

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

Welcome to the 2023-24 SASFAC process. If you need timeline, process, or resources, please visit the TSOS website [here](#).

Organization Contact Information

Display Name

NetID

Yalavarthi, Gopi

goy22001

Email

gopi.yalavarthi@uconn.edu

Your Organization:

Graduate Student Senate

Organization Website

[Click to visit](#)

Organization Social Media Information

Facebook - UConn Graduate Student Senate, Instagram - uconngraduatestudentsenate

Please provide your Organization's Mission and a brief history

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 II 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, etc.). The GSS both supports and engages in a variety of activities through funding of Tier 24 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.

Please upload a PDF of your current Organization-
al Chart.

Please upload a PDF of your Supplemental Excel
Sheet.

[ORGChart_GSS.pdf](#)

[Graduate-Student-Senate-Final-SAS-FAC-12.19.22-9.pdf](#)

What are your organization's current goals and how do they align with your mission?

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. GSS is working with parking services to provide adequate amount of spaces to grad students to park their vehicles.

Activity Participation and Alignment

1) 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).

Who is eligible to participate in your activities?

All graduate students across all campuses

Financials

Please note that items 3-5 should total 100%

2) For what purpose do you spend any portion of your budget on the operations of your organization?

From the operations budget GSS is spending on multiple categories which includes, Contractual services, Refreshments for GSS office and other internal committee members, supplies for the GSS internal, postage, Promotional items (Giving out gifts to the GSS senators as a gratitude for their one year service in organization), Awards and prizes (GSS have a tradition of giving best graduate student awards from the entire grad school who did extraordinary work for the grad community), Equipment (office equipment) and travel.

3) What percentage of your budget is to support your organization's operations?

18

Does your Organization pay any elected or appointed student leaders?

Yes

If so, please list and provide a brief explanation of student payroll.

All members of the GSS Executive Committee receive travel fund reimbursements/fellowship. 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 stu-

dent 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).

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).

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 up to 40 hours/week during Winter and Summer breaks.

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 bi-weekly 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.

Does your Organization pay for any non-student staff?

Yes

If so, please list and provide a brief explanation of non-student payroll.

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

4) What percentage of your budget is for programs and services for students sponsored by your organization (do not include expenses that are for members only)?

20

a) How do you determine if these programs and services meet your organizational goal/priorities?
b) How do you know if the program, and services you provide meet the needs/expectations of your constituents?

A) Our organization motto is to bringing up the problems facing by the graduate students in the University and providing the possible solution to them. GSS is always reaching those expectations by solving their problem from the core level and providing future directions to move forward. By doing all these we are meeting the organization primary goal of enriching grad students life.

B) Each and every month we are conducting senate meeting and having issues forum where senators can bring up the problems of grad students, by knowing these problems GSS can have a chance to invite the guest speaker related to the problematic field and giving scope to solve their problem. GSS is also

appointing grad students in different university committees to raise their concerns by representing entire grad students.

5) For groups that fund Tier II student organizations, what percentage of your budget is allocated to them?

6) Please explain significant changes in the overall budget (spending plan) for this fiscal year since starting July 1, 2023, when compared to the previous year's budget and this year's original budget.

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.

Revenue

7) What is the current Fee amount per semester/year?

16

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

8) Does your organization receive income from any source other than student fees?

Yes

- a) What are the sources of revenue you currently collect and how much is it that you receive?
 - b) Are these sources consistent or variable from year to year?
 - c) How is this revenue reflected in your organization's projected budget? Please explain.
-

Only source of revenue is ticket sales. This revenue varies from year to year.

Expenses

9) What are the top organization operational expenditures?

10) How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

608.2 refreshments to Tier II

These expenses are similar to the previous year

11) What are the top organization expenditures for programs and services that you fund?

Top organization expenditure is GSS Activities, where we are conducting Happy hours for every month, Grad formal, Thanksgiving lunch, Welcome back events. These events are for all graduate students.

12) How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

These expenses are increasing year by year because of gradual growth of grad students and due to inflation increasing the cost of food and supplies. Awareness activities from the GSS.

