1. **Call to Order:** by Alaa Selim (VP) at 6:10 PM, the meeting started.

# Recognition of Senators

1. **Approval of consent agenda:**
   1. GSS Senate Meeting Minutes
      1. Motion passes unanimously.

# Issues Forum:

* 1. Senator Hannah Cooke – University Policies at 6:17 PM
     1. Concerns about how university makes policy. Sometimes overnight or on whim, and this does not seem to be discussed.
     2. UCONN wants to declare institutional neutrality about political / controversial issues. In education.
     3. Institutional neutrality is affected by this and many funding comes to weapons manufacturers.
     4. AS GSS is there a way that GSS can talk to administration and how is this decided?
     5. How is this appearing and there is BlackSTEM group if wokeness outlawed what would happen to this group?
     6. How does UCONN decide on these issues and what can happen if UCONN takes this stance.
     7. Concluded Hannah Talk 18:20
        1. Alaa Stated there is an updated from Bryan:
           1. Bryan: brought it up to being on University Senate Committee. In discussion, but impression is hearing directly from director communications. Official is nothing is final, and they are having discussions. Refereed back to policy before protests in terms of neutrality. If places, try to be neutral then can be a problem.
           2. Emma Siegfried – Procedures Committee Update at 6:24 PM

It took over an hour for Emma to drive to the GSS Meeting tonight because it’s important.

Concerned about not enough senators and having a voice in the Senate. Marine science department not housed at UCONN.

This means much of their funding and activities they have to do on their own.

Discussion about the Oct 18 vote.

The vote was invalid.

Reasons why invalid.

Oct 24 meeting decided to work on a case-by-case basis.

President can’t make motions in meeting. Would be a mix of legislative and other forms of government

Vote not properly counted.

Against bylaws.

The board of trustees could come to us and dissolve us if we go against our bylaws.

Voting does not bring in many senators hoping to gain senator status. This is because many Students interested in GSS Senator Status

Going to send out a form are going to a form for senator status.

The Procedures Committee and Executive will meet to bring in more senators.

So, we do not have a problem with Trustees.

Questions?

Will Tier II be affected?

Fill out form sent out soon to be considered on the Case-by-case basis for GSS Senator Status. It will not affect Tier II funding becoming a senator now or at the beginning of the semester.

Senator at large and how they get elected?

Going through Procedures Committee and having a full Senate closed ballot vote.

* + - * 1. Elena Gindin - GSS Student Issues at 6:35 PM

Make GSS better for UCONN students.

Advocate for UCONN students.

Fees are constantly increasing and lack advocacy.

What value in return.

Where is money going.

Sky rocketing parking prices.

Health care options

Why compensated if shunted to other party such as the GEU when it is GSS responsibility to help UCONN Graduate Student with all these issues?

Funding

TII funding $0

No upcoming events for GSS and for grad students.

What steps can UCONN students take to secure funding for students?

Student loneness

Where can students meet and socialize.

Where are the activities for UCONN Students to meet and

Misallocation of fund

Pens, pencils, cups, pamphlets that could have been more useful elsewhere.

Lack of leadership

Meeting chaos

Not acceptable to bully and harass individuals

No meaningful actions to benefit grad student community came from October meeting.

No meaningful outcomes waste time

Why make motions if they don’t address and help the needs of the entire grad student community?

How to work as a team?

Consider stepping down if you do not help students.

Collaborate!

Parliamentarian why not more students?

Leadership begins at the top and fails there too.

To President--can you help us achieve this?

Questions:

Program closures

Right now, the university is not actively closing programs. Right now, only looking into ones that haven’t had people in for 5 years.

Discussed how it should be clearer then.

Alaa: Make activities happens

2 coffee hours and 1 pizza hour

Trying to make more events.

Elena follows up:

Were much more activities when Sandip past President was in charge.

What changed there?

