1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:04pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was met with 25 senators.
3. **Guest Speaker(s):**
4. Dr. Carl Lejuez, *Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*
5. The Provost talked about the recent expansion of the Provost office leadership team and efforts to become more aligned with The Graduate School.
6. Vice President, Daniel Pfeiffer asked what specific things is the Provost office looking into for graduate student well-being. The Provost replied that they are taking serous steps to change the diversity in the senior leadership and the past fourteen leaders of the University, half of them have been members from underrepresented groups. One of the major ways they are being proactive for student well-being is more training for mentors so they can better understand what they can do to support graduate student’s well-being.
7. President, Irio Schiano, asked how UConn is attempting to mirror other flagship Universities in their approach to graduate student well-being. Provost Lejuez replied that increasing access is a major focus point and one that is currently being studied.
8. Senator Elena Robakiewicz asked if faculty would be obliged to take the training and/or are they enthusiastic about participating in the training? The Provost’s response was that he was in favor for this and that many other Universities are requiring completion of the trainings.
9. Finally, Provost Lejuez offers to talk with any graduate student about their graduate experience and their post-graduation ambitions.
10. **Approval of consent agenda:**
    1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 11/11/2021 meeting
    2. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 11/30/2021 meeting
    3. GSS Senate meeting minutes - 12/8/2021 meeting
    4. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 1/25/2022 meeting

*Senator Mary McGuinness made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Senator Hannah Taylor seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
   1. **GEU representative**- Louvins Pierre-
      1. Bargaining contract- Current contract is coming to an end and GEU is bargaining on a new contract.
      2. One big win was negotiation appointment and re-appointment which means you will know two weeks sooner than in the past.
      3. Another big win was a power based bullying section added to the contract to protect against power based bullying to graduate students.
      4. As of now, the GEU is negotiating graduate fees and preventing the health insurance cost from rising, wage increases, summer appointments, protection for international GAs, non-traditional holidays, and more affordable graduate student housing.
      5. Seeking GAs for action events which will inform other students what they are about and participate in collective efforts. VP, Daniel Pfeiffer, resonated how profound attending these events can be and were a highlight of his graduate school experience.
   2. Mary McGuiness- Addressed the need for tax help for graduate students. Irio promised to look into it.
2. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Irio Schiano
      1. Student Activities- If any graduate students are asymptomatic, at home Covid tests will be available Feb. 7th at 9am. They can be picked up at the student Union Info center or Office of residential life. One test is available per student and distribution may be limited. If you are symptomatic, you must pick up the test from SHaW. Lastly, if you are positive you must report this on the portal.
      2. Call for nominations: Treasurer and Activities Director- Both treasurer and activities director have resigned for the semester and we are now accepting nominations for both positions for the remaining two months of the term. If you are appointed to either position, you would need to resign any position in your Tier II Org. Any interested parties can email Irio ([Irio.schiano@uconn.edu](mailto:Irio.schiano@uconn.edu)) for questions or Gabrielle ([gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu](mailto:gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu)) to submit a nomination. Any nominees do not need to be senators, though it is recommended that senators apply since they are familiar with the GSS procedures.
      3. Budgets and SASFAC fee- Due on Jan. 31, 2021. GSS does not have a treasurer so please be patient as the E-board and Financial Committee sort through them. Irio mentioned setting the activities fee to 0 for the upcoming year so we can use some of the money that has been accrued during the two-year pandemic.
      4. Addition of Students to the University Senate- Graduate students are trying to reserve two spots for graduate representation on the University senate as opposed to one.
      5. Appropriation Budget Representatives-A hearing will be held at the state capitol at the end of the month and UConn is looking for student representatives to lobby to the state in order to keep our funding. Any interested parties can email Irio.
      6. STEC representative- Seeking representation. Graduate student would sit on just two virtual meetings to elect the student trustees. Senator Bryan Green expressed interest depending on scheduling time. Senator Aaron Proudfoot offered to be a back-up if Bryan cannot fulfill the position.
      7. Student Focus Group-Registrar and Financial Aid- Seeking five students to help with oversight and share their experiences with administrative groups on campus to better understand how they can mitigate negative experiences. This would most likely be an email chain/survey, not a “meeting.”
      8. Finance Committee- Any interested treasurers should join this committee. The committee will commence at the end of February and will consist of 1 or two meetings reviewing Tier II Org budgets. You can serve on this committee even if you are involved with a Tier II Org.
   2. Vice President – Daniel Pfeiffer
      1. Dissertation embargos- The UConn library has released dissertations that have been under embargo. What this means is that after you defend your dissertation, you need to upload it to the UConn database and while it is on there, it can be embargoed for up to twelve year which means it is protected to be reviewed/used/stolen by others and serves as a protection of your property. Right now the library is looking in to better understand who was affected by this and how to prevent this in the future.
   3. Parliamentarian – Julianna Herman
      1. Graduate Student Faculty Council- Motion for Pass Fail. New wording proposed for graduate students enrolling in undergraduate or graduate courses that a
      2. Academic Integrity Council- Defined different section of rules for ----. Anything that comprises a letter grade will be decided by the AIC and grades that are P/F will not be.
      3. GSS Policies and Procedures Committee- Seeking graduate students to serve on this committee in hopes to change the wording in the GSS bylaws to modify quorum policies. Vice President Daniel Pfeiffer and Senator Aaron Proudfoot offered to serve on this committee.
      4. BOT Rep- Julianna will be running for the graduate student representative on the Board of Trustees and Julianna will be sending out the link soon.
3. **Committee Reports** 
   * 1. **Graduate Student Faculty Council-** Julianna Herman- New motion for Pass/Fail. New wording has been proposed for graduate students enrolling in undergraduate or graduate courses that are outside of their plan of study. Students that wish to take a course that is outside of their course of study, may take the course for a Pass or Fail with the consent of their advisor.
     2. **Academic Integrity Council**- Julianna Herman- Defined different section of rules for plagiarism and cheating. Essentially, anything that comprises a letter grade will be decided by the AIC and grades that are P/F will not be.
4. **Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:37pm.**

*Senator Elena Robakiewicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Karla Del Cid-Ledezma seconded. The meeting was adjourned unanimously.*

**Attendance**

Ashok Gurung

Lauren Barrett

Hannah Taylor

Ruth Mcleod

Alyssa Bunyea

Jessica Maita

Karla Del Cid-Ledezma

Romania Jawahir

William Hawkins

Danique Hofstede

Israt Jahan

Isabell Sluka

Beccy Lewis

Zachary Muscavitch

Elena Robakiewicz

Islam Kabil

Nicole Tillquist

Koushan Mohammadi

Julian Biddle

Roman Mays

Justin Fang

Cassandra Gonzalez

Spencer Hayes

Bryan Greene

Madeleine Meadows-McDonnell

Durga Joshi

Aaron Proudfoot

Lindsay Barnum

Md Billal Hossain

Alec Calabrese

Joshua Gil

John Dabrowski

Mary McGuinness

Adanma Akoma

Gianna Raimondi