13) What are the top expenditures for Tier II organizations (if applicable) that you fund?

14) How are these expenses similar to or different from the previous year?

608.2

Future Year Spending Plans

15) What are your Organizational priorities, as 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.

16) Is your Organization seeking a fee increase?

No

Fund Balance

17) 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 office costs such as telephone, salary for office assistant, etc.).

18) 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?

FY 2024 GSS is projected to run at a negative of \$53,942. Without a fee increase, this will result in a negative balance of \$81,869 for FY 26, 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.

Include what your projected balance will be at the end of this year as well as the next two projected years.

FY 24 is still ongoing and as per our calculations we will be left with a negative of \$53,942. For the next two projected years we are expecting -\$81,869 (Negative of \$81,869). So if the fee increase will not happen there is a high chance of GSS being unable to run these operations.

Other

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 University \$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.

Financials

Please upload the SASFAC Excel Sheet

[GSS Student Activity Fee Budget Projection Draft 1.19.24 \(1\).xlsx](#)

Advisor & FO Review and Commentary

1. Is the financial document (specifically the columns 'FY23 Actuals' and 'FY24 Updated', including the fund balance), as presented, an accurate record of the organization's financial status?

Additional Documentation Upload

[GSS Student Activity Fee Budget Projection Draft 2.1.24.xlsx](#)

Yes

2. Do you have comments regarding the FY25 Updated or FY26 Projected Budgets?

No

3. Please provide a narrative on the advising and compliance discussions you have had to date with the Org leadership regarding their finances.

TSOS has worked closely with GSS over the past two years specifically to right size their budget and help them have a solid understanding of their finances. GSS has had some fairly significant interpersonal issues this year that has also resulted in major disagreements about the future of the budget and spending internally (as well as externally). TSOS will continue to work with GSS to ensure that all eboard members and Senators are properly trained on budget construction, trustee financial obligations and stewardship, and will remain closely involved in their financial transactions.

Advisor/FO signature

Electronically Signed by O'Brien, Krista (krista.obrien@uconn.edu) - February 1, 2024 at 11:28 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

Organization Review and Vote

You've got through and made any necessary edits:

Yes

Date of formal Organization Budget approval

January 24, 2024

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

[GSS Draft Regular Meeting Minutes 012424.docx](#)

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Yalavarthi, Gopi - January 9, 2024 at 10:20 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

Task

Sent Back

O'Brien, Krista - January 11, 2024 at 12:09 AM (Asia/Calcutta)

to fix what was discussed

Benjamin, Dawn

Form Submission - Proposer

Submitted for Approval | Proposer

Yalavarthi, Gopi - February 1, 2024 at 11:05 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

Task

Task Completed

O'Brien, Krista - February 1, 2024 at 11:28 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

Benjamin, Dawn

Task

Task Completed

Yalavarthi, Gopi - February 2, 2024 at 7:07 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

Notification

Notification Sent

Clokey, David - February 2, 2024 at 7:07 PM (Asia/Calcutta)

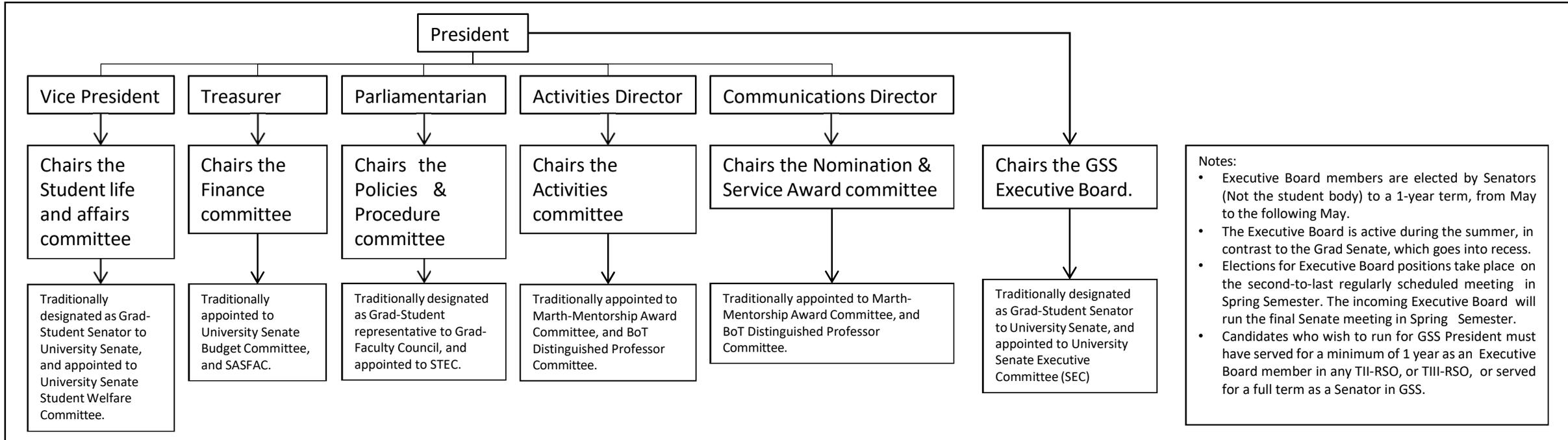
Notification

Generating PDF

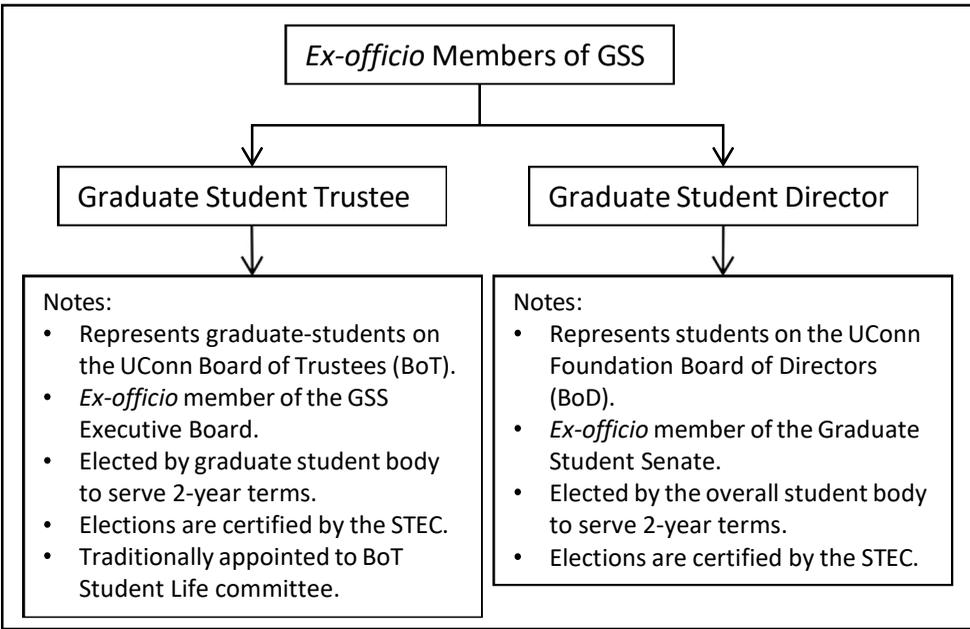
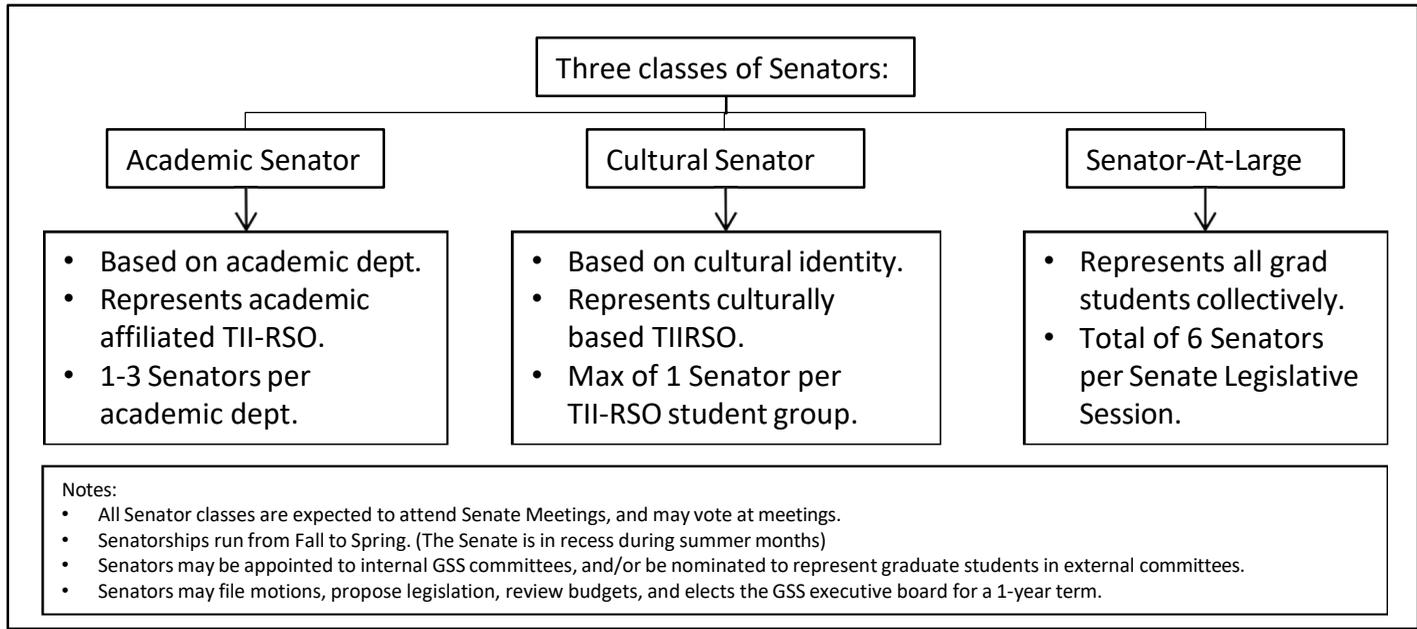
O'Brien, Krista