1. At the end of last year, no budget was approved which stopped many activities from happening as Alaa discussed.

Maham:

Hopefully students will receive an email to present and get more on the budget and finances.

* + - * 1. BREAK at 6:46 PM

Ends at 6:52 PM

# Executive Board Reports:

* 1. President – Bryan Greene at 6:53 PM
     1. Needs to say: Where is and how things proceeding.
        1. In a place where organization and trying to work as diligently as can under duress and stress.
        2. It has been difficult and had many fluctuations to deal with.
     2. GSS has not had a full executive or person to help. During Bryan’s role as President, he has had to:
        1. Order supplies and make sure people get paid.
        2. Do a lot of things in the background and don’t tell everything that is doing.
        3. Bruan won’t just be a wallflower and may not always have a full-on opinion. Will always try to be an honest broker and tell how thing is going.
        4. Run into some issues and try your best to mitigate all of this. GSS did not have a full staff for some time.
        5. Give us a little a bit of a grace and help.
     3. This is how we move forward.
        1. Right before spring starts.
           1. Will do an executive board and will take a little bit of time.
           2. Meetings solely for bylaws and constitution as a whole.
        2. Can always have a conversation with him after this meeting and can help.
           1. But of course, people need to teach and get paid.
     4. What has been going on.
        1. Discussing net neutralities.
           1. It is under discussion as the university states.
        2. Manuel being made after this to help with what to do next.
           1. GSS has been word of mouth so far.
     5. Union and GSS have proposed a meeting for a Trustees meeting.
        1. Next Board of Trustees meeting soon which will talk about what to do next.
     6. Looking for people for committee chair or subcommittee for Sexual Harassment.
     7. Come look at the President’s email account if anyone wants to.
        + 1. Vice President – Alaa Selim at 7:01 PM

The chair is being selected for students and faculty.

Have a couple meetings and will focus on UCONN police investigations

How can the university call the police and how is this done. When you can call, etc.

USG students are part of this as well.

Trying to make a statement for police and UCONN divest.

Committee on student fees.

Right to attend town hall open for all grad students.

Budget cuts, etc.

Neutralization policy, etc.

How much money for parking, etc.

Student Life

Chair of this committee, but this should be addressing student life.

Discuss that can happen on campus and how to speak and talk to administration, etc.

Bryan: Please join these committees.

The vice chair is the only member of these meetings currently.

Alaa: Best way to communicate is to send emails.

* + - * 1. Treasurer – Maham Liaqat at 7:06 PM

Have sent a word document in emails.

Have been part of SASFAC

The treasurer is a part of discussion of fee increases with the university.

Last Thursday and yesterday we had a meeting and many departments. Many places stated need money from university.

Health

Mental, dental, specialist referrals.

The treasurer has had to wait for 3 months and cannot do that.

Insurance concerns

Need to talk to SHAW about student insurance and if students cannot pay the co-pay.

Student Union Center

Student activities have funds and are supposed to support grad students.

But all grad students are ineligible to go to these events.

Why? We are supposed to be a part of these events.

Transport Center

Need accessible transportation

Grad Housing

Rent affordability

Deadline for special allocation

Sent to all TII allocations.

Need to be approved by e board meeting and this did not happen. So cannot present today to the senate. Can be sent on Dec 4.

Will request TII Maham will have a meeting for budget informs and their bylaws they need to be aware of.

What is needed and needs to start preparing documentation and what to do for that.

Need to send to TSOS. The treasurer needs 4 weeks ahead of submission. Take 4 weeks to approve.

Considered all Special allocations and tried to not cut money for any of this.

1. Tried to give demanded, but except for some such as translation. Can’t do that or award money as not allowed by the Bylaws.

Need to send budget to send to TSOS so we need to cut budget and need recommendations.

Cannot approve budget as the deadline is gone for December events.

If meetings happen after Senate meetings. Deadlines are passing and Maham cannot do anything about it.

