1. **Call to Order: Meeting began at 7:10 pm**
2. **Recognition of senators: Quorum was met with 27 senators**
3. **Approval of consent agenda:**
   1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 09/07/2022 meeting
   2. GSS Special E-board meeting minutes - 09/16/2022 meeting
   3. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 09/23/2022 meeting

*Senator Ashok Gurung made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Senator Lindsay Barnum seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum:** 
   1. **GEU representative**- Louvins Pierre- N/A
   2. **Timeline for submitting alternative representation form**: Senator Zachary Muscavitch asked whether the 1-week time for submitting “Alternative Representation Form” before the anticipated meeting that a senator will miss in line with constitution. Parliamentarian Gianna Raimondi made it clear that the purpose of the form is to ensure sufficient time for the E-board to check whether the attendance policy is being maintained and to make the best use of time for both senators and E-board members who all are graduate students. Gianna mentioned that the E-board considers case-by-case basis if someone has an emergency and cannot submit the form 1 week before the meeting
   3. Transportation: Senator Katyoun Matloubi raised the issue before the senate that there is insufficient shuttle across the campus which results in a huge amount of time spent in commute. Newly elected President Gabrielle Corso said that there is a Parking and Transportation committee where Senator Jairo Orea will serve. Gabrielle said that she will reach out to the parking service about it until the Parking and Transportation committee meetings start. Senator Lindsay Barnum said there is no shuttle from UConn health.

1. **Executive Board Reports:** 
   1. President – Gabrielle Corso
      1. GSS Presidential Election- No nomination submitted. Gabrielle Corso resigned from the post of Vice President before the meeting, and she will run for GSS president. Election for GSS president was held through closed ballot and Gabrielle has been elected the new GSS President.
      2. Call for Nominations for GSS Vice President: If anyone is interested or would like to nominate someone for GSS Vice President, they should reach out to Gabrielle Corso.
      3. Fall/Spring Guest Speakers- Gabrielle will reach out to the UConn President Radenka Maric, Kent Holsinger (Dean of the Graduate School), Cinnamon Adams (Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Support). She also asked the senate to reach out to her with any speakers they wish to hear from.
      4. University Senate Committee Vacancy- Seeking a regional senator to serve on this committee. GSS is allocated 3 seats for this committee. Meetings of this committee are virtual.
      5. Spring Meeting Dates- Jan. 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, Apr. 19. Posted on the website.
   2. Vice President – Gabrielle Corso
      1. N/A
   3. Treasurer – Sandip Roy
      1. Emergency Loan Fund Update- Sandip shared previous years’ loan data with the senate. Loan amount is currently $1500, and it was $3000 during the pandemic. Senator Lindsay Barnum asked who administers loan fund. Gabrielle said it is managed by the bursar. Senator Zachary Muscavitch asked how some students could have graduated without paying off the loan. Parliamentarian Gianna Raimondi replied that if some has not paid off the loan, the system does not allow the student to register for credits, but he/she can still graduate without paying. Cinnamon Adams, Director of Graduate Student and Postdoctoral Scholar Support, asked if students can specify the amount of loan they want while requesting for a loan. Senator Lindsay Barnum asked how we can enforce students to pay off their loans. Sandip said he will talk to Krista about what measures can be taken ensure loan is paid, such as, not allowing loan to someone when another loan is outstanding. Sandip mentioned that Graduate school can support incase case there is a shortage in loan fund. Senator Koushan Mohammadi suggested different loan amounts for regular and emergency loans. Sandip said it might not be feasible, however, he will talk to Bursar. Sandip said credit union gives loans to graduate students who are also employees. Cinnamon Adams shared with the senate that Students First Fund is accessible to all students. Senator Koushan Mohammadi asked what the interest rate is for loan. Sandip said the emergency loan for graduate students is interest free. Gianna said there is a late fee if loan is not paid in due time.

*Senator Gaurav Gupta made a motion to increase the emergency loan amount to $2000. Senator Mikayla Moody seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. DSA/TSOS MOU- The annual amount that GSS will pay TSOS is $16,000. Senator Lindsay Barnum asked if TSOS staffs are university employees, why the university is not paying them. Sandip replied that TSOS will be paid as per the hours spent by TSOS for GSS. Senator Zachary Muscavitch asked if GSS paid TSOS last year. Gabrielle said MOU with TSOS was not voted on last year, so GSS did not pay TSOS last year.

*Senator Ruth McLeod made a motion to approve the DSA/TSOS MOU. Senator Lindsay Barnum seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. Tier II PR Training & Timelines for filling a PR- Sandip said he will share a poll to ask for the availability of the Tier 2 organizations for PR training. Senator Lindsay Barnum asked if the training will be virtual. Sandip confirmed that the training will be virtual. The ideal time to file PR is 4 weeks before an event. Senator Koushan Mohammadi said Tier 2 organizations had to submit PR 3 weeks before an event in the last semester.

