

1. Call to Order – 6:17 PM

2. Recognition of Senators

3. Approval of consent agenda

- a. Meeting agenda
- b. GSS Senate meeting minutes
 - I. Oct 22, 2025 [Senate Committee minutes.PDF](#)
- c. GSS Executive Committee meeting minutes
 - I. Nov. 5, 2025 [Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
- d. **Motion:** Pass the consent agenda with both the Oct 22, 2025 Senate minutes and the Nov 5, 2025 Executive Committee minutes.
 - i. *Passes via unanimous consent.*

4. Issues Forum

- a. Off-Campus Housing | John Armstrong, Associate Dean of Students
 - i. Housing, stipends, and limited financial resources remain major concerns, especially given that UConn is in one of the highest college rental markets in the country.
 - ii. There is a need for an internal mechanism to help graduate students safely connect for housing purposes (e.g., finding roommates).
 - iii. A timeline for on- and off-campus housing was presented.
 - iv. Improved communication with incoming students before or upon arrival is needed.
 - v. Efforts are ongoing to reduce housing costs; UConn has begun pre-leasing off-campus properties.
 - vi. The rent-by-the-bed model remains a concern due to higher overall costs.
 - vii. Students face challenges in connecting and coordinating with each other for housing.
 - viii. There are no standard rules for rent increases, which adds uncertainty for tenants.
 - ix. Bus service is limited—runs infrequently on weekends and has reduced schedules on weekdays.
 - x. International students often arrive with families or without local connections, increasing housing challenges.
 - xi. Graduate student campus housing is being assessed under strategic enrollment planning to determine individual needs.
- b. Parking and Transportation | Andy Kelly, Associate Director of Logistics
 - i. Discussion included Willimantic transportation for students without cars, particularly through WRTD services. Resources were recently expanded to serve graduate student population centers, with possible future updates to Willington and Ellington.
 - ii. E-bikes and scooters: Progress is being made toward a possible pilot program by next fall. The goal is to partner with companies, establish vehicle corrals, and register e-bikes and scooters to supplement limited bus routes.
 - iii. Dial-a-Ride serves as a summer option for elderly and disabled riders when regular bus service is reduced.
 - iv. Transportation funding comes from the student transportation fee, which supports the UPass, Accessible Land Service, and HuskyGo shuttle system.

- v. There is no direct public transport between Storrs and Avery Point; low ridership density makes it difficult to justify such a route.
- vi. Transportation to UConn Health is also considered cost prohibitive.
- vii. Parking near Horsebarn Hill remains limited. The W Lot is filling quickly due to high demand. While overall parking capacity is sufficient, availability is lacking in the interior of campus.
- viii. Plans are being discussed to expand parking near South Campus, where both staff and student parking are limited.
- ix. North and South Garage parking is increasingly used for hourly parking, and measures are in place to ensure full utilization of interior spaces.
- x. Illegal parking enforcement: The university has contracted with a company to use wheel-lock boots featuring a keypad release system once payment is made.
- c. Grad Student Success | Melody Sinch
 - i. Collaborations continue with various departments and research institutions to support professional growth.
 - ii. Emphasis on building communication and leadership skills.
 - iii. Graduate Student Appreciation Week will be held the week of April 6.
 - iv. Graduate Student Research Day is planned, with a Postdoctoral Research Day forthcoming.

5. Executive Committee Reports

- a. President
 - i. The committee is seeking improved guidance and resources for graduate students with disabilities who serve as teaching assistants (TAs).
 - ii. Event updates:
 - 1. Survey data from the summer and the Huskies event indicated 23% event satisfaction rate (students who attended at least one GSS event) and 90% satisfaction among respondents at an exit poll at the GSS Halloween event reported by the Communications Director.
 - 2. Additional surveys will be conducted at the beginning and end of the spring semester, targeting students who have attended GSS events.
 - iii. The University is forming a multi-campus committee, which will include one graduate student representative.
 - iv. The Town Hall fee increase was discussed.
 - v. Information regarding the activity fee increase will be presented by Maham during New Business and in a follow-up email.
- b. Vice-President
 - i. OneDrive storage is being restricted to manage costs, though expansion is planned. Graduate researchers are encouraged to create custom SharePoint sites for research data storage and collaboration.
 - ii. The University is transitioning from desktop computers to laptops for Graduate Assistants (GAs) to simplify equipment management and enhance mobility, especially in lecture halls.
- c. Treasurer
 - i. Funding allocations to schools, departments, and faculty for new hires remain under discussion, with continued focus on graduate student funding.
 - ii. SASFAC (Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee) hearings:
 - 1. Departments and organizations presented budget proposals for review and potential increases.

- 2. Recent years have seen consistent budget increases, including a 0.5% salary increase for graduate students.
 - 3. This year's proposal requests a 4.5% increase, excluding the Student Union.
 - 4. Hearings will be conducted online.
- iii. The Student Union has requested additional funding for security.
- iv. All organizations will present their budgets, with an accompanying budget summary sheet for transparency.
- d. Communications Director (Absent)
 - i. Has been documenting meetings, preparing minutes, and sending communications to graduate students through social media and email.
 - ii. If there are any suggestions for improving the website, please reach out to the Communications Director.
- e. Activities Director (Absent)
 - i. The most recent Huskies event drew over 300 attendees.
 - ii. Discussion included ways to improve event promotion and outreach to boost participation.
- f. Parliamentarian

