1. **Call to Order: Meeting started at 6:09 pm.**
2. **Recognition of senators: Quorum was met with 27 senators.**
3. **Guest Speaker(s):**
4. **Jeremy Campbell, Director of Business Analytics & Planning**

* Senator Koushan Mohammadi inquired about the fee increase for the upcoming year. Mr. Campbell said that infrastructure maintenance fee, transit fee, technology fee for supporting ITS are mandatory fees. Graduate activity fee is not a mandatory fee, and it is not spent for university’s operations. University committee will vote on whether the activity fee will be increased or not. He further added that general university fees are used to support facilities such as recreation center and Jorgensen center. Infrastructure maintenance fee is set by the administration for maintenance of facilities. Historically these fees are subsidized.
* GSS Parliamentarian, Gianna Raimondi, asked if documents related to fee increase are available to the students. He replied that students can request for documents. Townhall meetings were arranged regarding the fee increase. GSS President Gabrielle Corso mentioned that student leaders were informed a week before the thanksgiving break about the fee increase. Then vote on the increase was conducted 1 month later. Mr. Campbell said they will work on better communication next time.
* Senator John Toribio asked how students can access the records to see where the fee is being spent. Mr. Campbell replied that Bursar website has the records of general university fee and how that fee is spent. Historical rates are available. Budget office also has historical records of undergraduate and graduate tuition fees.
* Senator Essam Boraey asked if there is an option to opt out of the fee for a service that a student does not use e.g., recreational center fee. Mr. Campbell replied that it is not possible to opt out as the fee is not for a specific person. These types of fees are for the improvement of the school as a whole.
* Senator Gaurav Gupta raised the question why hunting lodge buses do not operate full time in winter. Mr. Campbell said that it might be related to ridership.
* Senator Emma Shipley said that SHaW services are not available in Avery Point campus, but students are still required to pay SHaW fee ($80). Mr. Campbell said that it is related to SHaW operation cost and employee salaries. There are plans to expand SHaW service in Avery point campus. Karen Bresciano, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, said that there are case workers in regional campuses. Students are asked to contact her if someone has any concern. She is in the Student Welfare Committee.

1. **Approval of consent agenda:**
   1. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 02/22/2023 meeting
   2. GSS E-board meeting minutes - 03/10/2023 meeting

*Senator Essam Boraey made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Senator Gaurav Gupta seconded the motion. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.*

1. **Issues Forum:** N/A
2. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President – Gabrielle Corso
      1. GSS E-Board Elections- Parliamentarian Gianna Raimondi conducted GSS E-board Election through UConntact. There were 4 nominations for the Activities Director position, two nominations for the Treasurer position and two nominations for the position of Parliamentarian. Remaining positions were uncontested. Results were as follows:
         1. President- Sandip Roy
         2. Vice President- Mohsina Rahman
         3. Treasurer- Gopi Yalavarthi
         4. Communications Director- Israt Jahan
         5. Activities Director- Essam Boraey
         6. Parliamentarian- Khaled Axel Djebbari
      2. Transportation- Gabrielle will reach out to Andy Kelly who is the contact person for transportation related issues. If someone has questions/concerns related to transport, reach out to Gabrielle at [gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu](mailto:gabrielle.corso@uconn.edu).
      3. Closing thoughts- Gabrielle thanked all GSS affiliates for their time and dedication during the last year. She said that as since she started in GSS, she had seen GSS nearly disband during Covid and now it is flourishing once again thanks to all the hard-working graduate students fighting to have their voices heard. She invited all GSS affiliates to her house on May 6th for an end of year celebration.
   2. Vice President – Mohsina Rahman
      1. N/A
   3. Treasurer– Sandip Roy
      1. Budget update- GSS makes around $110,000. Budget for GSS activities was cut by 20%. Allocated budget for all Tier II organizations is approx. $35,000. If the proposed grad activity fee increase is passed, GSS will propose to increase the budget for Special Allocation.

* Senator Zachary Muscavitch said that one organization (Tarang) received $15000 for their budget which is about 43% of the total budget. He asked if they represent 43% of the entire graduate student body. Sandip replied that the budget was decided by the finance committee based on the ground rules set by the committee. Senator Gaurav Gupta, who is the Vice President of Tarang, mentioned that Tarang represents students from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and they are expanding. He added that many international students attend Tarang events.
* Senator Lindsay Barnum asked if there is an update on the grad activity fee increase. Sandip replied that the update is expected by April. Senator Pan Shangyan asked if the special allocation budget for this year will be increased if the proposed grad activity fee is passed. Sandip said that GSS plans to take a vote on the first meeting of the Fall 2023 semester to increase the special allocation budget given the fee increase is passed.

