

***Hybrid Meeting link:

Meeting 6-9 PM BUSN 211 4/30/2025

Hosted by busn.storrs.2@uconn.edu

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Wednesday, April 30, 2025 6:00 PM | 3 hours | (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2865 633 4470

Password: BUSN211

Draft minutes.

I. Call to Order: Alaa Selim (VP)

II. Recognition of Senators

III. Approval of consent agenda:

- a. GSS Executive Committee Minutes
- b. GSS Senate Meeting Minutes
- a. Senators Participation – Alaa Selim
 - i. Alaa asked Senators to participate more during meetings.
 - ii. We see that senators are not discussing motions
 - iii. Main concern: no objections for specific motions
 - iv. Senators represent their constituents: need to argue for them!
 - v. Not many issue forums this year
 - vi. Opened to the floor for feedback:
 - Emma Sigfried: not many senators, so it might seem like less participation than usual. Also, much better communication, so “issues” may be being resolved before the meetings.
 - Helpful to reduce the length of senate meetings
 - In response to Alaa, talking about committee meetings not social events. People are going to people in the committee about issues they are having, so they are solving them in the committees.
 - Sandip: compared to 2023, it seems like less issues forum or participation, but this year is very similar to previous years. Quantity over quality
 - Sandip: the only exception for online meetings for branch campuses. Otherwise, there is no incentive to be in the room.
 - Maham: I agree with Alaa, senators need to be paying attention and ask questions before voting so you understand what is happening. Also, not to be rude, but GSS is not just here to give money to TII. We have a bigger purpose. There are issues on campus: parking, visa issues, housing, etc. Noone has brought these up this year, but we need to be. GSS is not only about activities.
 - Cindy: Some of the issues we are having people who have had visas revoked, it is hard to publicly announce this, they are working privately with ISS. After Sandip’s email, I feel represented by GSS in other ways that are not just events.

- Alaa: In GSS, you represent all 3,400 grad students (more than GEU). We can communicate with administrators and make things work.
- Emma: my constituency was really offput by the mess from last year. GSS has this bad image, which is why we have such low involvement. Hopefully that as the year is wrapping up, and things are more professional, it will improve for next year.

V. Executive Board Reports:

a. President

- i. Acting President – Alaa Selim,
 - ii. Meeting with UConn Divest and UConn Police. Discussed how to investigate when police are called into campus. Police were ordered to arrest students when they would not leave. Procedures should be in place for administration to follow (transparency) before calling police.
 - iii. There should be official communication with the protestors whenever there is a protest. University made it clear that there will not be divesting for now. Most of the arrested people were graduate students, we need to keep representation on that committee.
 - iv. Maham will take the position for the President Council.
- v. President Elect- Sandip Roy
- Update on Visa has been shared via email to all the graduate student community.
 - A taskforce has been created by UConn to tailor a program for each student who may get their visa revoked.
 - UCONN can't provide the legal support directly, but they are trying to setup a list of pro-bono attorneys to help student in case of emergency.
 - AAUP has setup a legal fund for the use in emergency.
 - Office assistant Job posting will be up in mid of June.
 - Summer event will be allowed this year starting from July. Contingent on some things in the bylaws.

b. Vice President – Alaa Selim

- i. 13 visas that got revoked, 5 got reinstated. Hopefully no more visa revocations for this year.
- ii. Sandip: clarification all visas were reinstated.
- iii. Attended presentation about UConn survey (ModernThink). Issues with confidence in senior leadership (only done with faculty/staff, not grad students). New E-Board should consider putting this out for grad students to evaluate GSS and GEU. It can give you an overview of where the issues are.
- iv. New attendance policies in University Senate and SEC: get one warning and then you are removed.
- v. Need new chairs for University Senate and SEC
- vi. NECHE Session for UConn Accreditation. Will be follow up on this next year.
- vii. Safety Candidate Interviews: 2 remaining candidates.
- viii. All PRs have been voted and are all set.

