

# **GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE** University of Connecticut

Executive Committee Meeting DRAFT June 13, 2025 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM BUSN 324

### GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

## DRAFT

Attendance: President, VP, Treasurer, Communications Director, and Parliamentarian. Also, Student Medha Arora attended.

### 1. Call to Order – 5:29 PM via unanimous consent.

## 2. Executive Committee Report

- President
  - Multiple special Executive meetings. For example, meant to schedule events, and others after the activities director's resignation.
  - $\circ$  The role has fallen onto the VP and the President as decided previously by the board.
  - o International Students
    - Met with VP Dan Weimer to help discuss visa issues and address international students in general. As well as international students being apprehensive about traveling. All new visa appointments have been completely stopped across the world. President currently knows one person who is stuck abroad, and this is happening to many others.
    - It came down to Grad school. Met with Grad School Dean Lesie Shor and Karen B., discussing how to address this and have a plan. The graduate student emergency fund was created--it a fellowship, not a loan, up to \$2000, given to graduate students in need over the summer. For students who have no other way and are in a precarious situation. They had many people who came in on the first day.
    - Global Affairs also is trying to figure out the resources they can contribute – spoke with Dan. As we speak, they are trying to figure out a new way and will have an answer, hopefully by the end of next week on some additional ways to help international students.

#### • Orientation

- Will collaborate with Grad School and promote to make an orientation for all Graduate Students. Want feedback on what would like to see. For examples speakers (e.g., SHAW), logistics, and topics. Will be working on and will love help for this.
- Want to have one dedicated session to talk about Housing and how to socialize around UCONN.
- Will be presenting also at the international student orientation.
- o TSOS



- Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Pres met with TSOS to help solve some issues and create better interactions and better communication.
- Since meeting with TSOS things have been more efficient collaborative and moving more smoothly.
- o President
  - His job is to make sure everyone else do their jobs and is asking for feedback to help with his own responsibilities.
  - Parliamentarian thanks President for great leadership.
  - Pres: Treasurer and I have been working every day.
  - Will send Grad School Dean Leslie Shor a proposal for Grad School to cover both formals.
  - Grad School is hiring a new Program Director who will look at activities and issues for Grad students.
- Vice-President
  - Automated Senate system to help make work locally. That has everything built into it.
  - Helping President with his stuff and got in touch with new Grad Trustee—he also reached out to us too.
  - Pres: VP has agreed to be the liaison for the Grad Student Trustee.
  - Finalize rooms for Senate meeting and this information will get published soon.
  - Has been taking on this and activities director role.
- Treasurer
  - Last fall Senate meeting had Tier-II events collaboration alongside many GSS events.
  - There are some payments for these past activities and logistics. Some bills to be paid which will get voted on later. So, we can settle all our bills.
  - Working on Budget for next year and will be deciding on how to do events in the Summer. Will get an estimate and price ranges to deal with this.
  - Met with Karen B on the criteria, who is eligible, and so on for the emergency funds. There were questions on if more people will be able to get the funding to help with students as received a large amount of people. They need to streamline criteria to make sure they can help people who need it.
    - Criteria decided with Treasurer and Parliamentarian with Karen
      B. on who should be the priority.



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- Treasurer and TSOS have been in conversation on how to allocate funds for Tier-II and streamline the ease of the system on the website on what Tier-II need to do.
  - Working to make the system will be readily available and easy to use. Forms are ready and currently testing.
- Working on GSS summer events. TSOS has created forms and is updating.
- Communication Director
  - Updated Website
    - News page
    - Front page updated with graduate student feedback form, list of all GSS meetings, upcoming meetings with agenda link, and upcoming events + descriptions with RSVP link.
    - Trying to make the website easier to use.
    - Looking to create a calendar.
  - Contacted Grad School about less represented Departments in GSS humanities and social sciences from last year in certain areas.
  - Making minutes and documentation
  - Marketing events and will discuss later other ways to market events.
    - Looking to make text groups, etc.
- Activities Director: VP and President(alternates)
  - Pres: We are having multiple activities, and VP has filed all PRs. We have one more event next Friday as well at Corleone's, and tomorrow, Saturday. Room bookings seem to be good for Coffee hour. Found that ROME ballroom is significantly more expensive than SU ballroom. We are looking to see if we can negotiate price. Looking at other options such as Huskies and Kathmandu.
  - TSOS is talking to Late Night to see we can get some events in there.
  - VP: PR side worked with TSOS and got Gansett for tomorrow. Big Y will be used for next event. July we are looking for other events and the card reader is working. The card reader is a life saver and super easy to use. Thinking about removing movie nights as well.
- Parliamentarian
  - Had a meeting with TSOS which was very productive. Solidified relationship with GSS and TSOS. GSS is the Trustee organization, and our managers are graduate students.
  - Treasurer and I have met with assistance Dean Karen B. about the student emergency fund. There were many emails about concerned graduate students and had questions about who was eligible. Much more clarification on qualification and transparency now after updating the



form. This is for students who have no other place or options and need help.

