

**Student Activity and Service Fee Submission Form
for
Trustee Organizations (all campuses)**

Welcome to the 2022-23 SASFAC process. If you need timeline, process, or resources, please visit the TSOS website [here](#).

Organization Contact Information

Display Name

NetID

Roy, Sandip

sar20009

Email

sandip.roy@uconn.edu

Your Organization:

Graduate Student Senate

Organization Website

Organization Social Media Information

N/A

History/Mission of the Organization

History The GSS was founded in 1996 in response to the need for a unified body to represent and support graduate students across the University and continues to serve in this role today. The organization is comprised of graduate students coming from across academic disciplines who represent both academic constituencies (i.e., Tier 11 groups organizing Graduate students from specific departments/disciplines) as well as non-academic constituencies (e.g., groups that cut across departments, like the Graduate Students of Color Association, TARANG, GOLS, etc.). The GSS both supports and engages in a variety of activities through funding of Tier 11 groups and performing valuable services not offered by other units of the University, for example, during a period in the late eighties and the early nineties, the GSS had compiled and published a Graduate Handbook (currently published by the Graduate School). In the same vein, the GSS currently organizes events such as the Graduate Welcome Barbecue in order to facilitate incoming graduate students to know their fellow graduate students and learn about their university. In addition, the GSS also supports graduate students in more direct roles such as running an Emergency Short-Term Loan Program, which has proven invaluable to grads (especially during the summer months, when a lot of grads have limited means of income) and during any payroll issues that may come up (especially with new graduate students). The GSS also acts as a liaison between graduate students and the administration and selects graduate students to serve as representatives on various University committees to help ensure that its constituents' interests are adequately represented across the institution.

2. Mission Statement As one of the five deliberative bodies at UConn, the GSS is the sole body charged with the representation of graduate students. The GSS's mission is to:

- Represent the graduate community within the University community and serve as a liaison between the graduate community and the administration.
- Serve as an advocate for the graduate community's concerns and needs to both University and non-University organizations.
- Provide services to meet the special needs of the University's diverse graduate community.
- Enhance and encourage cooperation and association within the graduate community.
- Enrich the lives of graduate students at UConn.

Revenue

Current Fee Amount per Semester

Storrs Undergraduate [Fees](#)
Regional Undergraduate [Fees](#)
GSS Graduate [Fees](#)

16

Is your Organization seeking a fee increase?

Yes

Does your Organization receive income from any source other than student fees?

No

Organizational Structure

Please upload a PDF of your current Organizational Chart.

[ORGChart_GSS.pdf](#)

Please indicate which positions (if any) are currently held by non-students.

None

Please upload a PDF of your Supplemental Excel Sheet.

[SupplementaryExcelSheet_GSS_FY2023.docx](#)

Does your Organization pay any elected or appointed student leaders?

Yes

Does your Organization pay for any non-student staff?

Yes

Elected Student Officers: What is the history and rationale for paying each position?

All members of the GSS Executive Committee receive travel fund reimbursements. The GSS may approve funds in reimbursement of actual, documented expenses incurred by its officers, in recognition of their contributions to the GSS, to pursue professional development, research, or educational opportunities in line with the purposes of the GSS; as described hereunder and, in all cases, subject to a majority closed ballot vote of the Senate. GSS officers are also allowed to work for pay during the winter break to receive the funds allotted to them. At any time, the Senate may propose a vote to deny such travel funding to an officer who is not appropriately performing, or has not appropriately performed, his or her duties. A simple majority vote will inhibit travel fund disbursement. No such reimbursements shall occur after a student has graduated, regardless of when the travel was completed. Travel reimbursement funds may be accessed until May 1st of the year following the last year served unless the student has graduated. After earning as stipulated by Bylaw VI:6, reimbursement may be applied retrospectively to travel taken after the start of the respective officer's term. Travel funds available to officers of the execution of duties as defined in the GSS Constitution and Bylaws shall be limited to the following totals for each office, regardless of the number of individuals serving in each office.

A summary of the budget for Executive Committee travel reimbursements is noted below:

i. ☐ President

\$5,000/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

Upto 20 hours/week during Summer (between Spring and Fall semesters) at Student Class IV Level at the highest pay-rate for the position.

ii. ☐ Vice President

\$1,500/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

iii. Communication Director

\$3,000/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

iv. Treasurer

\$5,000/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

Upto 20 hours/week during Summer (between Spring and Fall semesters) at Student Class IV Level at the highest pay-rate for the position.

v. Activities Director

\$3,000/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

vi. Parliamentarian

\$1,500/Academic Year (Fall and Spring semesters and Winter Break).