*Senator Gaurav Gupta made a motion to submit PR 14 calendar days (2 weeks) before an event. Senator Mikayla Moody seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* + 1. Graduate Student Activity Fee (Spring 2023)- Activity fee this semester was omitted based on last March meeting when previous GSS President Irio Schiano suggested that GSS has surplus money. But GSS only has sufficient fund for this year’s budget. E-board suggests to reinstate Grad activity fee from Spring 2023.

*Senator Ruth McLeod made a motion to reinstate the graduate activity fee from Spring 2023. Senator Lindsay Barnum seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* 1. Activities Director – Usman Ali
     1. Huskies Happy Hour- will take place at Husky tavern on October 20. The theme for the event is Halloween. Around 300 students are expected.
     2. Thanksgiving Luncheon- Tentative date is mid-November. Usman is seeking committee members for Activity committee. 2 attendees expressed their interest to serve Activity committee.
  2. Communications Director – Israt Jahan
     1. Email List- Israt said that all senators, presidents and treasurers of Tier 2 organizations should have received email that was sent out before the meeting. If any senator or president/treasure of a Tier 2 is not getting email from Israt, they should talk to her after the meeting
     2. GSS Alternative Senator Representation- Alternative representative form is available on the GSS website under the tab Senator. Senators should submit the form if they anticipate missing a senate meeting to indicate who will attend the meeting on their behalf. Senators are encouraged to submit the form 1 week before the meeting they will miss. However, if there is some emergency or unexpected situation, they should submit the form as soon as possible.
  3. Parliamentarian – Gianna Raimondi
     1. Outstanding Committees- Nonacademic senators need to serve in at least one committee. There are more external committees than non-academic senators. Gianna shared the list of external committees. Most of these committees meet virtually once a month. Senator Saurabh Goswami asked if the external committees are only open to senators. Gianna said any grad students can serve in these committees.
     2. Poll about Graduate Student Annual Trainings- A faculty member asked Gianna to get feedback from graduate students about annual GA trainings. Gianna shared a QR code with the senate to have their opinion about these trainings. Cinnamon Adams said GA compliance training is annual, sexual harassment prevention training needs be done only once after starting as a GA. Senator Zachary Muscavitch said these trainings might be mostly related to state regulations.

*Senator Lindsay Barnum made a motion to extend the senate meeting by 30 minutes if needed. Senator Muscavitch seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

1. **New Business:**
2. **Bylaw Change-**
3. E-board allowance-Sandip and Gianna showed the tracked changes in the Bylaws proposed by the E-board. Total E- board compensation for academic year is fixed. E-board member can have it as payroll or travel money to conferences or both as long as the allotted amount is not exceeded. The amount is for academic year (Fall, spring and winter as well). During summer, President and Treasurer can work up to 20 hrs/week. Allowance for E-board officers was decided in 2012 and there has not been any increase since 2012 even after the inflation. Therefore, E-board proposes to change the allowance for each officer which will also motivate students to run for GSS E-board which had been struggling to keep officers for the whole term. Sandip also shared the fact that Tier 2 budget has been increased by more than 50 % since 2019. The proposed increase for E-board allowance is only 2% of total budget and the total allowance is 8% of the budget.
4. Parking pass for E-board officers- President and Treasurer used to get full garage pass. Other officers get garage parking pass at discounted rate of Area 2. All E board members would be getting full reimbursement for Garage pass to make it more equitable.

*Senator Maham Liaqat made a motion to approve the by-law changes. Senator Gaurav Gupta seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously*.

1. **Budget for FY 2022-23**-The appeal period for budget is over. Sandip explained the breakdowns of the budget. The final budget for expenses is around $222,000. For Tier II organizations, the budget is around $76,000.

*Senator Mikayla Moody made a motion to approve the budget for FY 2022-2023. Senator Gaurav Gupta seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

1. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.**

*Senator Mikayla Moody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senate Gaurav Gupta seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously*

**Attendees**

Michael Griffith

Mikayla Moody

Spencer Hayes

Lindsay Barnum

Madeline Kollegger

Koushan Mohammadi

Elizabeth Zavodny

Ruth McLeod

Gretchen Geer

Saurabh Goswami

Mason Freund

Laura Lapham

Theodor Mayer

Zachary Muscavitch

Eunice Blemahdoo

Gaurav Gupta

Ashok Gurung

Richard Andres Ortiz Godoy

Veera Venkata Praveen Raja Kosuri

Muhammed Masudur Rahman

Md Amit Hasan

Jairo Orea

Jinzhou Liu

Maham liaqat

Ethan Gossett

Katayoun Matloubi

Hannah Collins

Emma Shipley

K. M. Abu Hurayra Lizu

Mohammed Albayati