- Creating a Kuali form for the Senator application process, so it is easier and more straightforward to use.
- Helped surplus some things such as whiteboard, coffee cup holder, etc.
  - Pres: We took the shredder as it worked. So, we will investigate that to bring it back.
- Procedures Committee will convene over the summer. List to discuss:
  - Former parking parliamentarian parking pass
  - Senator Allocations
  - Activities Director position and how manage. Not precedent as there is no other way to elect new person until next Senate meeting in September and two people have agreed to do work.
- 5-minute Break Taken.

#### 3. Old Business

- a. Summer Events
  - i. See officer reports.
- b. Room bookings for Fall and Spring
  - Pres: Movie licensees are far too much so we are looking at new ways to have events. We will have maybe some sport activities with Parliamentarian. Looking into Mansfield BBQ which seems to be very reasonably priced and good. Has talked to Corleone's and agreed to have an exclusive 5 - 7 PM \$250 facilities only to us. Maybe can have some Karaoke events and get a person for that. Will get Big Y pizza for the June 20, 2025, Friday event.
  - ii. Parliamentarian: Looking into what we call events we should be consistent with event names. So, for example, "picnic", "BBQ", "Grad Social", etc. for consistent turnout.
  - iii. Events:
    - 1. 11<sup>th</sup> July –Corleone's maybe Karaoke
    - 2.  $19^{\text{th}}$  July BBQ
    - 3.  $25/26^{\text{th}}$  July
    - 4. August  $9^{th} BBQ$
    - 5. August  $15^{\text{th}}$  Corleone's
    - 6. August 23rd Kathmandu
    - 7. MOTION: up to \$2000 BBQ all expenses. Pres motions and VP seconds.
      - a. Motion passes unanimously.



 MOTION: up to \$3,000 for Corleone's events forward July and August 2025. Pres motions and Treasurer seconds.
 a. Motion pass unanimously.

#### 4. New Business

- a. TSOS Bills
  - i. Treasurer: All been approved and currently none as of this moment.
- b. Office Miscellaneous
  - i. Able to get Monitor \$214.
  - ii. Able to get second monitor \$168.
  - iii. Paid for new shredder \$70
  - iv. Whiteboard: \$43 (\$100 approved prior)
  - v. Speaker: \$249 (\$500 approved prior)
  - vi. Card system: negotiated \$250 all software and hardware included.1. Suppose to be \$250 annually and normally up front is \$150.
  - vii. USBC hub for \$43
- c. Update to Tier II and Tier III PR Forms
- d. Update on Office Assistant Hiring
  - i. Discussion about ideal candidate on who would be an ideal office assistant.
  - ii. Pres: Plan to open form on UCONN job site at about Class 4 payments. This would
  - iii. MOTION: Post on student UCONN job website Jun 17 at noon and end July 7 at noon. For 10 hours week at \$20 per hour. Pres motions and Treasurer seconds.
    - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- e. Finding better ways to promote GSS events
  - i. Pres: One will have Instagram and market. One will have a WhatsApp message.
    - 1. GSS will create and communicate a WhatsApp group to help market events and important news for graduate students.
  - ii. MOTION: Market and make GSS WhatsApp to open a line of communication. Motion by Pres and seconded by Treasurer.1. Motion passes unanimously.
  - iii. MOTION: Have Parliamentarian work on flyer that we can look at next week with update as he had expressed desire previously to do so. Pres motions and Parliamentarian seconds.
    - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- f. GSS Office Key
  - i. We need one more key so now needs a new key.



- ii. MOTION: To approve up to \$50 a key. Pres motions and Treasurer seconds.
  - 1. Motion approves unanimously.
- g. Tablet for GSS events check-in
  - i. Pres: We cannot use Amazon system anymore. Now we need to spend \$350 for iPad or other system through Husky Buy.
  - ii. MOTION: Approve up to \$450 iPad and accessories. Motion by VP, seconded by Parliamentarian.
    - 1. Motion approves unanimously.
- 5. Good News
- 6. Adjournment via unanimously consent at 7:31 PM.