All of the aforementioned positions have received compensation in the past. Payment is made in consideration for the formidable amount of time and energy that the officers expend on behalf of the organization and its constituents. The change from stipends to travel reimbursements was made due to issues relating to F-1 visa restrictions. However, F-1 students may work for upto 40 hours/week during Winter and Summer breaks.

Appointed (hired) Student positions: What is the history and rationale for paying each position?

GSS currently has one appointed student position, an hourly wage (10 hours per week) worker to assist with the administrative functions that the GSS office requires to provide support and services to its constituents. The 10 hours per week workload was based on the workload of this position in past years, when it was a 10 hour graduate assistantship (GA). The administrative assistant position was held by Gopi Yalavarthi (graduate student, Animal Science).

The most recent pay rate for this position was \$17.50 per hour, which was within the pay range of a Class IV student labor position set by UConn Student Employment. Payments are made biweekly via the University's payroll system. This wage is appropriate, as the Administrative Assistant position is listed under Job Code 411/Student Administrative Specialist.

The total payment for the 2022-23 was estimated to be \$12,000.

**Given the University's recent redefinition of a GA, GSS was not able to offer a

GA, yet opted to keep the position in the form of student labor. However, the Senate may entertain a future discussion about reinstating a Graduate Assistantship for this position. This discussion will take at one of the meetings this semester.

What is the history and rationale for paying each non-student staff position?

The non-student staff is hired by TSOS office. The GSS pays upto \$16,000 to TSOS for processing GSS purchase requests. This is billed automatically by TSOS.

Activity Participation

Who is eligible to participate in your activities?

All graduate students across all campuses

Please describe how students (number and/or percentage) utilize your services and/or participate in your activities?

All UConn graduate students who pay the Graduate Student Activity Fee are eligible to be elected as GSS Senators or members of the GSS Executive Committee, enabling them to directly participate in GSS policy-making as well as perform control and oversight of GSS finances. Senators may represent academic programs or

other recognized organizations whose members cut across programs (e.g., the Graduate Students of Color Association); they may also be at-large Senators charged with representing the entire graduate student body.

All registered Tier II groups consisting primarily of graduate students, and wishing to run events targeted at graduate students are eligible to apply for a yearly budget from the GSS, regardless of their membership in the GSS. Special Allocations are also available on a per-event basis.

All events and activities organized by or funded by the GSS must be open and accessible to all fee-paying graduate students at UConn (however, event accessibility need not be limited to graduate students). All fee-paying graduate students are eligible to apply for short-term, interest-free loans (up to \$2,000.00) provided by GSS.

Financials

Please upload the SASFAC Excel Sheet that shows FY22 Actuals, FY23 Originals and Updated/Operating Budget, FY24 Original and Updated, and FY25 projections with and without an increase (RED TAB)

[Student-Activity-Fee-Budget-Projection-Form_GSS.xlsx](#)

Briefly describe the programs and services you provide for your constituents that serve as the primary focus of your Organization.

a. ☒ Funding graduate Tier II organizations

The GSS provides funding to registered Tier II student organizations whose membership consists mainly of graduate students. There are two ways in which these groups are funded: (1) they can apply for a fiscal year budget (deadline: Jan 31st) which enables them to host multiple events per year and (2) groups can apply for Special Allocations which are funds allocated for a specific activity. Most groups that apply for funding are academically oriented organizations (e.g., Physics Graduate Student Association, Medical Anthropology Forum, English Graduate Students Association), but the GSS also funds non-academically oriented graduate student organizations (in the current allocation: TARANG, for example).

When deciding on which events to fund, the events must "contribute to the intellectual, cultural, and/or professional capital of the graduate student body" and preference is be given to events that "have an appeal which extends beyond the members of one academic discipline" (GSS Financial Policies and Procedures, Section 1.2). Decisions about budgets are made by the Finance Committee, a standing Committee of the GSS whose members are elected by the Senate. Special Allocations are decided on by the Executive Committee of the GSS.

b. ☒ Emergency Short-Term Loans

The GSS provides short-term, zero-interest loans of up to \$2, 000.00 to graduate students who find themselves in need of such support. The loan fund is occasionally replenished with new funds allocated from the GSS budget in order to assure the stability of the fund. The actual disbursement of funds and repayment of principal is handled by the Bursar's Office. We have changed the bylaws to make the disbursement and repayment procedure smoother.

c. ☒ Activities

Under the Activities Director's and Executive Committee's guidance, the GSS directly hosts a small number of events during the year. These events range from midsize gatherings (Social Nights) to large celebrations (Grad Prom, Thanksgiving lunch, Welcome Back BBQ) to information sessions (Graduate Appreciation and Information Night, and in the recent past the GSS Professional Development Symposium).

Please explain significant changes in the operating budget (spending plan) for this fiscal year starting 7/1/22 when compared to the previous years budget. What are the short-term goals for the organization?

Both 2020, and 2021 were unusual years because of COVID restrictions. There were fewer activities, both by GSS and by Tier IIs, and the scale of the events was much smaller. Given this, the activities, and Tier II budgets were much smaller. However, due to resuming of normal circumstances at UConn, the activity level has returned to normal. However, even when compared to 2019, the activities and Tier II budgets have

increased significantly. For example, there was almost a 50% increase in Tier II funding (from around \$50,000 to \$75,000). There are two reasons for this significant change. Firstly, there is a greater need and want for events targeted toward graduate students at UConn. After 2-years of not being able to network, and be part of the community, a larger number of graduate students are eager to be part of campus events. For example, our last networking event reached its sign-up limit of 500 people within 2 days, with multiple emails asking us to raise the limit on the number of participants. Being part of the graduate student community and being able to network with other graduate students is a key part of the professional life of the graduate school and also positively contributes to bettering the mental health of graduate students. Secondly, due to rising costs and inflation, costs of events (refreshments, supplies, rentals), have risen drastically. Both of these factors together have contributed to a significant increase in the operating budget. A third reason is that there are a greater number of Tier II orgs that serve graduate students. For example, two new cultural organizations have formed only within the past 2 months, that serve a large number of previously underserved graduate students.

What (if any) are the timing anomalies with regard to the reported income/expenditures?

Due to internal issues at GSS and TSOS, the cumulative bills for FY 22, were in fact debited from the bank account in FY 23 (November 2023). However, we have reported the numbers for FY 22, in the FY 22 actuals, since the expenses occurred in that timeframe, even if the final amount of deductions happened in the next fiscal year.

What are the top 3 expenditure categories for your Organization?

- 608.2- Refreshments-Events/Programs
- 615.2- Contractual Services- Events/Programs
- 623- Rental

What are the top 3 expenditure categories for your Organization's funding of Tier 2 RSOs?

- 608.2- Refreshments-Events/Programs
- 610.2- Supplies/Materials- Events/Programs
- 623- Rental

As a governance Organization which funds Tier 2 RSOs, what is the approximate ratio of dollars used for your own activities vs funding? Please provide a rationale for this ratio.

About 60% of the spending in activities goes towards funding Tier IIs (about \$75,000), while 40% is spent on GSS's own activities (about \$55,000).

Fund Balance and Future Projections

If your Organization should carry over funds from one year to the next, what is the ideal (minimum) level of that fund balance and what is the justification for that amount?

Although the ideal carryover for a non-profit would be \$0. We believe that GSS needs to carry a rainy day fund, which will fund its core activities for a year in case of fee remission. A carry-over amount that is ideal would be about \$40,000. \$28,000 would cover GSS activities, while \$12,000 would cover GSS's core operations (including fices costs such as telephone, salary for office assistant, etc.).

If your organization is carrying a fund balance above the ideal/minimum level - what planned expenditures are budgeted (in which upcoming fiscal year)with the intention to bring down the fund balance to ideal levels?

By the end of FY 23, the fund balance is projected to drop to around \$5,000. Next year (FY 2024) GSS is projected to run at a negative of \$42, 000. Without a fee increase, this will result in a negative balance of \$89, 855 for FY 25, and with a fee increase, it will be a negative of \$11, 105. Without a fee increase, simply, GSS will not be able to function at any meaningful level. With a fee increase, GSS is projected to break-even and begin carrying over a rainy day fund from FY 2026, with the expenses remaining the same.

What are your Organizational priorities that are reflected in your projected budgets for the next two fiscal years?

Staying faithful to our mission, the GSS prioritizes spending our budget to support and enrich graduate students above all. We actively work to ensure our funds can reach the greatest number of graduate students possible. This is done by complimenting their research work with professional development events and support for symposiums and conferences to gather the best and brightest minds in the field at UCONN. We fund Tier II events that bring speakers to the UConn campus and provide opportunities for graduate students from many fields to engage in professional development and networking.

Alongside professional development, we have an equally important goal of building a vibrant, and engaging graduate student community that helps in supporting the positive mental health of graduate students. Graduate school can be a lonely, busy, and research-heavy experience, which can and does have a negative effect on the mental health of graduate students, as a number of studies and surveys show. This is especially true in the post-covid world, where graduate students are dealing with isolation, and financial instability, to name a few hurdles. To help graduate students feel like they are part of a community, GSS routinely holds social events such as GSS Welcome Back BBQ, Thanksgiving Luncheon, and Grad Prom Night. To emphasize the importance GSS places in hosting events and opportunities for professional development and networking, a little over 70% of the GSS budget is geared towards funding events either by GSS, or by Tier IIs that GSS funds.

Please provide a brief justification for why a fee increase is being requested, including what your Org has done to maximize revenues and minimize expenditures that has brought you to this request.

GSS has the lowest activities fees at UConn when compared, to the undergraduate activity fee, or even more comparably, activity fees paid by the law school or the social work program. It has stayed \$16/semester for a great number of years. However, GSS now faces a three-pronged challenge, the first one is increasing cost. This is the rationale the university recently gave for its own fee increase as well. With inflation, the costs of items such as food for events and supplies have risen astronomically, which has disproportionately increased the activities budget/cost of GSS. Secondly, there has been an increase in the number of Tier II organizations that serves graduate students. As previously discussed, there is a greater need to engage graduate students with the UConn community, and a greater number of Tier IIs help do that. However, this also means that we need to fund a larger number of organs, leading ti higher expenses. Thirdly, GSS has lost revenues in the past few years. An increasing number of graduate programs (such as business professional graduate programs at Hartford) have opted out of paying the graduate student activity fee, which has diminished the graduate student senate revenues. Thus due to the expanding costs and the shrinking revenues, GSS needs to increase the graduate student activity fee to a level that helps GSS sustain itself. Please note that even with the increasing graduate student activity fee remains the lowest of its kind at UConn (lower than not only undergraduate activity fees but social work and law school grad fees as well).

The Student Activity and Service Fee Advisory Committee will be in touch about additional steps and documentation that your Organization will need to provide along with this packet as a result of seeking a fee increase.

Is there any additional information that the Committee should be aware of when reviewing your Organization's budget documentation?

There was a misunderstanding between the GSS senate, and former leadership, about the surplus amount that GSS had. Due to a different charging of our bank account (as previously discussed), the leadership had previously requested a stoppage of the graduate student activity fee for FY 23. However, upon further scrutiny, the GSS board found that the surplus was merely superficial (since then the bank account has been debited). Thus the GSS senate voted to reinstate the fee in Spring 2023. However, the lost revenue of about \$60,000 from the Fall 2022 semester has a carryover effect in that it depleted the rainy day fund held at GSS. The fee amount for Fall 2022 was \$0, since the GSS senate voted to not collect fees this Fall, due to a misunderstanding by former treasurer about how much money we had. We owed TSOS \$80,000 which were not charged on the bank account, making the fund balance seem larger than it was. Please note the \$16,000 for contractual services, are wages we pay to TSOS for one of their employees, and for using their purchasing services.

Suggestions for Review and Editing

Technically, your fee amount is 0, but it will be 16 in the spring. not sure if there's a way to make that clear. There's a typo in the section: "Appointed (hired) Student positions": This discussion will take PLACE at one of the meetings this semester. There's also a typo in the ideal fund balance question: (including Office costs. on the spreadsheet: what's the rationale for the significant difference in the following expenses (608.1 Refreshments Org; 615.1 Contractual Services- i think this is the tsos wages, but you'll want to make that clear in your narrative, as that's not the typically bookkeeping approach for this type of cost). It's also not common for a group to use the miscellaneous code...what's that for? You will also accrue interest in FY24 and FY25.

Advisor/FO signature

Electronically Signed by O'Brien, Krista (krista.obrien@uconn.edu) - December 2, 2022 at 12:36 PM (America/New_York)

Organization Review and Vote

You've got through and made any necessary edits:

