

1. **Call to Order – 6:18 PM**
2. **Recognition of Senators**
3. **Executive Report**
4. **Approval of consent agenda**
 - a. Meeting agenda
 - b. GSS Senate meeting minutes
 - I. Sept 17, 2025 [Senate Committee minutes.PDF](#)
 - c. GSS Executive Committee meeting minutes
 - I. Oct 17, 2025 [Special Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
 - II. Oct 3, 2025 [Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
 - d. Motion: Approve all minutes as presented above.
 - i. *Motion passes via unanimous consent.*
5. **Issues Forum**
 - a. Graduate School
 - i. We want to establish committees from Graduate Faculty Committee (GFC), and we want graduate students to be a part of them.
 - ii. Making 5 committees
 - a. Assessment of Graduate Student Learning
 - i. Establishing to make sure every graduate program has objectives and make sure it is measured and faculty held responsible for continuous improvement.
 - ii. Available for any graduate students who want to join.
 - b. Graduate Admissions
 - i. Handle MBA, departments, PhDs, etc.
 - ii. Have standard policies and procedures for all these admissions, such as what should we do for credential verification or so on.
 - iii. We want a graduate student to get their perspective on how to make the best choice with the resources available.
 - c. Graduate Student Financial Support
 - i. The fellowships for graduate students and some awards directly to some departments.
 - ii. As well as helping with NSF or other prestigious awards can help cover the cost differences to make sure you aren't making less than a normal graduate student.

- d. Graduate Student Life
 - i. Promote initiatives and enhance graduate student experience and well-being. Fostering community, etc.
 - ii. Want graduate student inputs on how to strengthen community and belonging, etc.
- e. Graduate Student success
 - i. Want to find ways to guide students and investments in the next 5 to 10 years.
 - ii. We want to establish and track metrics to help improve graduate student success.
 - iii. Such as opportunities to do practicum or internships to help make these things happen. It is a win-win-win for everyone.
- iii. We would be overjoyed to get at least 5 volunteers for these committees. We will share the slides with Leo as well.
- iv. Maham: What about the grad contract discussion?
 1. Leslie: We are looking into ways to have these discussions with faculty and legal counsel. We had a very productive meeting today with everyone, so we're hopeful about setting the ground rules for graduate contract bargaining this year.
 2. Maham: What about the discussions with the University Senate?
 3. Karen: I think you're referring to the sweep enrollers. They mentioned that any leftover funds would be swept into a centralized system, but departments could still apply to get the money back for necessary processes. Some of the sweeps caused confusion, but all the funds were eventually reserved.
 4. Maham: A lot of departments are saying the money just went away.
 5. Karen: Many budgets were cut by 10–15%, so that's part of the issue--some real cuts have happened.
 6. Leslie: When AUP negotiated with the state, no additional funding was offered from the state side, so they asked the university to create these employment positions. In some cases, the operating budget was greater than the amount needed to fund all these processes. Some of the COVID relief money was used just to make payroll. That funding is no longer available, but we are doing the best we can. Harvard recently announced they're planning to cut 75% of their PhD and graduate students next year. Fortunately, we are not in that situation.

6. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President
 - i. The University Senate talked about the anti-racism class to keep as is as an elective. Some senators felt we should keep it as is or take a stance and make it mandatory. It has been moved to the next meeting, however, for a decision.
 - ii. For the budget, all we know is that they are assessing things for the Kennedy, which is for the budget model.
 - 1. Quin: There are listening to sessions to be held as well and we can hear what is going on.
 - 2. The Business School has announced that janitorial staff has been cut. So, we are still looking into what this budget reformat will look like. Leo wants to investigate travel funds and what the PI counts as a presentation or so on to allow for travel for the university.
 - iii. Vannessa (DEI committee): Looking at scooters and potential collisions that have been caused by this.
 - 1. Sandip: The university is looking into enforcement methods to prevent problems,
 - 2. Maham: There was an accident before.
 - 3. Sandip: Hopefully the university can make some policy to keep everyone safe.
- b. Vice-President
 - i. SCC
 - 1. Sandip touched on most of what we talked about with student travel, etc.
 - 2. Other than that, there hasn't been any major upcoming items.
 - ii. USG virtual voting system
 - 1. Looking to create a voting system to make it easier to vote in Senate.
 - iii. Ticketing system for events:
 - 1. Working with the university to create a ticketing system for our events so non-fee-paying members can pay for entrance into some events.
- c. Treasurer
 - i. SASFAC is discussing deficits and auxiliary revenue for the university.
 - ii. They are ensuring that professors, departments, and schools receive some funding for necessary processes and payments.
 - iii. Looking at reimbursements and finding ways to pay bills.
 - iv. Need some post-purchase documentation to process some payments.

