduate students with teaching assistants positions since many open teaching assistant positions are listed randomly on the various platforms. Mrs. Bresciano replied that this already exists but faculty does not always utilize it but the graduate school could do a better job for marketing.
10. Gabrielle Corso asked about how the Graduate School plans to assemble faculty from diverse departments since excellent advising in one department may be different for another department. Senator Bryan Greene suggested to pay attention to the fact that there are student groups in different departments and they may be interested in participating and providing a more universal outlook.
11. **Approval of consent agenda:**
    1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 10/13/2021 meeting
    2. GSS E-board meeting minutes – 11/02/2021 meeting

*Senator Julian Biddle made a motion to vote on the consent agenda and Senator Md Billal Houssain seconded it. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum**
2. N/A
3. **New Business**
   1. EEB resolution
4. Senator Jackson Calhoun made a motion to discuss the resolution and Senator Zachary Muscavitch made a motion to second it. Senator Bryan Greene asked if we are tacking on another $5 to student fees or will it be restructured in the current fees? Senator Henry Frye says the fee is not set in stone quite yet but right now the proposal is $5 for each semester.

*Senator Gianna Raimondi made a motion to vote on the climate resolution and Senator Zachary Muscavitch seconded it. The climate resolution was approved unanimously.*

* 1. GSS Financial Policy Amendment

1. Senator Julian Biddle made a motion to discuss the resolution and Senator Durga Joshi made a motion to second it. Senator Biddle asks how long this amendment will be for and Deepa replied it will be for one fiscal year.

*Senator Nicole Tillquist made a motion to vote on the Financial Policy Amendment and Senator Isabell Sluka seconded it. The Financial Policy Amendment was approved unanimously.*

1. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Irio Schiano
      1. Housing Survey- Any feedback is greatly appreciated in regards to graduate student housing near campus.
   2. Vice President – Daniel Pfeiffer
   3. Treasurer – Deepa Shukla
      1. Loan Funds Details- The stats are in and the money GSS has to use for short-term loans is $150,000 and right now we have lent around $75,000. In the year 2021, we have approved 5 loans per month. Senator Zachary Muskavitch from EEB asks what the average loan amount is, are students maxing it out? Deepa said that when the maximum was $1,500, most students requested for the full amount and since the loan has been increased to $3,000, students are requesting the full amount and often times less. Senator Aaron Proudfoot suggests keeping the loan at $3,000 but once the funds reach $100,000 the total loan amount can be decreased. The discussion was tabled until next meeting.
      2. Tier II Budget Submission due- All Tier II budgets are due by or before Jan. 31. Anything submitted after that will not be accepted! The budget forms can be found on the GSS website and the UConn catering menu can be used for quotes.
      3. Expense Reimbursements- GSS does not do reimbursements! Do not request for reimbursements. Lastly, fundraising at a GSS paid event is not permitted.
   4. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
      1. Food Pantry- Food pantry on campus available for all grad students at the Storrs Congregational Church. Hours are Sundays from 11-12:30pm, Mondays from 1-3pm, and Thursdays from 2:30-6:30pm. Fresh produce is available on Mondays. Please spread the word and Gabrielle will be sending out a survey at the next GSS meeting to gain a better understanding of what graduate students would like to have available at the pantry.
   5. Activities Director – Thomas Pilnik
      1. Thanksgiving Event- Will be held on November 15th from 11-3pm. It will be a grab and go event and 2 time slots will be offered so please sign up with the links provided in the email announcement.
   6. Parliamentarian – Julianna Herman
      1. Academic Integrity council
         1. Survey- Please fill this out now. Any interested students who feel strongly about academic integrity, send Julianna an email to be on her council.
2. **Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:24pm.**

*Senator Jackson Calhoun made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Senator Zachary Muskavitch seconded it. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.*

**Attendance**

Irio Schiano

Daniel Pfeiffer

Deepa Shukla

Gabrielle Corso

Julianna Herman

Ashok Gurung

Jackson Calhoun

Matais Lopez

Bryan Greene

Md Billal Hossain

Nick Tricard

Koushan Mohammadi

Islam Kabil

Patrick Meagher

Julian Biddle

Zach Muscovitch

Chris Anderson

Justin Fang

Aaron Proudfoot

Adanma Akoma

Spencer Hayes

William Hawkins

Hannah Taylor

Luis Ortiz

Benjamin Taraskevich

Nicole Tillquist

Amanda Fording

Kay Gruder

Roman Mays

Mary McGuinness

Sierra Trudel

Jinzhou Liu

Lauren Barrett

Israt Jahan

Isabell Sluka

Katayoun matloubi

James Canne

Kianjai Huggan

Durga Joshi

Elena Robakiewicz

Gianna Raimondi

Marco Echeverria

I'jaaz Muhammad

Josh Gil