*Senator Mikayla Moody made a motion to approve GSS Budget for FY 2023-24. Senator Saurav Goswami seconded the motion. The budget was approved unanimously.*

*Senator Gaurav Gupta made a motion to extend the meeting time if needed. Senator Saurav Goswami seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*

* 1. Activities Director– Usman Ali
     1. Spring Formal- Spring formal is set for April 29. Location is Holiday Hill in Mansfield. GSS will arrange buses. Food and theme for the formal have not been decided yet. There will be tickets-$5 for graduate students, and $30 for a guest. Bus will leave at around 5:30 pm and 6:00 pm and will be back by 8:30 pm and 9:00 pm.
     2. Happy Hour- Usman spoke with Ted’s and Hops 44 for the venue of Happy Hour. The initial date was March 31. However, the locations are not available on that date. Usman will contact Husky’s Tavern and will send out an email with date.
  2. Communications Director – Israt Jahan
     1. N/A
  3. Parliamentarian – Gianna Raimondi
     1. Bylaw changes- Gianna showed some modifications to by-laws. No new rules have been added. These changes were made to provide clarifications on quorum based on the constitution. The modifications will be voted on April senate meeting.

1. **Committee Reports**
2. **Senate Executive Committee-** GabrielleCorso- SEC is conducting interviews for the Dean of Nursing. There will be interview for Chief of Police in the coming weeks. A 1-credit course (virtual) on Anti-black racism has been proposed. It will be mandatory for undergraduate students. It will also be offered to graduate students. This course will be offered in Fall 24 and will be voted on April meeting. Gabrielle shared the grad survey results with the SEC which showed that financial hardship is the major concern for most graduate students. The committee members said that students can apply for Student First Fund.
3. **SASFAC-** Saurabh Goswami- a poll about fee increase was sent out. Only 155 graduate students voted. 99 votes were against the fee increase and 56 students voted in favor of the fee increase. We needed participation form at least 10% of the graduate population to have the poll admissible. There will be three more SASFAC meetings where fee increase will be discussed.
4. **Conference-** GSS Treasurer Sandip Roy went to the conference “Society for Consumer Psychology” in Puerto Rico. Sandip used his stipend for the GSS treasurer position to attend the conference. The conference was from March 1-5, 2023.
5. **GFC-** Gianna Raimondi- Israt sent out the draft on the mentoring guide for graduate faculty at UConn. Karen Bresciano, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, said that GFC is working with advisors to mentor them on good advising practices. With USG, graduate students, and faculty members, they are discussing what constitutes good advising.
6. **University Planning Committee-** Lindsay Barnum-Some of the topics discussed in University Planning Committee included problems related to Institutional Review Board (IRB) and whether PhD is helping a student for industry jobs. Faculties do not have a voice in the board of trustees. Senator Essam Boraey mentioned that IRB requires excessive paperwork. We need resources from IRB for graduate students who have submitted their 1st or 2nd IRB to improve waiting time. IRB has not had a director for a long time and are understaffed. They are hiring a manager. Lindsay asked if PIs submit the IRB. Sandip said that PIs usually ask students to figure out the submission process of IRB. Lindsay will follow up with the committee about these concerns. Senator Spencer Hayes said that she is a graduate student in Political science and her program is designed in a way that suits academia. Khaled said that he has experienced same problem with Environmental Engineering PhD program. Senator Zachary Muscavitch from EEB asked if university can arrange workshops related to industry jobs. Senator Laura Lapham said that there are some workshops on career development in the Earth Science program.
7. **Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.**

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

**Attendees:**

Lindsay Barnum

Mikayla Moody

Chao

Emma Shipley

Essam

Spencer Hayes

Jackson Calhoun

Madeline Kollegger

Tasnim Zaman

Elizabeth Zavodny

Makduma Zahan Badhan

Veera Venkata Praveen Raja Kosuri

Koushan Mohammadi

Zachary Muscavitch

Saurabh

Ali Bergmark

Jinzhou Liu

Muhammed Masudur Rahman

Amit Pinsker (on behalf of Geevanesam Devakanmalai)

Martina Villa

John Toribio

Laura Lapham

Theo Mayer

Mohammed Albayati

Amit Hasan

Ashok Gurung

Shangyan Pan

Khaled Djebbari

Gaurav Gupta

Sita Nyame

Maham liaqat

Mehedi Hassan Dipu