Yes

Date of formal Organization Budget approval

December 7, 2022

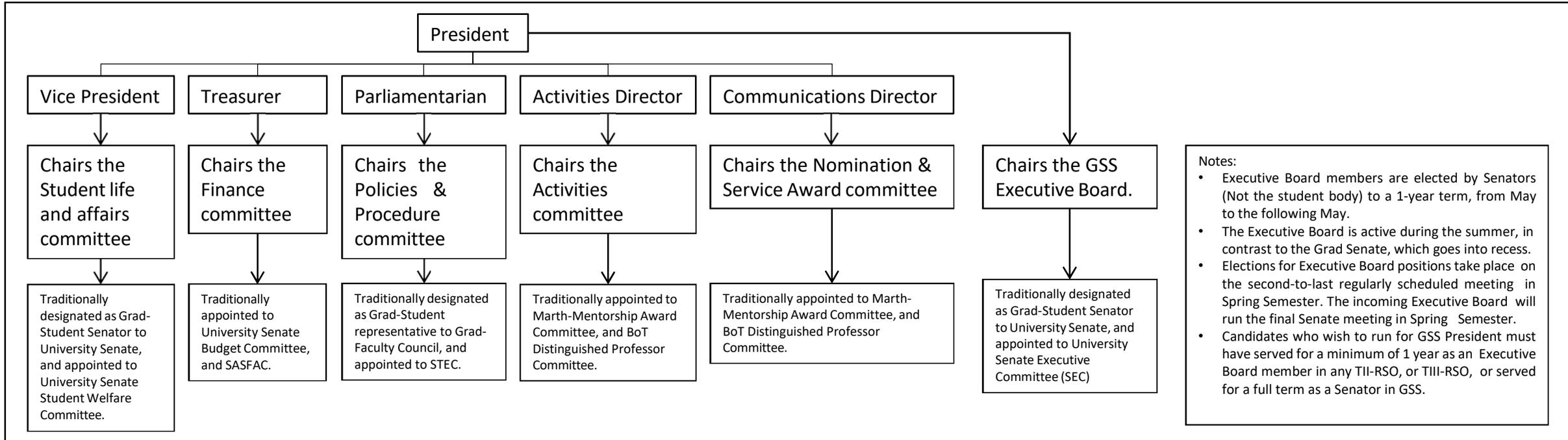
Please upload a copy of your Organization's meeting minutes reflecting an affirmative SASFAC packet vote.

[GSS-2022-12-07-Senate Meeting Minutes.docx](#)

