
Attendance: President, VP, Treasurer, Communications Director, Parliamentarian, and Medha Arora

1. Call to Order – 4:06 PM

2. Executive Committee Report

- President:
 - UCONN Budgets
 - Huge budget shortfall and UCONN has frozen hiring. As of now, it has not affected grad students, seems to be mostly class A or such like admins. This should not affect professors yet. This is due from grants being cut and other financial changes.
 - Will be joining an Emergency University Senate meeting regarding budget and will have more updates when see us.
 - Travel
 - UCONN is putting a hold on travel. But strongly recommending using endowments for other purposes other than travel.
 - Grad Emergency Fund
 - Being evaluated and sent. There were 400 people before it closed. Seems most of them are being rejected. We can talk to grad school about that.
 - Main criteria seem to be it cannot supplement TA funding or GA funding. So not having summer funding does not seem to be an emergency according to the grad school. But if there was a cut of funding when expected summer funding, that is different and can be considered an emergency.
 - Any questions or follow-up email Karen Bresciano at email: karen.bresciano@uconn.edu.
 - Have some students who seem to be having problems with Fall funding falling through and the President will be looking into that.
 - Events
 - Requested \$20,000 for activities for Graduate students. Sending a formal request and will update soon.
 - Constantly in touch with TSOS about PRs being rejected oddly or without reason or lots of inconsistency. TSOS stated they talk to staff about how to operate with GSS and streamline process and make it more consistent and fairer.
 - Talked about a few other things with TSOS that they keep requiring posters, but normally only make when PR is official done and event will happen. So will touch on how to make that easier.

- Have \$5,000 more in bank than expected. We will have about \$170,000-\$180,000 to spend. Which is well above our budgeted amount to spend so we should be okay.
 - Will talk about in new business
 - Such as committees, etc.
 - Committees
 - Looking to have committees for fees and fee increase.
 - Looking to have some other committees for Senators.
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- Vice-President:
 - VP duties
 - Have been working on document of expectations for Senate. So, it is more of an abridged Robert's Rules which is about who is allowed to speak and when. Give a guideline document so that all people grad students, senates, UConn administration, outsiders, etc.
 - Trying to make a standing rule of the Senate.
 - Pres: I would also recommend clarifying what issues forum is and what it is supposed to be used for. Issues are about issues that is affecting all graduate students—nothing personal or motivated against a singling out a person or small group of people.
 - Activities
 - Met with TSOS to help with fundraising methods with GSS so that more students can attend. The idea is that some grad students pay activities fee and some don't—we cannot have people who do not pay the grad student fee from benefitting from GSS. Will be looking to create a method to “opt-in” to paying the fee for the Semester.
 - Will make a proposal for this soon.
 - Looking into priority entry or other passes to give various benefits. Looking into different options.
 - Making a proposal for this soon.
 - Will also make it easier to see who pays the fee and who doesn't so we can check that to make sure we are only benefitting people who pay the fee.
 - We can also rent a credit card reader so people can bring a +1 person, and they can pay for them right then and there on the spot.

- Treasurer:
 - All bills have been paid. No hanging bills.
 - Working on TII and TIII funding forms. TII form is ready and already sent training slides to TSOS and all training documentation.
 - Have been a lot about parking pass reimbursement got bill for former VP AY 24-25 so should send that soon.
 - Sent an email to Finance Committee requiring summer funding and making sure everything complied. TSOS said “TSOS has done a formal audit, but all things were done under proper procedures”.
 - So, Summer 2023 was done in accordance to all GSS Policies, University, and State and Federal Policy as confirmed by TSOS.
 - All documents up to date and everything has been documented and up to date.
 - Pres: TSOS Said there will be a meeting with compliance office and such.
 - Will sign a contract with TSOS, but we need to have confirmation from the Senate before doing such.
 - Pres: Will be a meeting with GSS, TSOS, and Compliance Office. They will create a scope of their audit and a report. Will discuss the entire procedures for the Report, which will take some time. Probably until end of Fall 2025.
 - GSS asked for a formal audit to check on and investigate all policies and committees for a formal audit into GSS money and how it is handled. Will also provide some non-binding recommendations.
 - Audits and PRs
 - Pres: The problem is everything changes and past GSS people keep saying they have no money. We are making a formal process to make sure everything is streamlined, transparent, and straight forward.
 - Many PRs seemed to have different standards and rules across TSOS. So, an audit helps streamline the process and exactly where the money goes.
 - An email should go out by Monday to send out TII trainings.
- Communication Director:
 - Writing minutes and documentation as normal.
 - Advertise and communicate events and important updates through the ListServ email, WhatsApp Channel, Website, and so on.
 - Working on the website. Hope to make a calendar of events by end of summer.
 - Talked with SHAW and will contact them about Wellness Wednesday