- v. Looking into a fee increase. Planning to circulate this and have people sign at events.
- vi. Trying to determine the MOU amount and ongoing discussions. Had a meeting with David Clokey regarding the fee increase and what the SASFAC package will look like.
- d. Communications Director
 - i. Wellness Wednesday event happened today. If someone would like to join the marketing committee--some people emailed saying they couldn't find the Student Union--please let me know. We are working on ways to improve marketing and accessibility.
 - ii. Marketing has required a lot of planning to maximize accessibility, viewership, and SEO--as Sandip and Medha can confirm from the many calls we've had. It is the responsibility of Tier-IIs to stay on top of things and contact me within the timeframe I've repeatedly shared over email, on the website, and in Senate meetings; otherwise, their event will not be included in the announcements. Please contact me by email if you did not fill out the required marketing information in the 40 calendar days as soon as possible.
 - iii. Moving forward, we will create a Kuali PR system for marketing apart of the normal Tier-II PR.
 - iv. Additionally, I have been documented the minutes and meetings, as well as communicate events through Instagram, WhatsApp, and emails.
- e. Activities Director
 - i. Wellness Wednesday happened.
 - ii. We are planning an outdoor event and will have Huskies coming for it.
 - iii. We are looking to integrate social work into our events and have been working with David Clokey to make that happen.
 - iv. We are also planning a professional event in January with the Graduate School.
- f. Parliamentarian
 - i. Reviewing the bylaws and identifying areas for improvement and updates.
 - ii. Looking for another person to be on the procedures committee as have one open spot. Looking for another person to join the Procedures Committee, as there is one open spot.

7. Old Business

- a. None

8. New Business

- a. **Motion:** Approve \$2,389.17 for [August TSOS Bills](#) and \$9,161.36 for [September TSOS Bills](#) (motion by Quin Zabel, seconded by Mike Jolly)

- i. Motion passed with 9 ayes 0 nays 1 abstain.*
- b. **Motion:** Approve up to \$9,000 for a November Event, with up to \$5,000 from Special Allocations and up to \$4,000 from the Activities Budget (motion by Quin, Zabel, seconded by Michael Jolly).
 - i. Medha: We are thinking about having another event for food, mingling, DJ, and dancing.
 - ii. Quin: Is there any other funding that could be used for?
 - iii. Medha: No other Tier-II can utilize this money as all that were eligible have done so. So, we want to allocate some of the remainder for the entire graduate student body to utilize for normal GSS activities.
 - iv. Motion passes with 9 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstain.*
- c. **Motion:** Send an informational flyer to allow these social work UConn graduate students into this Halloween event to entice them to pay into fee paying system (By Vannessa Hegal, seconded by Quin Zabel):
 - i. Sandip: My concern is that this must be stated to be a one-off event, and they cannot attend future events unless they pay into the system, as they are not a fee-paying member. We need to prioritize fee-paying members, as they are the only ones eligible to benefit from GSS.
 - ii. Medha: Yes, that will be made clear on the flyer, and this will be one-off.
 - iii. Quin: How many people are in Social Work?
 - iv. Sandip: It is around 500 people, but do not expect that many to come. I have also seemed around 100--I am not sure.
 - v. Quin: It is first comes first serve, but I think we might want need to plan the logistics of letting in this amount of non-fee-paying graduate students.
 - vi. Sandip: That is a great point, maybe we can say that the event only happens after 5 PM to prioritize our own fee-paying members as we are supposed to.
 - vii. Medha: Instead of a first come first serve, we can do an RSVP.
 - viii. Quin: I would be worried that people would drive and still not be able to come in. Maybe we can reserve X number of spots?
 - ix. Leo: Maybe we can have first people who RSVP can come (normal fee payers first comes, first serve) and only the first people on the list get in.
 - x. Quin: I am comfortable to leaving this with the Activities Committee on what they believe is best.
 - xi. Sandip: Leslie Shorr, we also have a question if you have a travel policy and want to send somewhere. Can they still go if their PI has funds and wants to send the student?
 - 1. Leslie: So, we do have a say on what is considered necessary travel. Active participation is the key--being on a panel, giving a