6. Old Business

- a. Finance Committee Elections
 - i. Finance Committee elected with 1) Julia Navarrette, 2) Quin Zabel, 3) Atta Seck, and 4) Nadia Upah.
 - ii. The final seat elected Patrick Corrigan after a three-person election of non-Senators Khadija Danazumi and David Osei Kissi, and Senator Patrick Corrigan. There was a tie between Patrick and Khadija, which was broken with the Chair and Vice President, Leo Gold, sending the final deciding vote for Patrick.
- b. Discussion: Proposed Bylaw Amendments from Procedures Committee
 - i. [Proposed Bylaw Amendments](#).
 - ii. **Motion:** Move the Bylaw Amendments discussion to the end of Agenda.
 - 1. *Motion passes via unanimous consent.*

7. New Business

- a. **Motion:** Approve \$32,315.02 for [October TSOS Bills](#) (motion by Quin, seconded by Harrison).
 - i. *Motion passes with 10-0-0.*
- b. **Motion:** Approve Executive Committee pay for the following members who have met the meeting attendance requirements as set in Bylaw VI.5, paid out as a fellowship with the following amounts as dictated in Bylaw VI.1, with 50% disbursed after meeting the Fall semester attendance requirements, and 50% disbursed after meeting the Spring semester attendance requirements (motion by Harrison, seconded by Bikash).
 - i. President: \$5,000
 - ii. Communications Director: \$3,000
 - iii. Treasurer: \$5,000
 - iv. Activities Director: \$3,000
 - v. Parliamentarian: \$1,500
 - 1. *Motion passes with 10-0-0.*

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- c. **Motion:** Extend the meeting by 15 minutes (motion by Quin, seconded by Renuka)
 - i. *Motion passes unanimously.*
 - d. **Motion** to approve Executive Committee pay for the following members who have met the meeting attendance requirements as set in Bylaw VI.5, paid out as a fellowship with the following amounts as dictated in Bylaw VI.1, with 50% disbursed after meeting the Fall semester attendance requirements, and 50% disbursed after meeting the Spring semester attendance requirements (motion by Harrison, seconded by Quin).
 - i. Vice President: \$1,500
 - 1. *Motion passes unanimously.*
 - e. Discussion: GSS Activity Fee Increase
 - i. Members have been collecting signatures required for Tier II funding.
 - ii. All signatures are destroyed once the request is either approved or denied. The process is strictly non-political.
 - iii. The Social Work program is seeking incorporation into GSS.
 - f. Discussion: SASFAC Updates
 - i. [Draft SASFAC Document](#)
 - ii. A minimum of 75 senator approvals is required to forward the social work proposal to SASFAC for review. If approved, incorporation would take effect in Fall 2026.
 - iii. By the end of the academic year, there will be no remaining funds unless the student activity fee is increased.
 - iv. The current budget is approximately \$160,000, with \$40,000 in fixed costs, leaving only \$34,000 available.
 - v. GSS must prioritize its own operations and activities before allocating funds to Tier II organizations.
 - vi. The full SASFAC packet will be distributed before the next Senate meeting.
 - g. Motion: Extend the meeting by 15 minutes (motion by Quin, seconded by Harrison).
 - i. Motion passes unanimously.
 - h. Bylaw Amendment discussion
 - i. Kari presented all proposed Bylaw changes:
 - 1. *Officer Eligibility*
 - a. *To be eligible to serve as an Officer of the Graduate Student Senate Board, a candidate must have completed at least one full academic year of service as a Senator, GSS office assistant, or as a member of an internal committee. The candidate must also have attended a majority (2/3) of their respective meetings for the academic year.*
 - i. The Senate discussed that if there are no other eligible person running, the seat should open to all fee-paying graduate students.
 - 2. *Election Procedures*
 - a. *Only Senators are eligible to nominate candidates for the Graduate Student Senate Board*
 - 3. *No Senator can represent more than one constituency at a time.*
 - 4. *The responsibilities for each of the positions are outlined in The Constitution Article IV. At the last meeting of the Spring semester, the newly elected Executive Committee members will outline their specific,*

before the senate approves their fellowships. Documentation is to be sent 72 hours in advance for the senate to vote on.

- 5. If a member of the Executive Committee does **not** meet the requirements for their summer responsibilities listed in BYLAW VI, Article 9 (C) and Article 9 (D), the senate can vote to suspend ~~their summer stipend~~ in the first fall and/or Spring semester of their respective academic year ~~GSS meeting~~.*
- 6. If an Officer resigns during the summer session and prior to the first Senate meeting of the Fall semester, the Executive Committee may appoint a replacement to fill the vacant position for the duration of the summer session. This appointment shall be subject to approval by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee. The replacement shall be from either the current executive committee or any previous executive member from the past that served through their entire academic year term.*

7. *After serving their full term through the last Senate meeting of the semester in April of their respective academic year, all members of the previous term's Executive Committee shall be entitled to parking passes in the Garage. Committee members will pay the full amount for a UConn parking pass at the beginning of the academic year, to be refunded after the last Senate meeting in the form of a fellowship at the market rate of a UConn garage pass for that academic year. To be eligible for the refund of parking passes, an officer must meet the attendance requirements as set forth in Bylaw VI, Article 5.*
- a. The Senate discussed that this should not be both a reimbursement and a fellowship and should therefore only be a fellowship as the market rate of a garage pass for the AY.

8. Good News

- a. GSS Friendsgiving November 21st, 2025, 4-8 PM at Huskies Downtown
b. Thanks to the Parliamentarian, Kari, for doing the minutes for the Nov. 2025 Senate meeting.

9. Adjournment

Senator Attendance:

- Quin Zabel
- Hoang-Phuc Pham
- Renuka Loganathan
- Bikash Pal
- Nadia Upah
- Akshay Jayachandran
- Harrison Kelley
- Ayah Abdallah
- Emma Siegfried
- Julia Lara Navarrete
- Muhammad Faheem Hassan
- Md. Abdullah All Shakil
- Kolbe Flood