- Potentially create a certificate for UCONN seal to Senators to show service to university. Maybe make physical and online certificate as well for all members of the board as well.
- Activities Director: Vacant
 - Running Corleone's events and have been incredibly successful and other events.
 - Discuss in New Business.
- Parliamentarian:
 - Working to convene procedures committee and got two responses on a first come first serve basis. Which makes Quorum to convene the committee. Will get two additional members next Semester as well.
 - Have a nominal list and will discuss with procedures committee.
 - Formal Parliamentarian AY 23-24 for parking pass has some questions surrounding. Will investigate it during Procedures Committee
 - Will also investigate a Typo in the Bylaws and investigate fixing this issue.
 - For other E-Board members to get fellowship for a vacant role (Activities Director).
 - The Pres and VP are filling in Activities role which is completely different, and they have no other way to vote in another person to the position until September.
 - Past VP AY 24-25 position filled President AY 24-25 position, but that was because the Senate chose *not* to vote for a new president. This was a choice made by the Senate, but there is not choice in the summer now. A new Activities Director can be made at the soonest first meeting in September 2025.
 - Parking
 - Parking reimbursement has been incredibly problematic and looking to write in to make this simpler and more straightforward.
 - Looking to fix some of the Bylaws on parking reimbursement or fellowships.
 - In contact with TSOS about doing Kual form and proceeding with Grad Student information on allocations.
- Break – 5:31 PM --

3. Old Business

a. GSS Office Key PR

- i. Approved in E-Board need to make PR approve \$50 as in last meeting minutes.

b. Tablet and other inventory for GSS

- i. Re-ordered the Tablet so tablet is about \$380 with apple care.
- ii. Will get before next event.

4. New Business

a. Summer and Fall/Spring Events Update

i. End of Summer Formal

- 1. Aug 15 for \$4000 at Kathmandu food for 150 people. 8 to 9:30 PM Dinner and event lasts until midnight.
 - a. Kathmandu looking to do \$5 special for drinks and other specials.
 - b. GSS will make sure students do not eat at the Bar and will take away the chairs.

ii. Fall 2025 events

- 1. Welcome Back event Sept 20 with Dinner at 9 PM and go to 10:30 PM dinner. Will end at 1 AM.
- 2. Will talk to Husky's for a Halloween party. 6–10 PM
- 3. Fall Formal on December 6 with 330 people. Will have a bar in the corner and have some banquet tables for people to eat in SU ballroom. This room is booked. 6-10 PM.

iii. Spring 2026

- 1. Valentines' day SU Ballroom event. 6-10 PM.
- 2. March 27 booked Founder's Green event from 4-8 PM. If it rains it will need to be 2 weeks thereafter. Looking to rent tents and water pipes.
- 3. April will be the Formal. Maybe at Kathmandu.
- 4. Want a graduation party potentially at Corleone's. Maybe could get Husky's during the day such as 5-7PM.

iv. Yoga Hour

- 1. All booked except for two days; therefore, will be missing two weeks. \$95 per session. Thursday 5-6PM.
- 2. MOTION: Approve \$1200 for all Yoga session for Fall 2025. Made by President, seconded by Treasurer.
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.

v. Wellness Wednesday

- 1. Once a semester. Wed Oct 8 and Wed Feb 11.
- 2. Can bring tampons, condoms, dental dams, hand sanitizer, and anything else they would like.

vi. Coffee Hour

- 1. Weekly in SU 303. Friday 4-6PM.

- b. TSOS Bill(s)
 - i. No bills as of now.
- c. Update to Tier II and Tier III PR Forms
- d. Update on Office Assistant Hiring
 - i. Schedule a virtual E-Board for finalizing hiring
 - ii. Had 26 applications and closed Tuesday morning.
 - iii. All undergrads are excluded according to our bylaws (need to be a grad student).
 - iv. Want a Storrs campus; however, if they live close to Mansfield/Storrs/ have a car then keep in the pool.
 - v. Want someone who will be here for the entire school year.
 - vi. Emergency meeting Friday 18th 12pm-1pm to meet with,
 - 1. MOTION: Have this emergency meeting July 18th. Made by Pres, seconded by Treasurer.
 - a. Motion passes unanimously.
- e. Finding better ways to promote GSS events
 - i. Create a marketing event blueprint.
- f. Refreshments for E-Board and Senate meetings
 - i. Looking to keep food simple. Sandwiches and Pizza.
 - ii. Looking to rotate Willington Pizza, Gansett, Big Y subs.
 - iii. MOTION: Do all Senate meetings food above. Motion by Pres, seconded by VP.
 - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
 - iv. MOTION: Move all E-Board meetings to be 4-6PM instead. Motion by Pres, seconded VP.
 - 1. Motion passes unanimously.
- g. Orientation
 - i. More updates later.

5. Good News

6. Adjournment – 6:25 PM via Unanimous Consent