1. **Attendance:** Sandip Roy, Gopi Yalavarthi, Mohsina Rahman, Israt Jahan, Khaled “Axel” Djebbari

A Quorum was established with 5 E-board members.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by GSS President Sandip Roy.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** (Roy/Rahman) Motion to accept the agenda for the E-board meeting on August 24, 2023. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
3. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President – Sandip Roy

Summer updates:

* + 1. A per person cap for Tier 2 events will be set in the next budget.
    2. Sandip spoke with Vice President of Finance. They would sponsor two garage parking permits. These are usually allocated to the E-board members who attend the University Senate meetings. Sandip’s and Essam’s garage parking permit will be funded by the Office of Finance.
    3. Sandip met John Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong has stepped down from his previous position. Sandip will find out who the new head is and will reach out.
    4. There is no concrete information on who should be reached out to about transportation issues. Sandip talked to Kent Holsinger, Dean of the Graduate School. During summer, some work divisions at UConn were broken down and restructured. So, at the moment, this is unclear who the contact persons are for some divisions.
    5. GSS Office has been organized over summer. We do not need a storage for now.
    6. End of Summer Happy Hour is set.
    7. GSS received 57 applications for the GSS Office Assistant position. 11 applicants were shortlisted. Anyone without a car or living far from the campus or applicants who were in their last semesters were not interviewed. After careful evaluation, Emma Dashnaw, an M.A. Student of Human Rights, has been hired as the new GSS office assistant. Emma completed some trainings with Sandip and Gopi. GSS will hire a new office assistant before the current office assistant leaves so that the old and new assistants can work together for a month.
    8. GSS will not have a formal in Fall 2023 since we do not have a room reserved. We might arrange a Welcome Back concert at Husky’s. All happy hour events in Fall 2023 will be at the Husky’s. Previously, it was required to get three different quotes if an event exceeded $5000 for the budget. Now the threshold has been changed ($25,000). Alcohol can be brought in SU for GSS events, but money from Grad Activity fee cannot be used for purchasing alcohol. Krista is looking into how to get this done.
    9. GSS will send an event update/newsletter each week. Tier 2 organizations will need to send their event information to Communications Director Israt and she will forward those to Emma. Emma will put those in a template and will send out the newsletter to all graduate students on Friday afternoon. A monthly newsletter will be sent at the end of each month.
    10. Sandip met some Tier 2 organizations over summer. GSS and SAGE will have a co-sponsored LinkedIn workshop. Kay Gruder, Associate Director of the Graduate Student & Postdoc Career Programs and Services at the UConn Center for Career Development is a potential speaker. GSS will also have co-sponsored events with Philosophy Graduate Student Association (PGSA).
  1. Vice President – Mohsina Rahman
     1. Housekeeping- GSS E-board members do not need to submit timecards from now on and will be paid through fellowship. Timecard will be applicable for GSS office assistant Emma only.
     2. E-board food- September:Little Aladdin, October:Spice Venue, November: Gansett Wraps, December:SU.
     3. Fall activities (on behalf of the Activities Director)- Mohsina asked Activities Director Essam Boraey in April to reserve rooms for the Fall 2023 events. Since this was not done, neither the Rome nor the SU ballroom are available for Fall now. Sandip said that TSOS had some rooms reserved at SU for GSS on Thursdays and Fridays. Since there was no correspondence from the Activities Director, the rooms are not available anymore. Food for senate meetings has not been arranged. Mohsina arranged food for September and October senate meetings. GSS might not have a Welcome Back BBQ in Fall as it has not been arranged yet. Sandip and Mohsina will talk to Husky’s for the Halloween event. Mohsina has emailed SU about room reservation for the Thanksgiving Lunch on Nov 27 from 12 pm-3 pm. Activities Director needs to look into these things and give an update to the board within two weeks.
  2. Treasurer– Gopi Yalavarthi

Summer updates:

* + 1. From now on, GSS would need to vote on the events. If we have three happy hours, we will vote on the three happy hour events at once. Emma will file a blanket PR. GSS has more money than expected initially.
    2. There are two PR forms- one is internal GSS PR form and the other is Tier 2 PR form. The first PR training was held on August 6. The next PR training meeting may be held on September 7 from 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Gopi will send the list of people who attended the first PR training.
    3. GSS has an outstanding bill with WRTD from last year’s Grad Formal. Essam needs to sort this out.
    4. Emma will email Bongo and Nepalese Graduate Student Association for reimbursement.
  1. Activities Director– Essam Boraey
     1. N/A
  2. Communications Director – Israt Jahan
     1. N/A

* 1. Parliamentarian – Khaled “Axel” Djebbari
     1. Khaled will work on the senator application form with Israt. Once the form is finalized, Israt will send out an email with the link to the form.
     2. We will need to vote on the Constitution at the senate meeting. Then it will be voted on by the board of trustees.

1. **Old Business**
   1. SASFAC Appeal- For the proposed fee increase, SASFAC has asked for how much money was spent on the events and the budget allocated to the Tier 2 organizations. Sandip mentioned that grad activity fee has not been increased since 2008 while the cost for GSS events has increased by 70% since 2016. Per person cost for the GSS events has increased by 55% since 2019. Demand for the GSS events has also increased. Budgets requested by Tier 2s have increased by 100% since the last 5 years. Sandip has a meeting with David Clokey who will be at the next SASFAC meeting. Gopi will also be at the SASFAC meeting. If the fee increase goes through, GSS will allocate additional $30,000 for the Tier 2 organizations, $20,000 for GSS activities, and the rest for admin staff. We can add a second office assistant.
   2. Negotiation with TSOS- TSOS asked for $47,000 for AY 2023-24 while TOSS was paid $16,000 last year. $47,000 is almost 50% of the money that we get through the grad activity fee. Sandip will speak with Dean Holsinger and David Clokey about it. Joseph Briody, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs & Executive Director of Student Activities, will come to the October senate meeting to talk about the TSOS payincrease.
   3. GSS monthly bill- Bills from June 2022 to July 2023 have been paid.
2. **New Business**
   1. Approval of event budgets- (Roy/Mohsina) Motion to approve $5000 for GSS happy hour event. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   2. Increase of Special Allocation- (Roy/Yalavarthi) Motion to increase special allocation from $5,000 per semester to $10,000 per semester for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 and to limit one event per organization per semester for the special allocation. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   3. Approval of water supply to GSS office- (Roy/Djebbari) Motion to approve $500 out of the GSS operations budget for water supply. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   4. PR training meeting- (Roy/Djebbari) Motion to make it mandatory for the Tier 2 organizations to attend at least one PR training. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   5. Approval of GSS office supplies- (Roy/Rahman) Motion to approve $300 out of the GSS operations budget to buy a monitor and charging brick and $100 to buy stationary items for GSS office. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   6. Removal of GSS inventory from GSS Office- (Roy/ Djebbari) Motion to approve the inventory to be surplused. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   7. Senator form- (Djebbari/Roy) Motion to keep the senator form open until Sep 4, 2023. 5 in favor /0 opposed /0 abstention. Motion carries.
   8. WRTD outstanding bill- (Roy/Rahman) Motion to approve $600 for the outstanding WRTD bill to be paid. 5 in favor /0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion carries.
3. **Good News**
4. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm