

1. **Call to Order – 18:17**
2. **Recognition of Senators**
3. **Approval of consent agenda**
  - a. Meeting agenda
  - b. GSS Senate meeting minutes
    - I. Nov. 12, 2025 [Senate Committee minutes.PDF](#)
  - c. GSS Executive Committee meeting minutes
    - I. Nov. 5, 2025 [Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
    - II. Nov. 17, 2025 [Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
    - III. Nov. 21, 2025 [Executive Committee minutes.PDF](#)
    - IV. **Motion:** Pass all minutes as listed above.
      - I. *Motion passes via unanimous consent.*
- D. Discussion:
  - I. Seck asked whether the GEU could provide updates at every Senate meeting.
  - II. Roy stated that meeting modality is determined by the chair at the university level and will be explored for the January Senate meeting.
4. **Issues Forum**
5. **Executive Committee Reports**
  - a. President (Roy)
    - i. TA positions continue to be reduced each semester. The University Senate and SCC are seeking greater transparency from UConn regarding changes to employees, facilities, GAs, and related positions. A comprehensive overview of university-level employment changes is requested. Roy and Leslie are working to improve transparency.
    - ii. GSS pays TSOS to process annual bills. Previously, this cost was covered by the University. TSOS initially requested \$54,000 for the academic year, which was negotiated down to \$25,000. For next year, further itemization of TSOS charges is recommended to ensure graduate student fees directly benefit graduate students.
    - iii. Fee increase signatures are required by Sunday, as SASFAC will be voting soon. Negotiations with comprehensive fee programs are ongoing, and Medha will provide updates regarding Social Work.
    - iv. Food was unavailable due to a temporary financial freeze. TSOS has declined to process bills over procedural disagreements, despite receipt of all required documentation, resulting in the freeze.

- v. Any questions?
- b. Vice-President (Gold)
  - i. UConn is considering deactivating campus blue emergency phones, citing increased reliance on personal cell phones. Student feedback is being collected. Many units are nonfunctional and rely on wireless service, which would fail during cellular outages.
  - ii. UConn is doing some budget balancing.
- c. Treasurer (Liaqat)
  - i. The Budget Committee reported departmental budget reductions affecting faculty. Departments are requesting annual 4% salary increases. A budgetary loophole allows funds to be placed into fixed accounts, raising concerns that increases may not reach faculty salaries.
  - ii. Recreation and other campus units receive government funds that do not directly support departments. Fee increases compensate annually. While university funding increases by 3% per contract, unused funds revert to the university. Departments continue requesting additional funds that do not benefit graduate students, with many fees disproportionately supporting undergraduate services.
- d. Communications Director (Kravette)
  - i. Normal report: completed minutes, documentation, email notices, and social media.
  - ii. Awards committee: The annual awarding of the GSS Graduate Community Service award to honor a graduate student opens and will be given next Semester. To do this, we need five (5) members for the awards committee to be voted in by the Senate to give a \$750 fellowship (and \$250 runner-up fellowship) to a graduate student at UConn. Non-Senators may be on the committee but there is a preference for fee-paying members. The awards committee will need to meet at some point next Semester before March 1, 2026, to determine methods and procedures of accepting nominations. If you are interested in being on the committee, email me.
- e. Activities Director (Aroura)
  - i. There is a social work student who reached out to SASFAC for getting the 75 signatures by end of January. A survey was sent out recently which asked for more events in Hartford.

- ii. Our Friendsgiving event went well in November. Upcoming we are having a career fair with the Graduate School, SHaW, and more. Please help market this event by printing out posters and giving it to your departments.
- iii. We are waiting for a clear idea of finances for our February event. We are doing a professional clothing event thanks with help from Noah. So they are looking to get 11 credits each, which is basically can get a full suit with the amount allotted. This may also be increased during next Semester.
- f. Parliamentary (Comstock)
  - i. GFC is looking to make more committees which they are looking for Senators and/or graduate students.
  - ii. We are updating bylaws which will be voted on today.
  - iii. Roy: For the emergency fellowship, this is not a loan, you do not need to pay it back. It is meant for emergencies from graduate students who need it.

## 6. Old Business

## 7. New Business

- a. Motion to increase office assistant salaries from \$20/hour to \$20.50/hour
  - i. [Batch Payroll](#)
  - ii. Roy: So we pay our office assistants \$20/hour; however, CT is bumping up their base pay to \$20.30/hour, so we are just raising it to 20.50 instead.
  - iii. **Motion:** Bumping up pay office assistant pay to \$20.50/hour. (By Seck, seconded by Heigel).
    - 1. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- b. **Motion:** Approve \$12,135.75 for [November TSOS Bills](#) (motion by Loganathan, seconded by Pal).
  - i. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- c. **Motion:** Approve SASFAC Report listed here: [SASFAC Form](#) (motion by Joya, seconded by Pal)
  - i. Liaqat: We show our original budget of \$89,000 revenue. If you look at our entire budget, we are in the negative, even if you decrease Tier-II budgets to zero. It looks like if we get the fee increase, social work, and comprehensive fee then it will be okay, but otherwise GSS will be working in the negative for next year.
  - ii. Roy: The point is not to scare us, but to show SASFAC that we need a fee increase in order to function. These are conservative number as our revenue should be about \$110,000 annually.