Graduate Student Senate Organization Chart

Executive Board



Senate Composition



Code Description		FY23 Actual Amount	FY24 Original Amount	FY24 Updated Amount	FY25 Original Amount	FY25 Updated Amount	FY26 Projected Amount
R e v e n u e s	501.1 General Donations						
	501.2 Foundation Donations						
	501.3 Benefit Fundraiser Donations						
	502 Dues						
	512 Advertising						
	513 Awards and Prizes						
	514 Vendor Commissions						
	515 Contractual Services						
	516 Co-Sponsorship						
	520.1 Admissions Sales	2,610.00					
	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	1,072.31					
	533 Change Fund Returns						
540 Business Taxes							
546 Interest	6,820.67						
547 Student Fees	49,998.10	105,000	106,000	105,000	105,000	105,000	
Total Revenues		60,501.08	105,000	106,000	105,000	105,000	105,000
E x p e n d i t u r e s	601 Donations						
	602 Dues	74,366.09	500		500		
	603 Gifts	1,719.50					
	604 Photocopying						
	605 Postage		120	120	120	120	
	606 Printing						
	607 Promotional Items		2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	608.1 Refreshments - Organization	10,752.50	5,000	9,000	5,000	5,000	9,000
	608.2 Refreshments - Events/Programs	89,921.13	50,000	70,906	50,000	50,000	40,300
	609 Subscriptions	129.95					
	610.1 Supplies - Organization	233.52	1,500	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,000
	610.2 Supplies - Events/Programs	1,475.63	2,000	2,791	2,000	2,000	2,000
	611 Telephone	132.08	250		250	250	
	612 Advertising						
	613 Awards and Prizes	1,000.00	1,750	20,750	1,750	1,750	1,000
	615.1 Contractual Services - Organization	58.73	12,000		12,000		
	615.2 Contractual Services - Events/Programs	7,201.00	2,000	5,825	2,000	2,000	3,000
	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	350.00					
	622.2 Entry Fees						
	623 Rental	9,213.00	1,000	2,050	1,000	1,000	1,000
	624 Travel	5,076.25	3,500	2,500	3,500		
	625 Equipment/Durable Goods	1,531.65	1,000		1,000	1,000	1,000
	626 Equipment - Capital			2,000			
627 Insurance	278.00					500	
628 Repairs and Maintenance	133.00					200	
629 Utilities		250		250	250		
630 Penalties and Fines							
631 Miscellaneous Expenses	3,006.95		5,000				
633 Change Funds							
640 Business Taxes							
642 Wages - Student	29,295.49	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	
643 Wages - Non-Student	18,947.00		16,000		12,000	16,000	
645 Wage Taxes - Non-Student							
Total Expenditures		254,821.47	102,870	159,942	102,870	98,870	97,000
Revenues-Expenditures = Change in Fund Balance		(194,320.39)	2,130	(53,942)	2,130	6,130	8,000
Fund Balance at Start of Year		248,793.69	5,885	54,473	8,015	531	6,661
Fund Balance at End of Year		54,473.30	8,015	531	10,145	6,661	14,661

