Hybrid Link <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/brg20004>

1. **Call to Order** Call to order by Bryan Greene at 7.07PM
2. **Attendees:** Bryan Greene, Alaa Salin, Maham Liaquat, Gaurav Gupta, Leo Gold and Noah Kravette
3. **Status Reports from Executive Committee**

**President-Bryan Greene**

* Town Hall Planning:
  + Coordination with the union is ongoing for a joint town hall.
  + Announcements have been distributed to ensure community participation.
* University Senate Executive Committee (SEC) Proposal:
  + A motion has been introduced to restructure the SEC, potentially reducing student and staff representation.
  + The proposal is facing strong opposition from graduate and undergraduate representatives as it undermines student voices.
* Board of Trustees Meeting:
  + The union is strategizing actions, including potential collective efforts like email/phone campaigns or having a presence at the meeting.
  + GSS plans to advocate for graduate students during this meeting, with efforts to ensure effective representation.
* Graduate Student Participation Opportunities:
  + Calls for involvement in initiatives like the President’s Council on Combating Sexual Violence are ongoing, with a push to increase graduate student representation.
* Advocacy and Strategic Action:
  + GSS is considering proposing a counter-motion to expand SEC membership without reducing student representation.
  + Discussions are planned to develop an independent strategy, emphasizing GSS’s role as a distinct voice for graduate students.
* Coordination with Stakeholders:
  + GSS is working with undergraduates, regional representatives, and other groups to align responses to ongoing challenges.
  + Plans for broader community engagement through emails and forums to gather input.
* Upcoming Discussions:
  + The joint town hall on Thursday will address collective strategies.
  + Further discussions on independent actions and collaboration with the union are expected in the next meeting.

**Vice President-Alaa Selim**

* + - Postponed Senate Meeting Logistics:
      * Efforts are underway to secure a location for the rescheduled meeting that accommodates at least 30 attendees.
      * Concerns were raised about potential conflicts with final exams, which could hinder senator attendance and critical voting. Fortunately, no clashes occurred this time.
    - Meeting Coordination:
      * Emphasis on the need for detailed scheduling and advance planning to avoid last-minute issues.
      * A suggestion was made to allocate more preparation time when meetings are rescheduled due to weather or other unexpected events.
    - Agenda and Speaker Preparation:
      * The agenda is being updated, with potential speakers for the Issues Forum to be finalized by early next week.
      * Alaa emphasized the importance of sharing presentation slides or reports at least one day before meetings to ensure smooth execution and avoid last-minute errors.
    - Committee Updates:
      * Upcoming meeting for the UConn Divest and Policing committee, with updates expected in the next Senate meeting.
    - Future Proposals:
      * Discussions on preparing a motion for the University Senate in the next semester.
      * Alaa suggested streamlining GSS activities to improve functionality and decision-making processes.
    - Discussion:
      * Liaqat asked about the speaker for December’s meeting and Issue Forum.
      * Alaa expresses concern about logistical challenges caused by postponements, especially during exams.
      * Rescheduling involves finding new venues and coordinating times, which is particularly difficult when senators have overlapping exams.
* He emphasizes the need for careful planning and consideration when announcing events to avoid conflicts.