talk, presenting a poster, etc. After that, it is pretty much approved. Then you can use any funding you have for the event for the travel. This is the same for faculty too. When it comes to PhD students on the job market, we are trying to be as flexible as possible, as we know how important this is.

- xii. Leo: Any more discussion on the floor on letting social work students into the Halloween event? I am going to do this motion via unanimous consent.

1. Motion passes via unanimous consent.

d. Finance Committee Elections

- i. Medha: Join the finance committee! It is important and all finances go through it this committee. We need people to join.
- ii. Sandip: It is super important, GSS does not function unless we have this committee go through all the finances.
 - 1. Quin stated they are interested.
 - 2. Atta Seck stated they are interested.
- iii. Leo: In an interest of a fair election, we will push this to next Senate meeting.
- iv. **Motion:** Postpone this meeting to next election (By Quin, seconded by Atta).

1. Motion passes via unanimous consent.

e. Discussion: SASFAC Update

f. Discussion: Bylaw Changes from Procedures Committee

- i. **Motion:** To postpone bylaw change (By Quin, seconded by Renuka Loganathan)

1. Motion passes via unanimous consent.

g. Discussion: Comprehensive Fee

- i. Sandip: As of this stance we cannot help you sell tickets to any event. The problem was Tier-II's selling tickets. If it is a majority of grad students, it is technically okay for the Bangladesh GSO event to allow any non-fee-paying persons (e.g. family members and relatives) into the Tier-II event. Starting in spring we can help sell tickets.
- ii. Sandip: We are looking to find a way to get more fees from students that already pay it but does not go to GSS. Medha is working on the social work program.
- iii. Sandip: Renuka, we want people to support fee increase at these large events so please have people sign there. We need to get this in by December. Any events happening we can have grad students sign for this?
 - 1. Atta: We have an event that is not being sponsored by GSS I can ask people to sign at.

- 2. Neha: Animal Science always has a seminar on Friday so I can ask people there.
- 3. Michael Jolly: I can ask students as well.
- iv. Maham: If we have more funding we can have more events for graduate students.
- h. Comprehensive fee
 - i. Sandip: There are 2800 people who pay this fee. I sent an email to Leslie Shor to ask for a portion of this fee funding that Noah and Medha made. I am speaking to the council of Deans for this. Some of these deans have expressed willingness to give a portion of these fees for graduate students.
 - ii. Call to action is to get more signatures from graduate students for the fee increase.

9. Good News

- a. GSS Halloween Event on October 31st, 2025 4-8 PM at Huskies Downtown.

10. Adjournment - 7:22 PM

Senator Attendance:

- 1. Renuka Loganathan
 - a. Tarang
- 2. Bikash Pal
 - a. Nepalese Graduate Student Association
- 3. Quin Zabel
 - a. Grad Social Club
- 4. Nadia Upah
 - a. GO:MCB
- 5. Michael Jolly Jr
 - a. Physiology & Neurobiology
- 6. Atta Seck
 - a. Grad MSA
- 7. Vanessa Heigel
 - a. GSCU (geography)
- 8. Jakiya Sultana Joya
 - a. Society of Plastic Engineers
- 9. Md. Abdullah Ali Shakil
 - a. Graduate Student Association of Bangladesh
- 10. Ayah Abdallah (alternate attending: Vandana Gupta)
 - a. GRAD SWE
- 11. Muhammad Faheem Hassan
 - a. CBE