I. Call to Order: Meeting started at 6:10 pm

II. Recognition of Senators: Quorum was met with senators

III. Issues Forum: Khaled “Axel” Djebbari

- a. Introduction of himself, reasons for joining GSS, conversation on “false allegations” and “false accusations” made about him and E-Board
- b. Cindy Barreto asked reasons for him sharing this, acknowledges the statement made in Issues Forum, stated members of Senate and members of E-board being “aggressive” towards each other
- c. Axel-want people to see his “side of the story”
- d. Mentions of Special Committee in terms of what happened with summer funding for former GSS President-never met because of
- e. “false allegations” against E-Board members so giving context to why 2 former members resigned

Motion by Sen. Cindy Barreto to discuss issues of the Special Committee to discuss summer funding issues, status report of the Special Committee 2nd by (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) motion passes

Motion to give 15mins to Grace Easterly, GEU President to talk about Budget Issues Sen. Martina 2nd by Sen. Alev, motion passes unanimously (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain), motion passes

IV. Invited Guest Speaker: Grace Easterly- UCONN GEU, UAW Local 6950

- a. Budget Cuts-What the Union knows thus Far; 5-year Financial Plans
- b. UCONN Town Halls-15% Across the Board Cuts, incremental cuts
- c. English and History accounts “cleared” essentially wiped out
- d. Budget shortfalls from the State of CT-funding request from UCONN to mitigate budget cuts
- e. Impact on GAsHips-GAsHips at risk, admissions (no incoming classes for departments like History), conference funding, TAsHips at risk, Entire GAsHips for departments cut out, increase in class sizes, Intl. GAsHips at risks, faculty retention issues-extra teaching on their end
- f. Sign Open Letter-get involved with various committee on Union
- g. Advocacy on multiple levels
- h. *Sen. Barnum-question if state doesn’t change the budget as proposed, what could univ. do to not cut everything across the board? What are we asking univ. to do?*
- i. *Grace Easterly-asking about “transparency” during town hall, cuts to athletics were asked about and the univ. stated there would be no cuts to that; academic departments taking most of the hit; univ. not transparent, declines in morale and fear amongst employees, questions on Admin. Salaries*
- j. *Sen. Barnum-question about across the board cuts, does it include admin and athletics cuts from what univ. said*
- k. *Grace Easterly-academic cuts and can provide breakdown from the Town Hall*
- l. *Sen. Hayes-clarification question, talked about different impact amongst departments*



GRADUATE STUDENT
SENATE
GSS

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Senate Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2024