**Treasurer- Maham Laqiat**

* Financial Obligations:
  + Goal to clear all financial obligations for the calendar year.
  + Requested Bryan to confirm how much he has been paid so far to finalize Payment Requests (PRs).
* Motion Requests for E-Board Approval:
* **Salary Approvals**:
* Motion for approval of payments to e-board members for fall stipends (excluding Bryan, who needs a separate calculation).
* Emphasized need for compliance with bylaws and transparency.
* **SAS Back Budget Projections**:
* Motion to approve projections for 2026-2027 for submission.
* Current projections reflect decreasing funding, with adjustments anticipated for future budgets.
* **Tier Two Organizations Budgets**:
* Motion to approve special allocations submitted for the spring session.
* Necessary for Senate presentation and approval.
* Bylaws and Transparency:
  + Liaqat emphasized adherence to bylaws, including ensuring attendance and procedural requirements before submitting PRs.
  + Reiterated the importance of transparency in all financial processes.
* The motion to Discuss the matter right now is made by Noah and seconded by Gaurav motion Passes anonymously.
* Discussion:
  + - Liaqat references Bylaw Six for the record, which allows GSS officers to receive funds for documented expenses related to professional development, research, education, or conference attendance. Any unused funds are dispersed at the end of the academic year in April. Alternatively, officers may choose to receive their allowance as a semester fellowship, with unused funds similarly dispersed at the year's end.
    - Liaqat explained that the budget, including projections for 2025–2027, is unchanged and requires e-board approval to present to the Senate, followed by Senate approval for university submission.
    - Gaurav reminded the team of a past oversight where budget details were not shared in advance, emphasizing the importance of sending all numbers to senators with adequate notice. Liaqat assured that once the e-board approves the budget, she will email the finalized sheet promptly, allowing a week for review. Gaurav suggested attaching the budget to the Senate agenda, reiterating the need to avoid repeating past mistakes. Liaqat confirmed that both the budget and tier-two special allocation details would be shared via email and published on the website before the Senate meeting.
  + Plan to allocate half salaries for e-board members for the fall semester, with the remainder for spring.
  + Motion for approval of half of the salary for the whole E-board made by Noah and seconded by Leo
    - * **Discussion-**
        + Noah clarifies that the first motion is about paying the e-board with the same amounts specified under the bylaws, emphasizing transparency. Liaqat explains that all bills, whether for summer, fall, or spring, must first be approved by the e-board before being presented to the Senate. Additionally, fall bills must be approved in the fall and spring bills in the spring, aligning with the bylaws.
        + Liaqat emphasizes that bills must be approved during the third fall meeting to ensure Senate members fully understand the budget for transparency. Since this step wasn't completed earlier, Liaqat proposes addressing it now, as the rules are better understood. Noah agrees and offers to make the motion immediately.
        + Bryan clarifies for record purposes that motions addressing these matters were introduced in earlier meetings, even when the e-board was not complete. Noah agrees, noting that under the bylaws, these approvals should occur during the third fall meeting, aligning with transparency and procedural integrity. Liaqat supports this, citing bylaw requirements for approving funds during the third meeting and emphasizing adherence to the rules for accountability.
      * Aye: 4
      * Abstain: 2
      * Naye : 0
      * Motion Passes
  + SASFAC budget projection approval. This year’s budget includes a projection budget for upcoming years. Made by Maham and Seconded by Noah
    - Favor: 5
    - Abstain: 1
    - Motion Passes
  + Present the tier-II budget in front of the Senate. Noah made the motion and was seconded by Maham. Motion passes anonymously.

**Activities Director-Leo Gold**

* + Leo is organizing a welcome back event for the first week and is gathering people for their committee meeting by the end of this week.

**Communications Director-Gaurav Gupta**

* + Gaurav shared that as GSS representative chair on Marth award committee he is reviewing fellowship applications, with decisions to be made on December 16.
  + He is also updating the GSS website, specifically the page on external committees, and requested members to email him with their committee chair details to ensure the website is up to date.
  + He also made multiple announcement for the Grad students, including the GSS and GEU townhall and senator application form circulation.

**Parliamentarian-Noah Kravette**

* + Started a senator application form for the review of the Procedures committee.
  + The procedures committee is working on the constitutional update.

1. **Old Business- -**

* **GEU Town Hall Coordination-Virtual Town Hall on Thursday, Dec 5th**
* **MOU from TSOS (Waiting for updated amount)**
* Bryan provided an update on the MOU, mentioning that the immediate concern was the need for T SOS to receive payment for work already done. He requested an amended MOU with a $15,000 starting amount for negotiations, with any costs beyond that being covered by T SOS.
* Bryan highlighted two concurrent discussions: the immediate need for funding to continue events and the longer-term relationship with T SOS.
* The group needs to discuss their relationship with T SOS and figure out a way to still have access to funds for events.
* Bryan is waiting for an amended MOU from Krista's office and will present the updated MOU to the e-board.

**Discussion-**

* MOU and Fees: Leo raised concerns about T SOS performing duties before receiving MOU approval, questioning how they justified spending funds before approval.
* University Charging Fees:Liaqat noted that the university had never charged fees for these services before, but now charges are being applied. She argued that these charges shouldn’t be levied until the MOU is signed.
* Gulf Money: Liaqat advocated for using Gulf money (graduate student activity fees) to cover these services, as undergrad events are not funded by these fees. She expressed frustration over the lack of clarity and support from the university.
* Senate and Administration: There was a discussion about whether the issue had been brought to the University Senate. Liaqat emphasized that as president, Bryan should advocate for graduate student concerns at the Senate level and push for accountability on funding issues.
* CFO and Budget Issues: Liaqat mentioned that although university officials like the CFO are aware of the concerns, there seems to be little action on these matters. Shee recommended presenting these issues formally to the university's financial bodies for resolution

1. **New Business-**
   * **Monthly Bills for Aug 2024 ($2013.56), Sept 2024 ($8010.02), October ($3207.69);** 
     + Motion to pay the monthly bills of Aug and bring the rest of the bills to the senate made by Noah and seconded by Maham. Motion passes anonymously
   * **E-Board Stipend/Fellowship Payments for Activities Director and Treasurer;**
   * **BoT Presentation for Dec GSS Meeting;**
   * **Constitution-Revisions and possible Special Session for that (needs to be done and presented to GSS by \*\*\*February 21, 2025\*\*\*);**
   * **FY 26 Budget-possible Special Session for that issue as well**
2. **Final Thoughts/Adjournment:** 9.10 meeting adjourned