TII budget and SASFAC budget will be voted on.

Will it be free on Saturdays?

Anyone want to collaborate?

Can combine events and have a bigger event and can save resource money.

Motion Recommendations

Make a formal inquiry committee

Some funds should not have been used.

Money got approved but it is not compulsory to use said money.

You can always ask what we are doing and that is your right.

Recommend for making a formal inquiry into financial spending and use.

Also, a suggested motion for TARANG to give them 2 minutes to talk on why they need more money than the Special Allocation $1500 cap.

Questions:

1. Maham said they cannot give more than a certain amount unless it is voted on with the Special Allocation caps.
   1. Can combine with USG or Subog for events?
      1. Maham: yes
   2. Dec 4 will have a meeting to report budget, etc.
      1. Special allocation budget
   3. Concerning for Tarang special allocation
      1. It is best to actually see the budget for everyone before we do approve the Tarang budget with a motion.
      2. Maham:
         1. TARANG can make a slide and a case to help with that.
   4. Krista:
      1. SASFAC is actually GSS projections for FY26-27 not your current budget.
2. MOTION: Create a Financial Inquiry Committee to look at GSS finances at 7:27 PM
   1. Motion by Emma, seconded by Yinyu Wang
      1. Aye: 13
      2. Nay: 4
      3. Abstain: 2
      4. MOTION PASSES at 7:34 PM
         1. (happened during Leo’s discussion).
3. Activities Director – Leo at 7:29 PM
   1. Working on getting end of the year event going and getting quotes.
   2. Get on my committee and help set up this and make activities.
   3. Maham
      1. Can input events if have in Leo’s committee.

# Old Business

* 1. Calling for the motion for GSS-TSOS MOU
     1. Krista:
        1. MLU Krista is asking to be on
           1. Sent out 3 times and asking all for a chance to read it.
           2. Allows GSS and USG to do activities and function.
           3. Use many systems and can only be used by professional staff.
           4. Also hired pay for staff to do this stuff.
           5. UCONN had 8 staff, and this cost a lot--$600,000.
        2. Department of student activities
           1. Only paid for by undergraduate students.
        3. On the agenda for many meetings but was never able to be voted on.
        4. Questions
           1. A Senator asked why GSS is paying for this when the University could pay this?
           2. Why is GSS subsidizing what UCONN?

Krista: Asking GSS to pay its portion

MOTION: Reduce MOU amount from $35,000 to reduce to $25,000 at 7:49 PM

Aye: 8

Nay: 4

Abstain: 3

MOTION PASSES

MOTION: To approve MOU for $25,000 at 7:59 PM

Aye: 4

Nay: 6

Abstain: 4

MOTION DOES NOT PASS

# New Business

* 1. Suggested motion to increase Student fees by $2 at 8:05 PM
     1. Alaa: This will increase overall revenue increase of $6,000 for GSS
     2. MOTION: To increase Student Activity Fee by $2.
        1. Motion made to increase proposed by Huraira, and seconded by Amit
           1. Aye: 8
           2. Nay: 6
           3. Abstain: 2
           4. MOTION PASSES
  2. MOTION: To end GSS Meeting
     1. Proposed by Emma, seconded by Nicole
        1. MOTION PASSES unanimously.

SENATORS PRESENT:

1. Pravaal Yadav
2. Noah Manuel
3. Emma Siegfried
4. Hannah Cooke
5. Ashwin Arun Abhang
6. Quinn Packer
7. Aidan Spodick
8. Tal Arkin
9. Md Amit Hasan
10. Joshua Lee
11. K.M. Abu Hurayra Lizu
12. Laura Holt
13. Nicole Nelson
14. Elena Gindin
15. Michael Jolly
16. Ziqin Liu
17. Makduma Zahan Badhan
18. Gaurav Dutta
19. Michael Griffith
20. Lev Becker
21. Yinyu Wang
22. Hoang-Phuc Pham