1. **Call to Order:** Meeting started at 6:22 pm
2. **Recognition of Senators:** Quorum was met with 35 senators
3. **Issues Forum: N/A**
4. **Approval of Agenda:**
   1. GSS Senate Meeting Minutes – 1/24/2024 meeting
   2. GSS Special Meeting Minutes-1/23/2024 meeting

*Motion to approve by Sen. Villa, 2nd by Sen* Ecevitoglu*. (35 yay, 0 nay, 1 abstain): Motion passes*

1. **Executive Board Reports:**
   1. President (Bryan Greene)– Call for election and nominations for all Executive Board Members and At-Large Senators, election will be 2/21 (email Parliamentarian for nominations) then next meeting will be for next year’s election; Budget Hearing on shortfall, not strategic plan went fine, President Maric available on April 2nd, would have to do a special session to speak about 5-year strategic plan; Grad School Dean Search starts 2/23, pulling calendar for that for when the candidates present themselves; Starting a conversation with the Bursar to figure out funding streams historically; *Sen. Roy-where is this money possibly coming from, what is the Univ. understanding, GSS President Greene-trying to figure out, some students pay a “comprehensive fee” and we pay a “Grad Activity Fee,”Asst. Dean Bresciano-half of grad students don’t pay the “Grad Activity Fee”but pay the “comprehensive fee” that doesn’t cover SHaW fees, GSS should be representing these folks as well, going to a meeting on the 29th about this. Sen. Roy-Storrs based fees and conversations with David Clokley about this from students possibly in Hartford, GSS President Greene-starting this conversation because students need the help and we need clarification*
   2. Vice President – N/A
   3. Treasurer (Gopi Yalavarthi)-vacancy for Finance Committee, 2 nominees Kamal Gautam and Zachary Ellish, election will be by end of the meeting; 24 Tier II orgs submitted budgets;, deadline for Special Allocations is actually 15 days before GSS Meeting; *Sen. Roy-what is working capital right now? GSS Treasurer Yalavarthi-need to pay bills to know actual capital we have, Sen Roy asked for update by next week or at least the next meeting*
   4. Activities Director (Essam Boraey) –University Senate-need 3rd member, spoke about the process used to determine who should be eligible since the 3rd member has been reserved (normally) for some at a regional campus, Activities Director narrowed it down to 2 *individuals (Zach Ellish, Veda Vyaa Boorla) and Activities Director recommended Veda, Sen. Roy- stated that it was unfair to not have a vote on this, Activities Dir.-says these are a recommendation can take the recommendation or do something different, Sen. Barreto-could we see the responses? Activities Dir.-shared with E-Board and grad school administration but due to constraints, we need this member on Univ. Senate but says he can share, Sen. Roy-doesn’t think there’s an urgency to appoint someone to Univ. Senate, GSS President can make an interim appointment and asked to postpone, GSS President-next Univ. Senate is March 5th (the date is actually March 4th) so brought up suggestion to have an interim appointment and then vote at the next meeting and asked to have the responses to the questionnaire, Sen. Barreto-we can have their responses, then vote? In a GoogleForm? Activities Dir.-says the process was done in consultation with E-Board, Sen. Roy-says that we should have E-Board or President choose and then vote.*

*3 Polls: 1) Vote today on the 2 mentioned for Univ.-No responses accounted for*

*2)Google Form to choose out of the 2 later-6 people*

*3) Assign an interim appointment from E-Board for now and then choose-5 responses in favor*

*Motion to send out GoogleForm and then vote- Sen. Motions, 2nd by Sen. (32 yay, 1 no, 0 Abstain)*

SEC(Senate Executive Committee) and Strategic Planning Committee, SEC has been dealing with budget issues, grad students essentially not being looped into the plans for Strategic Planning Committees for anything, new dorms being and most focus is on the undergraduates and their experiences, there is a new building being built here for housing focused on graduate students; Spring Formal-estimate is $13395 breakdown for each item, highest item is the food, Kosher food needs to be outsourced since UCONN doesn’t have Kosher kitchen, selling tickets and RSVP’s, dietary restrictions other than Kosher can be accommodated through UCONN kitchens, asking for a vote for $20000 *Sen. Villa-Is vegetarian food going to be more than just salad? Activities Dir.-Yes, Sen. Barnum-what is the 12 hours for bartender, Activities Dir.- we will need 2 bartenders for 6 hours. Sen. Roy-Where is going to be? Activities Dir.- In Student Union on April 20th Sen. Is it the week before finals? Activities Dir.-April 20th, 2 weeks before finals from 5pm-10pm, have room until they kick us out, Need a vote today to start working on it based on food requests, that will increase the money Options for food-Buffet or try to accommodate everyone but will cost us money, Sen. Roy-If we have this in Spring, will we have other events, other social events? Activities Dir.-Focused on more diverse event that won’t cost much money, Sen. Roy-instead of having one big event, could we do 2 smaller events, Activities Dir.-tradition of GSS for a long time, when you do smaller events, running through issues having events that won’t satisfy everyone, Sen. Roy-not necessarily a “tradition” and the fall formal we had was only like 50 people, when we do Happy Hour, we have 300 people, Activities Dir.-we had 125 at fall formal, Sen. Roy-we can reallocate*

*Sen. Ecevitoglu-can we do it outside? The cheap option for food, how many things can we change in the food?Activities Dir.- we have ability to change some things*

*Motion to allocate up to $20000 and then vote- Sen. Motions, 2nd by Sen.*

*Sen.Villa Motions to allocate budget for spring formal up to $17000, 2nd by Sen. Barreto (33 yay, 1 no, 1 abstain)*

* 1. Communications Director – N/A

* 1. Parliamentarian N/A

1. **Old Business: Elections of GSS Vice President and GSS Communications Director, GSS Finance Committee**

*1) Alaa Selim and Maham Liaqat-GSS Vice President Candidate(s)18 Selim, 11 Liaqat, 1 abstain*

***Alaa Selim Elected GSS Vice-President***

*2) Maham Liaqat-GSS Communications Director Candidate(s)30 Liaqat, 0 no, 0 abstain*

***Maham Liaqat Elected GSS Communications Director***

*3) Zach Ellish and Kamal Gautam-GSS Finance Committee Candidate(s)13 Gautam, 9 Ellish, 6 abstain*

***Kamal Gautam Elected to GSS Finance Committee***

1. **New Business: QR Code for Senators for voting-GSS will be acting Parliamentarian for the official elections, Graduate Symposium this weekend from 10-4 at Biophysics building**
2. **Adjournment**

*(Villa/Barreto) Motion to adjourn the meeting. in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

**Attendees:**

Atta Seck

Shah Saki

Spencer Hayes

Nurudeen Musa

Madeline Kollegger

Alev Ecevitoglu

Martina Villa

Praveen Kosuri

Lindsey Barnum

Michael Griffith

Sandip Roy

Evelyn Mollocana Lara

Adaeze Maduako

Laura Lapham

Kyle Labe

Hannah Cooke

Saranya Gautam

Alaa Selim

Cindy Barreto

Rahul Koonathara

Mehedi Hassan Dipu

Kamal Gautam

Makduma Zahan Badhan

Brendan Ferland

Syed Islam

Prakash Ranjan

Anietie Williams

Aaron Sanchez

Kayleigh Morse

Satadru Bhattacharyya

Hangyu (Isabella) Wu

Sulthana Muttathukonam

Ruba Bouzan

Gabrielle Corso

Riley Pena