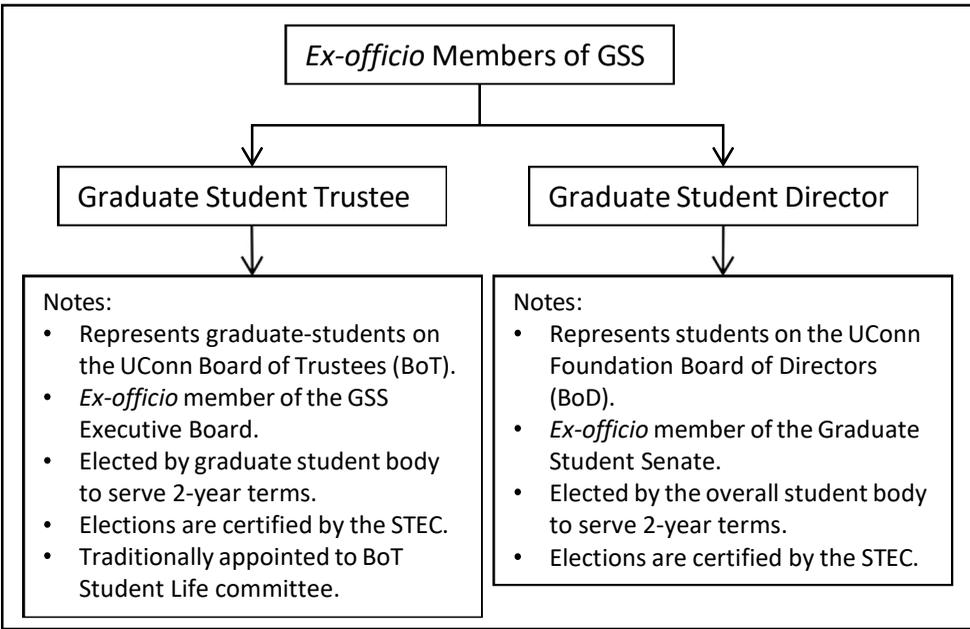
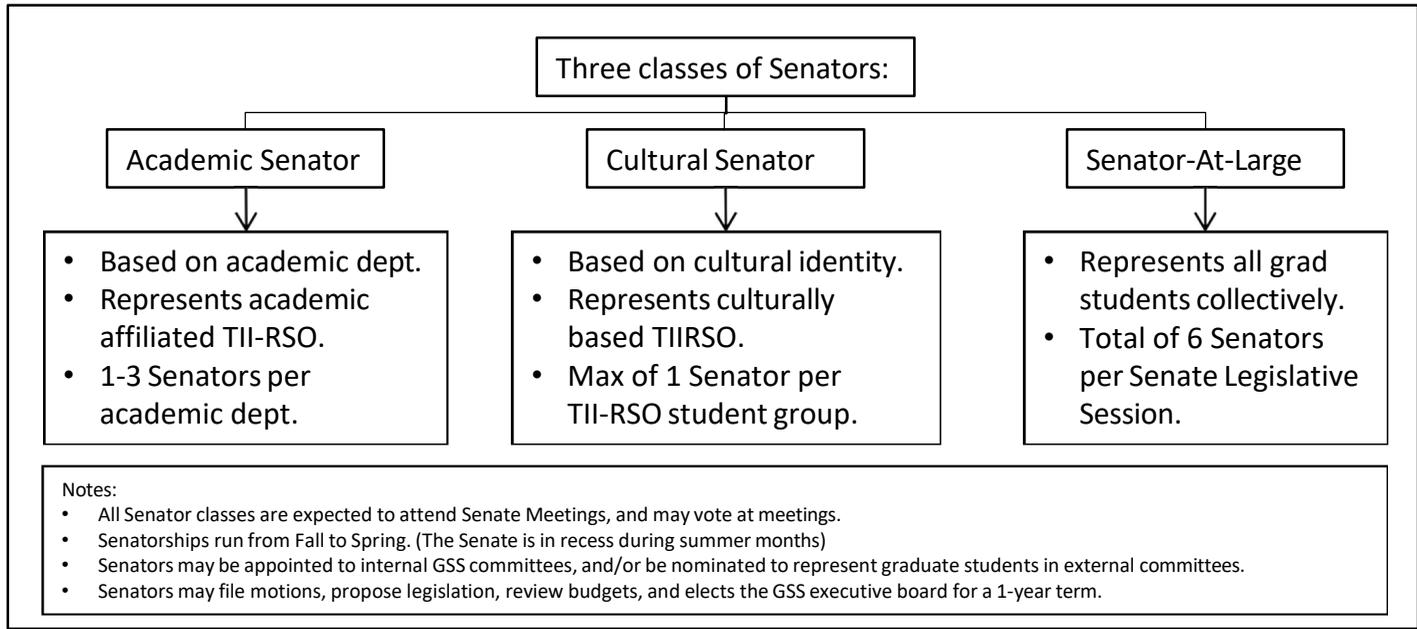
Code	Description	FY22 Actual	FY23 Original	FY23 Updated	FY24 Original	FY24 Updated	FY25 Projected	FY25 Projected
		Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	Amount	W/O Increase	W/ Increase
R	501.1 General Donations							
e	501.2 Foundation Donations							
v	501.3 Benefit Fundraiser Donations							
e	502 Dues							
n	512 Advertising							
u	513 Awards and Prizes	500						
e	514 Vendor Commissions							
s	515 Contractual Services							
	516 Co-Sponsorship							
	520.1 Admissions Sales							
	520.2 Food Sales							
	520.3 Merchandise Sales							
	520.4 Participation Sales							
	520.5 Services Sales							
	522 Registration/Entry Fees							
	523 Rental							
	524 Travel							
	530 Penalties and Fines							
	531 Miscellaneous Revenue							
	533 Change Fund Returns							
	540 Business Taxes							
	546 Interest	413	500	500	500			
	547 Student Fees	106,281	105,000	55,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	183,750
	Total Revenues	107,194	105,500	55,500	105,500	105,000	105,000	183,750
E	601 Donations							
x	602 Dues		500	500	500	500	500	500
p	603 Gifts	345						
e	604 Photocopying	648						
n	605 Postage		120	120	120	120	120	120
d	606 Printing							
i	607 Promotional Items	2,529	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
t	608.1 Refreshments - Organization	1,179		10,000		5,000	5,000	5,000
u	608.2 Refreshments - Events/Programs	44,969	65,000	103,018	99,852	50,000	50,000	90,000
r	609 Subscriptions							
e	610.1 Supplies - Organization			2,000		1,500	1,500	1,500
s	610.2 Supplies - Events/Programs	4,103	4,000	5,611	11,855	2,000	2,000	2,000
	611 Telephone	236	250	250	250	250	250	250
	612 Advertising							
	613 Awards and Prizes	1,750	2,050	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750	1,750
	615.1 Contractual Services - Organization	117		16,000		12,000	12,000	12,000
	615.2 Contractual Services - Events/Programs	8,110	8,000	7,955	13,855	2,000	2,000	2,000
	616 Co-Sponsorships							
	617.1 Cost of Food Sold							
	617.2 Cost of Merchandise Sold							
	617.3 Cost of Participation							
	617.4 Cost of Services Sold							
	622.1 Registration Fees							
	622.2 Entry Fees	205						
	623 Rental	869	6,500	11,985	11,925	1,000	1,000	1,000
	624 Travel	2,069	18,000	5,535	4,300	3,500	3,500	3,500
	625 Equipment/Durable Goods		500	1,000	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
	626 Equipment - Capital							
	627 Insurance							
	628 Repairs and Maintenance							
	629 Utilities			250		250	250	250
	630 Penalties and Fines							
	631 Miscellaneous Expenses	1,516		20,000				
	633 Change Funds							
	640 Business Taxes							
	642 Wages - Student	12,080	8,000	35,000	8,000	20,000	20,000	30,000
	643 Wages - Non-Student	7,861						
	645 Wage Taxes - Non-Student							
	Total Expenditures	88,584	114,920	222,974	154,907	102,870	102,870	152,870
	Revenues-Expenditures = Change in Fund Balance	18,610	(9,420)	(167,474)	(49,407)	2,130	2,130	30,880
	Fund Balance at Start of Year	154,749	173,359	173,359	163,939	5,885	8,015	8,015
	Fund Balance at End of Year	173,359	163,939	5,885	114,532	8,015	10,145	38,895