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

BUSN 211

m. *Grace Easterly-good question, differences in resourcing for STEM but TAs across the board are affected too, not just humanities but there are cuts coming to each department from discretionary funds*

n. *GSS Pres. Greene-inconsistency on who's affected, hearing different stories*

o. *Easterly-different deans are having different responses to budget cuts, Union still gathering information too, will hurt us all in the end*

p. *Dean Holsinger-Grace summarized situation well, cuts are falling on "2 Ledger funds" cuts happening to all "2 Ledger funds" so it involves parking, transportation facilities, etc.*

q. *GSS Parl. Djebbari-current TAs overloaded, the volume of work exceeding, any plans on how to defend those TAs*

r. *Easterly-we're working on this as well, sending out survey to see what teaching responsibilities have right now, what counts as 20hr TAs right now and then a year from now, workload concerns, will hit grad student workers the hardest regardless of the cut structures, group grievances on the table if current students are being exploited*

V. Approval of Agenda:

a. GSS Senate Meeting Minutes – 12/6/2023 meeting

b. GSS E-Board Meeting Minutes-1/2/2024 meeting

Motion to approve by Sen. Barreto, 2nd by Sen. Holt (yay, 0 no, 0 abstain): Motion passes

VI. Executive Board Reports:

a. President (Bryan Greene)– Call for election and nominations for VP and Comms Director, election will be 2/21 (email Parliamentarian for nominations) then next meeting will be for next year's election; Office Admin Asst. hiring, org chart has only one supervisor but bylaws and constitution has the person having 6 supervisors; inventory of committees, and Univ. Senate vacancy; SASFAC fee increase, will need increase increase; Feb. 20-Budget meeting for CT General Assembly, coordinating with USG and other orgs to testify, slated to testify; Coordinating time for UCONN President Maric to come to GSS; Special meeting, made some headway, set a different tone, thank you for coming for that did, responsible our constituencies, to state of CT Tier III, Sen. Cooke sending out minutes from Special Meeting, will be posted on website along with GSS regular meeting minutes

b. Vice President – N/A

c. Treasurer (Gopi Yalavarthi)-SASFAC meeting, GSS needs to increase fees, 2 to 3 years budget deficit, breakdown on what would happen if we don't have fee increase, w/out increase 105k, with fee increase 183k, 2 events per year for cultural groups, with increase you can have more events, bigger events; TSOS-can't pay them but in most years pay 18k-19k, increase contractual services from 3k to 5k ,increases for equipment in GSS office, E Board and Grad Asst salaries will be the same; with current budget, only left with \$531 without paying contractual services; fee increase ask is \$12 per semester, \$24 for the year; need 200 signatures on petition to get fee increase on a ballot, email to GSS treasurer; *Sen. Barnum asked about logistics, print out GoogleSheet, Sen. Corso asked about GoogleDoc for gathering signatures deadline; Sen. Lassy-How would this get this sent to entire grad school. GSS Treasurer stated Need fee paying students to sign pet. Sen. Hayes-written synopsis asked for explaining what the fee increase is about; GSS Parliamentarian*

Motion to approve SASFAC Fee Increase Petition (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) motion passes
WRTA Invoice for Spring Formal 2023 bus-Sen. Corso stated didn't use it and couldn't cancel it in time. Sen. Lassy asked for

Motion to approve \$292 by Sen. Lassy, Sen. Hayes 2nd (yay, 0 nay, abstain) motion passes

Special Allocation Request- EEB GSA, Annual Symposium, been going on for 34 years. Paying for open for all students on Feb. 24th, grad students presenting their research, everyone's welcome to come, invite other department students to present. *Sen. Barnum-asking how much dept. is contribution, Sen. Barreto-dept. doesn't pay, prospective students lunch*