- iii. Liaqat: These numbers are given by TSOS which is why we are working with them. If you have any questions, please contact me. Any questions here?
- iv. Loganathan: If we do not get an increase what will happen?
- v. Liaqat: Then there will be no events for next year. We are trying to get more resources so we can fund Tier-II events and our activities, but this is why we need the fee increase.
- vi. Loganathan: Is this for next Semester?
- vii. Liaqat: We have enough funding for the entire AY, but we want to make sure GSS is funded and will be okay for next year.
- viii. Roy: We expected Tier-II and Senators to do the groundwork, we have over 200+ signatures from our own events, but again we need students to do the groundwork. We can't collect signatures from sending a mass email. So, the university decided to pay us \$6 for the entire AY. SASFAC said if we can get the signatures, they will give us at least \$12/AY. Again, that is why getting the signatures is crucial otherwise this does not happen.
- ix. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- d. **Motion:** Approve up to \$9000 for GSS February Event (motion by Heigel, seconded by Pal)
  - i. Seck: What is the event breakdown? So, I cannot go to Huskies because it is a bar. Can there be other events if there are not events at bars? I think having it at the ballroom would be more inclusive.
  - ii. Medha: The idea is the ballroom, but then we must get UConn catering. However Friday events work the best, and we can only book it on Saturday and Sundays which is not best.
  - iii. Roy: So, we want to provide halal food, but this may be more difficult. But there are exceptions for this so we may be able to get it.
  - iv. Seck: I think ballroom should take priority.
    - 1. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- e. **Motion:** Add the TSOS up to \$25,000 MOU motion to the agenda (motion by Loganathan, seconded by Joya).
  - i. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- f. **Motion:** Approve Bylaw Amendments (motion by Seck, seconded by Joya)
  - i. [Proposed Amendments](#)
  - ii. Leo: Last meeting we had a discussion and brought back to the procedures committee to update what the Senate discussed. Now we are voting in the bylaws.

- iii. Kari: Updates from last discussion:
  - 1. Changed E-Board meeting is now 7 days in advance of Senate meeting.
  - 2. Added that if a position does not have a candidate, it opens to all fee-paying grad students.
  - 3. BYLAW VI, Article 1: Changed wording to be clearer that E-Board must attend 75% of all regularly scheduled Senate/E-Board meetings (e.g., not emergency E-Board meetings).
  - 4. **Motion Amendments:** Add in ‘duties’ to clarify ‘specific duties’ in BYLAW VI, Article 9 (D) (motion by Seck, seconded by Heigel)
    - a. *Motion amendment passes with 9-0-0.*
  - 5. Removed ‘and/or Spring Semester of their respective academic year’.
  - 6. BYLAW VI, Article 10: Changed the parking reimbursement to instead be fellowship.
    - a. **Motion Amendments:** Add in all members of ‘...all members of that previous terms Executive Committee...’ to ‘...all members of that terms Executive Committee...’ in BYLAW VI, Article 10 (motion by Heigel, seconded by Seck).
      - i. *Motion amendment passes with 9-0-0.*
- iv. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*
- g. Discussion: Amendments to GSS Constitution
  - i. [Proposed Amendments](#)
  - ii. Many of these is to fix many typos and grammar mistakes. Such as the Senate always being capitalized.
  - iii. Changed Article IV to instead say ‘Executive Committee’ rather than ‘Officers’.
  - iv. Removed the 2-hour Senate meeting limit.
- h. Discussion: Amendments to GSS Financial Policies
  - i. [Proposed Amendments](#)
  - ii. Removed the word ‘benefices’ due to form of the word not making sense.
  - iii. Updated spelling and grammar.
  - iv. Added a ticket systems so GSS can sell tickets on a Tier-II’s behalf in Section 4.3.
    - 1. *“Ticket Sales. If a Tier II organization anticipates that individuals who are not graduate activity fee-paying students (e.g., family*

*members, faculty, or other guests) will attend its event, the organization must submit a ticket-sale request to the Treasurer at least 30 days prior to the event. Upon approval, the Treasurer will create a ticket-management system through which non-graduate attendees may purchase tickets. All revenue from these ticket sales will be deposited directly into the GSS account.”*

2. Loganathan: Why does GSS get the money from the ticket revenue fairs?
  3. Roy: Because GSS is the only funding the event entirely, which is why GSS gets the tickets funding, not the Tier-II which is not funding the event. Additionally, that is a Trustee policy as non-fee-paying members must pay for their spot directly as it would be a violation otherwise.
  4. Leo: This will only be funding for the cost of food; there wouldn't be price gouging.
- i. **Motion:** pay the MOU up to \$25,000 to TSOS this AY (motion by Loganathan, seconded by Joya)
- i. Liaqat: All filing to fund an event is processed through TSOS, and they want to get paid for this system. This year, they asked for \$56,000 which we cannot afford. So Liaqat, Roy, and Leslie stated that GSS cannot pay this amount. After lots of discussion, we negotiated this amount. If we do not pay the MOU, TSOS will not process our PR's.
  - ii. Roy: I recommend the Senate to ask the E-Board to question and investigate this payment further.
  - iii. **Motion:** Extend meeting by 15 minutes (motion by Joya, seconded by Loganathan)
    1. *Motion passes via unanimous consent.*
  - iv. Liaqat: We are trying to cut costs, and reduce PRs sent to the office to reduce this.
  - v. Leo: How much is \$25,000 to our total income?
  - vi. Roy: About 25%+.
  - vii. **Motion amendment:** Authorize the E-Board to investigate the MOU amount with university administration, while trying to renegotiate the \$25,000 MOU amount to a more acceptable level (motion by Seck, seconded by Joya)
    1. *Motion amendment passes with 9-0-0.*
  - viii. *Motion passes with 9-0-0.*

- 8. Good News**
- 9. Adjournment – 20:08 via unanimous consent.**

Senators Present:

- Anupam Saha
- Atta Seck
- Nadia Upah
- Vanessa Heigel
- Bikash Pal
- Jakiya Sultana Joya
- Nazia Aslam
- Renuka Loganathan
- Quin Zabel
- Julia Lara Navarrete