

Attendance: Sandip Roy (President), Leo Gold (VP), Maham Liaqat (Treasurer), Noah Kravette (Comms), Matt Silverman (Parliamentarian), Medha Arora, and Nick Lanza (Office Assistant).

I. Call to Order – 14:02

II. Executive Committee Report

a. President

i. Hiring

1. Finished hiring someone last time, but they decided to leave. Hired a new person (Nick) for 5 hrs/week. Will hire another person for 5 hrs/week to assist with activities management.

ii. Negotiations

1. The university is undergoing budget cuts, with special Senate meetings discussing a \$100M deficit.
2. The university has stated it will not touch PI grant funds.
3. Departments' discretionary funds are being reclaimed if unused; 10% cuts are expected across all departments.
4. TA/GA positions are vulnerable and may be cut.
5. The President will contact Reka Rin (interim VP of Finance) for clarity.
6. Some TA funding from Department of Education grants is ending.
7. Facility grants are not affected. Departments and students are advised to talk with each other.
8. The Graduate School reported \$300,000 in emergency grants, but the funds are not yet visible; GSS is seeking clarification.
9. *Parliamentarian*: Concern over VP of Finance's lack of response to Tier-III.
10. *President*: If the Dean can reply, the VP of Finance should too. Updates to come.
11. *Treasurer*: Concern about the future of graduate funding.
12. *Parliamentarian*: Can we propose a solution to help?
13. *President*: We're unsure of the university's plan, but GSS will continue asking questions.
14. The Graduate School is currently not funding GSS events. Only our existing budget is available.
15. A fees committee is needed at the first Senate meeting to begin gathering signatures.
16. Many programs are adopting comprehensive fees, and GSS should receive a portion to support graduate student services. **GSS is the only governing body of the five (5) at UConn representing all graduate students--yet GSS does not get a cut to help support all graduate students from many programs.**

iii. Activities

1. Booked all locations for major events this year.
 2. Expecting a successful event at Kathmandu tonight.
 - b. Vice President
 - i. Reserved BUSN 127; it has new equipment and is now available.
 - ii. Working on implementing standing rules and a code of conduct in the Senate bylaws.
 - iii. Developing orientation materials for new Senators.
 - iv. Participated in the hiring of Nick.
 - c. Treasurer
 - i. Completed PR form process for Tier-IIs. One Tier-II has already followed it successfully.
 - ii. Working on emergency funds.
 - iii. Scheduled meeting with Davey Clokey and University President to discuss future planning.
 - iv. Collaborated with TSOS to resolve billing and PR submission issues.
 - v. *President:* All instructions have been clearly stated; groups must follow them to receive funding.
 - d. Communications Director
 - i. Finished meeting minutes and documentation. This board has already had more meetings than most Senators will all year.
 - ii. Promoting events; shoutout to Medha for help with social media and flyers.
 - iii. Updated Tier-II form to streamline responsibilities and allow for coordinated marketing of funded events.
 - e. Activities Director (vacant)
 - f. Parliamentarian
 - i. Met with Procedures Committee to address contradictions in the bylaws.
 - ii. New Senator application form is active and working well. Thanks to the VP for help.
 - iii. Thank you to Comms for posting minutes online.
- III. **Old Business**
- a. September Event at Kathmandu
 - i. IDs will be checked by Kathmandu staff to ensure 21+ entry for the dinner.
 - ii. 200 RSVPs so far. Grad students may join the dance at 10 PM.
 - b. Budget for AY 2025–26 Events
 - i. *President:* No outside funding expected.
 - ii. *Treasurer:* May need to cut special allocations.
 - iii. *President:* Some events may still be possible.
 - c. GSS Student Life Orientation
 - i. *President:* First such event since 2020. If successful, will be held annually.
 - ii. Not a traditional orientation--this is a forum focused on student life (not employment or labor topics).

- iii. Includes panel discussions on mental health, housing, parking, and more.
- iv. Grad panel includes a PhD student from out of state, an international master's student, and a UConn-to-PhD student.
- v. 30–45 min Q&A. Ends at 6 PM.
- vi. Coffee/snacks provided; pizza at 6 PM. Need an E-Board volunteer to pick it up.
- vii. Big Y card ordered for VP and Office Assistant (arrives in ~1 month).
- viii. 2-page handout created for the event and website.
 - 1. One gives resource overview and checklist for new students.
 - 2. Second is the agenda with links to GSS social media.
- ix. Promoting GSS WhatsApp channel, social media, and giving out goodie bags.
- x. Emails will be used only to confirm RSVPs and provide check-in info.

IV. New Business

- a. Hiring New Admin Assistant
 - i. Previous hire wanted more hours; however,
 - ii. **Motion:** Hire another person for 5 hrs/week.
 - 1. *Motion passes.*
- b. August Events Promotion
 - i. **Motion:** Approve posted Tier-II/GSS marketing plan.
 - 1. *Motion passes unanimously.*
- c. GSS New Senator Orientation
 - i. (Discussion held; no motion)
- d. TSOS Bills
 - i. **Motion:** Move all TSOS bills to next board meeting.
 - 1. *Motion passes unanimously.*
- e. GSS Tier-II Treasurer Training
 - i. **Motion:** Move discussion to next board meeting.
 - 1. *Motion passes unanimously.*
- f. Refreshments for Meetings
 - i. E-Board Meetings (Sept–Dec)
 - 1. **Motion:** Approve \$800 for food (e.g., Sept: Kathmandu, Oct: Huskies).
 - a. *Motion passes unanimously.*
 - ii. Senate Meetings & Orientation
 - 1. *President:* Suggest Big Y pizza for now due to unknown attendance.
 - 2. **Motion:** Approve up to \$2,500 for Senate committee food.
 - a. *Motion passes unanimously.*
- g. Executive Session
 - i. **Motion:** Enter executive session at 15:26 to discuss sensitive employee matters.
 - 1. *Motion passes unanimously.*

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- ii. Returned from executive session at 16:01 via unanimous consent.
 - V. **Good News**
 - VI. **Adjournment – 16:02 via unanimous consent**