Motion to Amend Special Allocation from Sen. Barnum to exclude gift for speaker

Sen. Barreto-can't give gift but money to "compensate" them somehow, gift card, something that is legally appropriate, Sen. Holt-can see where Sen. Barnum coming from, PIs and faculty benefit from this so can dept. contribute to GSS Pres. Greene-what is the guideline for gifts, GSS Activities Dir.-do PIs get a benefit Sen. Barreto-faculty attend but they Sen. Corso-how many people coming not fee paying students, Sen. Barreto-140 people, 80 grad students and prospective students, debate on who is "prospective student," GSS Treasurer-says it's up to Senate to decide to give to speaker Sen. Lassy-have you raised money or found other sources, Sen. Barreto-pay through funds through EEB GSA and pay the extra through the allocation. GSS Treasurer-Financial Policy does not forbid travel but forbid gift card. Sen Barnum-would speaker drop out? GSS Parliament-Would it affect event Sen. Barreto-bring alumni from dept. to speak about how to navigate the job market. The person will not come if we don't have

Motion to extend meeting by 20 mins Sen. Alaa, 2nd by Sen. Barnum (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) motion passes

Sen. -grad students getting knowledge from Speaker, why we won't pay the amount, Sen. Barreto-only event we do, already been cut

Motion to remove the \$100 in speaker compensation to the allocation (yay, 4 nay, 0 abstain) motion passes

Motion to approve amended Special Allocation by Sen. Barreto, 2nd by (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) motion Passes

Need Tier II budget proposals by next weds (Jan. 31st); need to have a vote on the past president and new president's compensation and new VP and Comms Dir. *Sen. Corso-were they paid, GSS Treasurer-need to figure out garage pass Sen. Barnum-to be given parking, need to serve full term? GSS Parliamentarian-need to pay E-board members but need to calculate amount of parking, 50% of parking and pay GSS Treasurer will need to present pay for E-board to E-Board and then*



GRADUATE STUDENT
SENATE
GSS

GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE

University of Connecticut

Senate Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2024

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

BUSN 211

- d. Activities Director (Essam Boraey) –University Senate-need 3rd member, *Sen. I thought that was reserved for regional campus representatives, flexibility given from Univ. Senate, can join meeting online, discuss budget, President gives report, need a volunteer; Planned Events for Spring, diverse events, different types of activities, yoga, skill building financial education, Welcome Back and End of Year events, these are estimates, Sen. Lassy-2 questions, Fall event attendance very, do you have full accounting for attendance and cost breakdown, prior to welcome back and end of year formal could we have very exact event breakdown GSS Activities Dir.- hopefully taking votes on estimate numbers, Fall formal, we took vote 3 days before formal, under planning since Sept. spent less than \$6K*

Motion to extend meeting by 10 mins (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain) motion passes

Motion to vote on Purchase Request for 5 Yoga Events from Sen. Barreto Welcome Back Event (\$10000) 2nd by Sen Lassy (yay, 0 nay, abstain) motion passes

Motion to buy food for Spring Meetings (Feb., March and April) for 3000 from Sen. Lassy, 2nd by Sen. Barreto (yay, 0 nay, 0 abstain). Motion Passes

Head count for future meetings so we don't have too much food. Will ask for head count.

- e. Communications Director – N/A

- f. Parliamentarian (Khaled “Axel” Djebbari)- Tabled to discuss in E-Board about a Special Meeting to go over Constitution and By-Laws

VII. Old Business:

VIII. New Business:

IX. Committee Reports

X. Good News

XI. Adjournment

(Lassy/Barreto) Motion to adjourn the meeting. in favor/0 opposed/0 abstention. Motion Carries. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Attendees:



GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE
University of Connecticut
Senate Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2024
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
BUSN 211

Kosuri, Veera Venkata Praveen Raja
Luis Ortiz
Makduma
Laura Holt
Griffith, Michael
Greene, Bryan
Cooke, Hannah
Bresciano, Karen
Labe, Kyle
Holsinger, Kent
Pena, Riley
Lindsay Barnum
Sanchez Sanchez, Aaron
Saki, Shah
Prakash Ranjan
Bouzan, Ruba
Nurudeen Musa
Maduako, Adaeze
Williams, Anietie W
Wu, Hangyu
Alev Ecevitoglu
Corso, Gabrielle