Graduate Student Senate Organization Chart

Executive Board



Senate Composition



Position/Title	SOLID Equivalent	Authorized Signer?	Time Approver?	Paid?
President	President	yes	Yes	Yes (only during Winter and Summer Breaks)
Vice President	Vice President	yes	Yes	Yes (only during Winter Break)
Treasurer	Treasurer	yes	Yes	Yes (only during Winter and Summer Breaks)
Activities Director		Yes	Yes	Yes (only during Winter Break)
Communications Director	Secretary			Yes (only during Winter Break)
Parliamentarian				Yes (only during Winter Break)
Administrative assistant				Yes

\$/hr	Authorized to Work?					
	Summer Break	Fall Semester	Fall Break	Winter Break	Spring Semester	Spring Break
\$32.70	Yes			Yes		
\$32.70				Yes		
\$32.70	Yes			Yes		
\$32.70				Yes		
\$32.70				Yes		
\$32.70				Yes		
\$17.50	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

I. Call to Order: Meeting started at 7:14 pm

II. Recognition of senators: Quorum was met with 30 senators

III. Guest Speaker(s):

- a. Nathan Fuerst, Vice President for Enrollment Planning & Management

Legal scholars are helping the university with supreme court cases. Discussed regents of the University of California v. the Bakke case (1978) where the student claimed that he was not granted admission due to race. Grutter v. Bollinger (2003): the student said he was discriminated due to race. The questions of the SFFA cases were discussed. Asian applicants were penalized at Harvard University. SFFA's core arguments- one is "our constituent is colorblind". October 31st hearing takeaways. The SFFA cases: Possible outcomes. The community benefits of diversity. Race neutral alternative. Senator Lindsay Barnum asked: did the Harvard case discuss if there is an issue with being biased towards white rich athletes, children of donor? Senator Ethan Gossett asked: How race and ethnicity system is being used right now in the application process? Is there any quota? Nathan said: this is considered but takes a holistic approach. In which program student wants to enroll and whether there is space in the program are more important criteria. One senator asked: If we anticipate any difference between public and private school?

IV. Approval of consent agenda:

- a. GSS Senate meeting minutes – 11/9/2022 meeting
b. GSS E-Board meeting minutes - 11/29/2022 meeting

Senator Mikayla Moody made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Senator Ethan Gossett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Issues Forum: N/A

Issues forum closed at 7:52 pm.

VI. Executive Board Reports:

- a. President – Gabrielle Corso. VP Mohsina Rahman spoke on Gabrielle's behalf.

- i. Student Fee Increase – It passed today at the BoT meeting. There were townhall meetings about it. Visa fee increase was postponed. CFO Lloyd Blanchard said in SEC meeting that they are postponing it right now but will implement later. Senator Jackson Calhoun asked if Union has any plan because our GA stipend increase is going to be nullified because of the proposed fee increase. Sandip said that GEU plans to meet UConn President Radenka Maric. Lindsay asked if is there any breakdown where the increase will be spent? Senator Jackson Calhoun said: they didn't explain all the spreadsheets in townhall meeting. Lindsay said that Biomedical Engineering students at Farmington campus don't have to pay the fees, their PIs cover their fee. Sandip asked: whether the PIs pay or the departments? Sandip said: for GAs, the fee increase is not \$271 per year, GEU will send a clarification email. Senator Jackson Calhoun said that in townhall meeting the speaker said that they contacted some of the grad students, but not the senators. Sandip said that they reached to GSS during the thanksgiving break. Sandip said GSS fought hard to postpone it until January, but President Radenka Maric and CFO were not willing to negotiate. Ethan asked: what is the position of the faculty and the union of the faculty? We can reach out to the higher authority through our professors. Usman said: at SEC meeting, faculties were supportive of us, but they are not policy makers. Someone said: the testimonies were read during the BoT meeting, people/students got chance to speak. Ethan said: Grad students are powerful force, we are GAs, TAs. If we strike, then it might pressurize them. Gianna said that it might be good idea to reach to PIs.