- ix. Student Leaders on Campuses: meeting with undergrads and representatives from other campuses. Budget cuts discussed,
 - Dean Shor: Biggest question is about the federal funding. 400 million dollars in federal funding, expect 100 million in new research funding expected in the quarter, and have only received about 5 million (about 1/20). Unknown if this will improve for the next quarter.
- x. Official E-Board Transition: May 1st

- c. Treasurer- Maham Liaqat
 - Financial committee is working on finalizing the budget for the next year. Some organization didn't get their funding approved because they did not fulfill all the GSS requirements.
 - GSS is planning to do work with tier-II organization in holding the various event.
 - Rules for the getting the funds from GSS iterated again.
 - For the collaboration, please reach out to GSS.
 - In the month of June all E-board will be sitting together and planning the events for the whole year. All the organizations will be notified in case they have an idea and want to pitch to the GSS for a collaborative event.

- d. Communications Director – Gaurav Gupta
 - i. One student has won the GSS Community Award this year Leana Santos. Alexa Ott is the runner up.

- e. Activities Director-Leo Gold
 - Grad formal is coming up on Saturday, the capacity is limited, and the event will be on first come first serv basis.
 - Last coffee hour will be this week May 2, 2025.

- f. Parliamentarian – Noah Kravette
 - *Was at a conference. *

VI. Old Business:

- a. Bylaws update vote and discussion.
 - i. Reviewing updates to the Bylaws made between the March 2025 meeting the April 2025 meeting.
 - ii. MOTION:
 - Phuc motioned to amend the proposed Bylaw for Senate apportionment in the Summer instead to “The Senate will review”, seconded by Ziqin.
 - Motion Passes with Aye:14, Nye:0 and Abstain:2
 - iii. Summer stipends are added for all the e-board members and corresponding duties were also defined. Showed in the senate. Summer is being treated as another semester and hence a corresponding fellowship is added.
 - iv. MOTION:

- Motion to amend the bylaws as highlighted in the Green made by Matt and seconded by Emma.
- Concern was raised for this proposed amendment, as not everyone has the work to do in summer.
- How the budget is going to effect when the summer stipend are added.
- Maham answered that they have the money, and they can adjust all this by doing the collaborative events with Tier-II and having a little bit more from increased number of students.
- AMENDED MOTION:
 - Emma motioned to amend the amendment. “If a member of E-Board does not satisfy the requirement for his summer work senate can suspend their fellowship for summer”, seconded by Pham.
 - Motion passes with Aye: 12, Nye:0; Abstain:4.
- v. MOTION:
 - Phuc made a motion to amend the fellowship amount of the summer to \$0 and seconded by none.
 - Motion failed before reaching the floor.
- vi. MOTION:
 - Matt motioned to approve the Summer payment Bylaws as shown and discussed by the Senate to have the E-Board receive summer payments as fellowships for these responsibilities of attending all E-Board meetings in person and the Senate vote to confirm at the next meeting. Seconded by Emma.
 - Motion passed with Aye:11; Nye:1; Abstain:4.
 - Sandip makes clear he abstains as an incoming member of the E-Board.
- vii. MOTION:
 - Motion to extend the meeting by 30 min made by Sandeep and seconded by Amma.
 - Motion passes with Aye: 13; Nye:1; Abstain:1.
- viii. MOTION:
 - Sandip motions to remove the Parliamentarians vote will be taken away from the Procedures Committee, seconded by Patrick.
 - Motion passed with Aye: 12; Nye 0; Abstain:1.
- ix. MOTION:
 - Emma motions to approve all the proposed Bylaw changes as shared with the Senate, including Bylaw amendments made above. This includes the Senate apportionment confirmation vote, the chair of the Procedures Committee not a voting member of their committee, and summer E-Board payments as fellowships treated as a Semester. Second by Josh.
 - Motion passes with Aye: 13; Nye: 2; Abstain: 6.
 - Sandip and Matt state they abstain from this motion.
 - Robert’s Rules of Order §44:3. A two-thirds vote means at least two thirds of the votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions.

Therefore, this motion passed per Robert's Rules of Order.

- x. **After the Bylaws discussion finished, the Vice President Alaa Selim and the Communications Director Gaurav Gupta promptly abandoned their duties and left the room together not to return.**
- b. Finance policies vote and discussion.
 - i. The Senate discussed an update to the Financial Policy made between March 2025 and the April 2025 meeting.
 - ii. MOTION:
 - Sandip motions that the Treasurer will not have a vote on the Finance Committee to make the no odd, seconded by Phuc.
 - Motion passes with Aye: 14; Nye: 0; Abstain: 1.
 - iii. Discussion that the changes will not affect the ability of a Tier-II organization to sell the tickets. TSOS will setup the ticketing system and GSS will collect all the ticketing money. They must mention this in the PR which needs to be filled 14 days before the event.
 - iv. MOTION:
 - Sandip motions to approve Financial Policy updates as shared with the Senate, with the amendment that the Treasurer will not have a vote as the chair of the Finance Committee, seconded by Matt.
 - Motion passes with Aye: 12; Nye: 1; Abstain: 4.

