

What necessitates this emergency meeting is making a final hiring decision for the GSS office assistant.

Meeting link: <https://uconn-cmr.webex.com/meet/sar20009>

Attendance: President, VP, Treasurer, Comms Director, Parliamentarian, and Medha Arora.

1. Call to Order – Call to Order 12:06 PM

2. Executive Committee Report

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Communication Director
- Activities Director: Vacant
- Parliamentarian

3. Old Business

4. New Business

- a. Hiring decision for GSS Office assistant.
 - i. President and VP interviewed many people for 30 minutes each.
 - ii. All undergrads or people who could not be in person at UConn regularly were disqualified.
 - iii. Executive Session passed with motion from Sandip and seconded by VP to discuss sensitive employment matters for office assistant hiring at 12:10 PM.
 1. Motion passes.
 2. The President abolishes current executive session via unanimous consent at 12:23 PM.
 - iv. MOTION: Hire Amy Lou as Office Assistant begin July 21st onwards until Spring 2026 School term at 10hr week at \$20 an hour. Sandip motions and Leo seconds.
 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- b. Purchase of headphones for GSS office video calls
 - i. MOTION: Approve \$100 for headphones for the GSS Office. Maham motions and Matt seconds.
 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- c. MOTION: Add to New Business to talk about TSOS MOU amount and discuss New Student Orientation. Sandip motions and Noah seconds.
 - i. Motion passes unanimously.

d. TSOS MOU

- i. TSOS says MOU is now \$46k - \$47k for upcoming AY. This is the amount TSOS estimated GSS will need to pay TSOS for work done for the upcoming AY26.
 1. TSOS requested \$31K for the entire AY 2024-25, last year. GSS paid \$20K in December 2024 after the Senate voted against paying the TSOS MOU for \$25K in November 2024.
 2. The current proposed MOU amount makes up over 40% of the expected GSS incoming funding for the AY26.
- ii. TSOS says we have already spent \$20K for the last year. TSOS said that there were many PRs and work they had to do for GSS. Maham states that many of our PRs were being denied oddly and GSS had to keep refiling even when we had necessary information attached to documentation.
 1. TSOS says that UCONN is having budget problems and there will be less upcoming graduate students.
- iii. Treasurer: We already have budgeted a \$20K amount. We cannot afford the proposed \$47K MOU current amount.
- iv. President: TSOS knows our financial situation. We have a tight Budget, and this would cause GSS to go into a potential bankruptcy without slashing all Graduate student events and Tier-II funding which would take opportunities away from graduate students.
- v. VP: Why don't we do the bookkeeping ourselves. Then TSOS does not charge us for this on all money spent, and they can just do PR filing.
- vi. President: Office assistant used to keep bookkeeping budget. We do not have any more money in our budget to give more money than the \$20K that we have. We are already trying to get more income by increasing the graduate student fee, which TSOS knows. So, if we can get more money we can give TSOS more income as well. The Senate also voted for \$20K in the budget and the Senate is unlikely to give TSOS more money given they voted against paying the MOU in November 2024.
- vii. VP: We have been given conflicting information on why our PRs keep getting rejected. TSOS gives comments on what we need, we do said things exactly as they want, and TSOS still rejects our PRs. It seems they are giving conflicting information and maybe are rejecting our PRs just to reject PRs; therefore, to ask for more money.
- viii. President: Working to get everything in HuskyBuy. We are working to streamline this process and make it easier for TSOS, including making a standard marketing plan. We don't have the money to pay the MOU that is the problem here.

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- ix. VP: Last year TSOS asked for \$31K (their stated billing amount for all GSS activities) for the entire year but GSS up paid \$20K for the AY25. Why is the number increased to \$47K here? That is almost 2 times the amount we paid the following year. This number seems unreasonable, arbitrary, and odd.
 - x. Parliamentarian: GSS has in the past said we have a surplus and that we can give large estimate sums of money. This has caused serious problems in the past (see Feb 22, 2025, Financial Investigation Committee Report). We only have a certain amount and, we pay for the performance on TSOS's end.
 - xi. President: We have increased our performance drastically. Having all necessary documentation in the PRs the first time and filing PRs significantly in advance.
 - 1. Also, quick update: GSS has the iPad's for checking in people.
 - xii. VP: TSOS is using our PRs to make money from GSS. If we give them a higher amount, they are enticed to unnecessarily reject PRs as they already have, but if we cap the amount, they have incentive to be efficient and not overuse the amount allotted.
 - e. Yoga
 - i. Pres: We are confirming the Yoga instructor and making sure we have the instructor. Anyone have suggestions if the instructor is unable to?
 - ii. Comms: We can ask the Rec center for one of their instructors for help, We can also ask for UConn Rec to train a grad student to train using UConn Rec Center instructor standards.
 - iii. VP: We could even have Yoga in the Rec center and use their resources and pay them.
 - iv. Pres: We could ask for a Grad Student if any of them have a yoga instructor credential and hire them.
 - f. Upcoming Events
 - i. Pres: Have Park Picnic at the park. We are not getting enough people for these things. We have 30 people signed up so far and we need more people. People seem to like Karaoke, and we would like to get more graduate students across campus.
 - ii. Medha: Karaoke ideas can be:
 - 1. Have people vote on songs for the E-Board to sing like Sandip, Noah, Leo, and Matt can do a boy band song such as One Direction or NSYNC. Let people have a say and join in on the fun.

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2. Many people are not online, so we need to find more ways to promote. QR codes at events, has Grad Social Club promote as well, etc.
 - iii. Pres: We need help with people doing the BBQ to make events happen. Friday Aug 8th, 4 - 8 PM, GSS BBQ. Looking for find members that can help such as E-Board members and previous people who have helped. If Aug 8 BBQ goes well then, we do Aug 23.
 1. The Mansfield Park also has a Kitchen and real bathroom as well
 - iv. Aug Events
 1. Aug 1st: 5-8PM. Corleone's Karaoke
 2. Aug 8: 4 – 8 PM. BBQ Mansfield Park
 3. Aug 15: 8:30 – 1 AM. Summer Semi-Semi-Formal Kathmandu
Tell people to RSVP now up to 200 on a first come first serve basis.
 4. Aug 22: 4 – 6 PM. GSS Welcome Back Talk after Grad Student Orientation.
 5. Aug 23: GSS Welcome Back Weekend.
 - g. Orientation
 - i. Pres: Grad school is doing their orientation online. However, they are letting GSS do a non-mandatory in person orientation.
 - ii. Idea on GSS Orientation-like event:
 1. 2 hours 4-6PM on the dot.
 2. 2 panels / forums.
 - a. Representative from SHAW, Housing, Parking, etc and allow them to talk and allow students to ask. Allow them 3–5-minute speaking each and 30-45 minutes Q&A.
 - b. Representative from grad students maybe 4 people from students across years.
 - i. Discuss housing, how one finds it, cheaper options, etc.
 - ii. Cannot promote *any* for-profit institution that is not UConn.
 - iii. Gives answers to commonly asked questions.
 3. Give some brief information of places surround UConn and opportunities offered. Give a hardcopy to new students coming in.
 4. We can do a welcome back weekend after. We can do various activities.
 - h. Procedures Committee

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- i. Will be meeting this upcoming Tuesday, July 22, 2 PM via online.

5. Good News

6. Adjournment 13:38 adjourned via unanimous consent.