- ii. GSS Office Admin Update- We have a new office admin, Gopi. Will have in person and online office hours.
 - iii. GSS Loan Extension Form- now online
 - iv. Mirror Lake Project-will be in action from late February to early March. It might create some road blocks.
- b. Vice President – Moshina Rahman
- i. N/A
- c. Treasurer– Sandip Roy
- i. GSS 2023-24 FY Budget- Deadline for the budget submission is January 31, 2023, at 11:59 pm. Requirements to submit budget are: Tier 2 organization has to be active, and their senators must have attended 3 out of 4 senate meetings per semester.
 - ii. Loan update- It is already in the emergency loan terms that in order to get loan, a student must pay grad activity fee. From now in student will have to upload their fee bill in the loan form. Grad activity fee was waived for fall 2022. From spring 2023 students will have to pay again and it will be reflected in the fee bill.
 - iii. SASFAC package: Senate voted on to increase grad activity fee in the last senate meeting, however, SASFAC committee package needs to be voted on which has already been emailed to the senate. Senator Ethan Gossett asked if it has anything to do with the proposed fee increase for FY 2024 and if it will create any confusion. Sandip said that GSS has been transparent about how activity fees are spent. GSS has the budget posted in the. Next year, GSS will have - \$45,000 in its balance, but GSS will have support from university. If grad activity fee is not increased, the year after the next year GSS will have -\$90,000. Request budget by Tier 2 organizations is around \$200,000, but we GSS is getting around \$105,000. The money that we spent last year was not posted in GSS bank account when the grad activity fee was proposed to be waived, so we owed \$80,000 to TSOS. This has created a need for a fee increase, as previously mentioned.
- Senator Jackson Calhoun made a motion to approve SASFAC committee package. Senator Saurabh Goswami seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.*
- d. Activities Director– Usman Ali
- i. Thanksgiving Luncheon- It was organized for 400 students. 380 students showed up.
 - ii. December Happy Hour- This Friday, December 9, GSS will have Winter Happy Hour. We are expecting 300 people. Place is Huskies Tavern.
 - iii. Spring Semester Events- Planned 4 events: two happy hours, Mohegan Sun casino night, Grad prom night at march. Senator Mohammed Albayati asked if halal and vegetarian options could be possible. Usman said that he checked Kathmandu bar who have halal chicken but cannot accommodate many students. Huskies Tavern will not have halal options.
- e. Communications Director – Israt Jahan
- i. Advertisement of Tier II Events-
 - ii. GSS Comm Dir Email Clarification-
- f. Parliamentarian – Gianna Raimondi
- i. N/A

VII. Committee Reports

- a. **Senate Executive Committee-** Usman Ali and Gabrielle Corso-
- b. **Library Committee-** Gretchen Geer. Had meeting last week. There are some changes how we access journal articles. Library is hiring people right now. Library shared a survey; Israt will send the survey.
- c. **JEDI Committee-** Jackson Calhoun. Their committee is working on public health crisis, racism. Their website is updated, survey is online. Last year, how many gender-neutral bathrooms were accessible.
- d. **University Planning Committee-** Lindsay Barnum. They are narrowing down what they want to focus on. One issue is review board. Difficult to get review form IRB. Will ask students what they want to achieve through their programs and if their courses or research are preparing them for their goals. What students want to see? If students have any concerns how university is serving them, reach out to her.

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.

Senator Lindsay Barnum made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Senator Mikayla Moody seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Attendance:

Madeline Kollegger
Amit Hasan
Gretchen Geer
Jackson
Michael
Jinzhou Liu
Zachary Muscavitch
Eunice Blemahdoo
Ashok Gurung
Gaurav Gupta
Ruth McLeod
Theodor Mayer
Lindsay Barun
Mikayla Moody
Emma Shipley
Chloe Kwak
Hannah Collins
Laura
Elizabeth R Zavodny
Muhammed Masudur Rahman
Shangyan Pan
Veera Venkata Praveen Raja Kosuri
Mason freund
Richard Andres Ortiz Godoy
Katayoun
Koushan Mohammadi
Saurabh Goswami
Gawtam

UConn

GRADUATE STUDENT
SENATE
GSS

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Senate Meeting Minutes

December 7th, 2022

7:00PM – 9:00PM

SU-304B

Gopi Yalavarthi
Ethan Gossett
Olivia Dono (filling in for Bryan Greene)
Sharon Uwanyuze
Wajeha Tauqir
Mohammed Albayati