VII. GSS AY 2025-26 Officer Elections:

- a. Closed ballot election for GSS Activities Director and Senator-At-Large happen both on the same ballot.
- b. Senator-At-Large discussion for Abrar Musabir, Emma Siegfried, and Patrick Corrigan are discussed.
- c. GSS Activities Directors speeches begin.
 - i. Kari Comstock describes why she is running for Activities Director.
 - ii. Samuel Nuamah withdraws in front of the Senate. He states his reason is that another person African American is running (referencing Kari) and then expresses his desire to have events specifically for African Americans.
 - iii. Medha Arora is running and describes her desire to be Activities Director.
 - iv. Two students on the ballot did not show up.
- d. MOTION:
 - i. Sandip motions to extend the meeting by another 30-minutes, seconded by Emma.
 - ii. Motion passes unanimously.
- e. Closed Ballot Vote:
 - i. All Senator-A-Larges are elected unanimously.
 - ii. Kari Comstock is elected Activities Director with 11 votes and 6 abstains.

VIII. New Business

- a. MOTION:
 - i. Sandip motions on the floor to approve \$400 to purchase a card swipe from the University for sign in procedures. Seconded by Kari.

- ii. Motion passes with 15 Ayes; 0 Nays; 0 Abstains.
- b. MOTION:
 - i. Sandip motions to purchase office supplies (\$200 for monitor, \$50 for whiteboard and supplies \$50 for batteries, \$70 for USB C hub, total of \$370), seconded by Emma.
 - ii. Motion passes with 15 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstains.
- c. MOTION:
 - i. Sandip motions to approve all Finance Committee minutes as sent, seconded by Patrick
 - ii. Motion passes with 16 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstain.
- d. MOTION:
 - i. Emma motions to amend the budget and approve summer payments, by recognizing the summer period as equivalent to a semester for compensation purposes, consistent with the updated Bylaws previously approved. Under this motion, summer fellowship payments will be included in Executive Committee pay as follows: \$2,500 for the President and Treasurer, \$1,500 for the Activities Director and Communications Director, and \$750 for the Vice President and Parliamentarian. This structure brings the total annual compensation to \$7,500 for the President and Treasurer, \$4,500 for the Activities Director and Communications
 - ii. Motion passes with 9 Aye; 0 Nays; 5 Abstains.
 - Sandip, Kari, and Matt all make clear that they abstain as incoming E-Board members.
- e. MOTION:
 - i. Emma motions to approve the entire GSS Budget for the upcoming year AY 2025-26 with the motion amendment above for the summer fellowship payments treated as a Semester above. Seconded by Patrick.
 - ii. Motion passes with 14 Ayes; 0 Nays; 1 Abstain.
- f. MOTION:
 - i. Sandip motions to end the April 2025 meeting and Chiamaka seconds.
 - ii. Motion passes via unanimous consent at 8:57 PM.

IX. Good News

- a. The meeting ends.



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Senate Meeting DRAFT

April 30, 2025

6:00PM – 8:00PM

Senators Present:

1. Mahjabeen Fatema Mitu
2. Michael Jolly
3. Kari Comstock
4. K.M. Abu Hurayra Lizu
5. Emma Siegfried
6. Ziqin Liu
7. Iheanacho Enyum (Alternate)
 - a. Ashwin Abhang Arun
8. Cindy Barreto (Alternate)
 - a. Noah Manuel
9. Sandip Roy
10. Patrick Corrigan (Alternate)
 - a. Lev Becker
11. Talbot Hook
12. Yinyu Wang
13. Hoang-Phuc Pham
14. Jasmin Naher
15. Musawir Abrar
16. Javad Teymoori
17. Makduma Zahan Badhan
18. Chiamaka Nwabanne
19. Matt Silverman
20. Syed Islam (Alternate)
 - a. Md. Amit Hasan
21. Abhishek Dubey
22. Quinn Packer
23. Kiran Paudel