1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:04pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators:** Quorum was met with 31 senators.
3. **Guest Speaker(s):**
4. Leanne Adams, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (*VITA)*
5. Leanne pulled up the VITA website, navigated through the relevant pages and showed students how to apply and non-resident intake form
6. VITA services are 100% virtual and once you make an account, all documents can be uploaded on the website. A checklist will appear to inform if any additional documents are needed. Leanne emphasized that it is imperative that any international students fill out the non-resident form before they upload any other relevant documents.
7. Leanna said taxes are due on the 18th and they get flooded with returns towards the deadline so file early! Vice President Daniel Pfeiffer asked when the latest a student can file with VITA for this year? Leanne said at the absolute latest, April 10th.
8. Senator Rebecca Lewis asked if all VITA will be virtual or any in person services offered? Leanne said they are only doing virtual but this year they are partnering with GetYourRefund so the process is very different.
9. **Approval of consent agenda:**
   1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 02/02/2022 meeting
   2. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 02/22/2022 meeting

*Senator Koushan Mohammadi made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Senator Gianna Raimondi seconded. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum:**
   1. **GEU representative**- Louvins Pierre-
      1. Bargaining contract- Still in bargaining mode and the GEU is hopeful to reach an agreement with the University this week.
      2. Upcoming Events- Stay tuned for more details on a firepit event and coffee hours.
      3. Next membership meeting will be Wednesday, March 8th from 7-9pm.
      4. Senator Katayoun Matloubi asked for the GEU website to share with the graduate community. https://uconngradunion.org
2. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President –Irio Schiano
      1. GSS E-Board Elections- Asked how these positions will work for students who do field work during the academic semesters. Irio stated due to the pandemic, some positions can be virtual like communications director and parliamentarian. Parliamentarian Julianna Herman nominated Gabrielle Corso for Vice President. Justin Fang nominated Gianna for parliamentarian, Sandip for treasurer, and Usman Ali for activities director. Senator Julian Biddle nominated Senator Elena Robakiewicz for communications director. Irio Schiano nominated Katayoun Matloubi as Parliamentarian. All parties accepted the nominations. Any self-nominations may be done before next meeting as well- please send an email to gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu.
      2. SS FY 2022-2023 Budget- is now finished and will be submitted next week. Activities and administrative assistant budget is similar to last year, special allocations budget will be $20,000 and Tier II budget is set $84,790. Irio also stated that TSOS is implementing a fee for processing GSS paperwork at a cost of $4,761.84. Senator Karla Del Cid-Ledezma asked is the Tier II budget has been approved? Irio said as of today, all Tier II budgets have been annotated and will be emailed back to Tier II organizations in the next several weeks.

*Senator Israt Jahan made a motion to accept the 2022-2023 FY budget and Senator Ashok Gurung seconded. The budget was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. GSS Activities Fee- Has been proposed by the E-board to be set to zero for the upcoming year. Senator Aaron Proudfoot asked how much the fee is? Irio said $16 per semester and $32 per year. Senator Zachary asked what the surplus is? Irio said around $300,000.

*Senator Gianna Raimondi made a motion to set the GSS Activities Fee to zero for the upcoming year and Senator Joshi Durga seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. SASFAC/Budget vote- GSS will use a portion of our funds to pay the TSOS office administrative assistant. Senator Lauren Barrett asked what has changed that made this position necessary? Irio said until recently, a staff member in TSOS was taking care of these tasks but his position has now been eliminated and what he was doing was doing for free, a new staff member has to do so GSS will chip in for a portion of their salary. Irio emphasized that we will only be paying for what we are using and if we only use 5 hours of their time then that is all we will be chipping in for.

*Senator Elena Robakiewicz made a motion to pay TSOS on an hourly basis and Julian Biddle seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. Update on Mirror Lake construction—Irio has a meeting with Sean Vasington next week to discuss the construction on Mirror Lake which has been halted and delayed until this summer.
  1. Vice President – Daniel Pfeiffer
     1. N/A
  2. Communications Director – Gabrielle Corso
     1. Spring Events- Grab and Go Events on March 24th and April 14th from 10:30-1:30pm. Huskies Happy Hour/End of the year Celebration April 29th from 4-7pm.
     2. GSS Swag- Promotional items have been ordered! They will be gifted to all senators at the final Spring meeting in May.
     3. GSS Award Committee- Seeking members to serve on the committee that selects a graduate student to receive the annual GSS award. Please email her if interested. Gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu.
  3. Parliamentarian – Julianna Herman
     1. Policies and Procedures Committee- Julianna’s committee is comprised of Daniel Pfeiffer, Irio Schiano, Aaron Proudfoot, and herself but she is still accepting committee members.
     2. Board of Trustees Representative- Julianna is running for election and asks to spread the word to their departments and constituents.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. **Marth Mentorship Committee-** GabrielleCorso- At the committee meeting, members reviewed applications and a candidate was selected although there was only one nomination so ways to advertise the award to more graduate students was discussed and the chairperson of the committee may come to a September senate meeting to talk about the Marth Award.
3. **Building Grounds and Environment Committee -** Justin Fang- Justin will send out a transportation survey to collect graduate student feedback.
4. **Adjournment: Meeting ended at 8:07pm.**

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

**Attendance**

Islam Kabil

Jessica Maita

Romania Jawahir

Beccy Lewis

Sierra Trudel

John Dabrowski

Gianna Raimondi

Hannah Taylor

Cristian Corza

Isabell Sluka

Bryan Greene

mary mcguinness

Julian Biddle

kaustubh Prabhu

Zachary Muscavitch

Justin Fang

Jackson Calhoun

Sandip Roy

koushan mohammadi

Elena Robakiewicz

Karla Del Cid-Ledezma

William Hawkins

Ethan Gossett

Katayoun Matloubi

Jinzhou Liu

Lindsay Barnum

Nicole Tillquist

Rebekah Charles

Cassandra Gonzalez

Lauren Barrett

usman ali

Aaron Proudfoot

Israt Jahan

Megan Tresca

durga joshi

Darlis Juvino

Mainak Mondal

Md Billal Hossain

Josh Gil

Mikayla Moody

Spencer Hayes

Madeleine Meadows-McDonnell

Ashok Gurung

Santosh Dhakal

Dharma Basala

Zaili Hou

Gianna Raimondi