

## Meeting Notes

Date: 2021/09/30  
Time: 1200  
Location: MS Teams

## Minutes

Meeting called to order at 1200 on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September

Recording Link: [Graduate Student Senate Meeting Recording](#)

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**Agenda Item:** Introduction of Executive Board Members

**Notes:** All of the e-board members made introductions regarding department, year, along with background in GSS

**Conclusion(s):** None

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**Agenda Item:** Senator Duties

**Notes:**

- Miki provided a brief overview of the duties that are required for the senators as outline in the constitution
- Expectation of senators to serve on committees, both internal and external to GSS

**Conclusion(s):** None

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**Agenda Item:** Parliamentary Procedure

**Notes:**

- Introduction of what parliamentary procedures we use for GSS meetings
  - o Who is considered in quorum
  - o What motion and seconds mean
  - o How we proceed through debate with an individual having the floor
- Discussion of the Order of Business for Meetings
  - o Call to Order, Approval of Minutes, President's Remarks, Reports from e-Board Members & Committees, Old Business, New Business (motions, resolutions, etc.)
- Discussion of how we will handle voting in an inclusive manner (verbal indicator as opposed to raising hands)
  - o Most commonly done through general consent
- Discussion regarding ending motions
  - o Call the question
  - o Table the Motion
  - o Amend the Motion
    - Opportunity for friendly amendment to the author of the main motion
  - o Refer to Committee

**Conclusion(s):** None

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**Agenda Item:** New Executive Board Position

**Notes:**

- Recommendation to amend the bylaws to add a position to change the member-at-large to an executive board member at the Club and Volunteer Coordinator
- Context for the position:
  - Historically there has been two Member-at-large satisfying the roles that this position would satisfy
  - Need for these positions increased with duties to support international students
  - Work has not necessarily been accomplished as in an orderly fashion
- Reading of the suggested position
- Floor opened for discussion on the proposal
  - Berke Tinaz
    - inquiry of whether or not the position will contain a stipend (Yes),
    - when will this position be opened? (start during the spring semester)
  - Emma Rose Horowitz-MCCadden
    - Inquiry as to the origin of the need for this position
    - Ask if the position can be more standalone in addressing the arrival of international students
      - Clarified that the Member-at-large positions will remain available for graduate students
  - Request made for a description of the position be sent to the current senators

**Conclusion(s):** Action Item -> send a description of the position to current senators for

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**Agenda Item:** Introduction of the Budget for the 2021-2022 School Year

**Notes:**

- Walkthrough of the agenda by Treasure Alison Hall

- Floor Opened for The Discussion on the Budget
  - Question regarding how the food insecurity budget compares between the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years
    - \$3500 allocated, nearly all of the budget was used during
  - Question regarding how the fluid the funds in the budget are -> funds have some fluidity as funds are needed for each of the events
  - Discussion regarding how the food insecurity budget should be allocated in the coming school year
    - Need to better understand how the funds have been used in the past
    - Concerns expressed regarding the lack of volunteers for the food insecurity events in the past
  - Question how did the need for food insecurity funds compare with what was available in the funds
    - There was a potential for greater needs. Past eboard would have liked to have more drop-offs but capacity was limited due to volunteer capacity
  - Discussion: \$1000 for food insecurity from the graduate college will be contributed
  - Discussion regarding which version of the budget will be voted on for -> either the new position included or not

**Conclusion(s):**

Vote for the Budget has been tabled for the next meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2021

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**Agenda Item:** Resolution from Daniel Muteanu, seconded by Marcus Weinman

**Notes:**

- Resolution in Support of Unionization with an overview provided by Daniel Muteanu
- Floor opened for discussion:
  - Discussion: Information regarding the history of Stipends and Benefits committee in past years, regarding the findings of the committee

- How the fees and stipends of UVM compare to the comparator institutions UVM recognizes
  - Vice President Comment: information was provided regarding how the discussion on Unionization can be continued in the future
  - Discussion: regarding whether or not the resolution can be placed on the floor for discussion.
    - Dissent was voiced by the senate regarding a continued discussion of the Resolution
    - Ambiguity was present regarding whether or not the resolution could come to the floor of the senate.
  - Attempt for the floor for discussion to be closed after a comment from Dean Cynthia Forehand was read to the GSS general body
- 1. A "graduate student union" is in fact a graduate student employee union and as such represents less than a 1/3 of graduate students, while GSS is the governance body for all graduate students.
- 2. UVM maintains a neutral stance concerning benefits or drawbacks of a potential graduate student employee union.
- 3. If the group files a formal petition to organize, discussion related to graduate assistantships (stipends, benefits and work conditions) ends at that time until either voted down or voted up and a contract is negotiated, which could take more than a year. Everything would be frozen at current status until a contract is in place.
- 4. If a union is the outcome, then GSS could no longer discuss matters related to graduate assistantships as that becomes the purview of the bargaining unit and whomever from UVM is at the negotiating table.
  - Discussion continued following motion by Daniel Muteanu, seconded by Marcus Weinman to reopen the floor
- Vote to continue the meeting past the original adjournment at 1300 EDT
  - Yea – 27, Nea – 1, Abstention: 0
  - Note that several members of the senate had to leave, but voted to continue the meeting as well
- Discussion: confusion voiced by senator regarding the role of GSS and the conflict with the UVM Administration
- Discussion: comments made on the staff unionization efforts (see the attached flyer from the staff unionization efforts)

- Opinion voiced that graduate students should be able to voice their concerns regarding Unionization, confusion expressed regarding where we could have a unionization discussion if we cannot discuss in GSS
- Discussion from member of the public: comment regarding the need for GSS and Graduate Union to best represent the voice of graduate students. Expressed interest in building a union and working with GSS to work with this GSS to support graduate students as well

Control of the meeting was transferred from Vice President Miki Beach to President Rosaura Chapina

- Discussion: confusion expressed why as a senate member the individual is a representative of the administration and not of other graduate students. Opinion that we should be able to have the discussion, understanding that resources may not be able to be allocated to union work
- Discussion: clarification
  - Question: as a senate are we allowed to allocated funds? Time?
    - Response from President Rosaura Chapina –
      - [Insert verbatim from the recording]
  - Question: we are unable to support the union if it exists?
  - Question: we can exist in solidarity with the effort of unionization because a union doesn't currently exist as a formal entity?
- Discussion: clarification
  - Can we or can we not vote on this resolution?
  - Interest in expressed about the tabling of the vote on the resolution until next meeting
- Comment from President Rosaura Chapina – any questions that the the GSS body has regarding unionization should be send to the GSS e-board email
- Motion to table the meeting made by Aaron Denamur, seconded by Daniel Munteanu
- Adjournment of the meeting at 1326

**Conclusion(s):** All of the present New Business is tabled until the next meeting

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Attendees:

- Senate:

- Muhammad Junaid Khan
- George Love
- Shawn Beaulieu
- Nick Gayton
- Emma Rose Horowitz-McCadden
- Leslie McCoy
- Mitchell Joseph
- Aaron Denamur
- Vanessa Marascio
- Joe Charles
- Yasaman Pedari
- Khadga Thakuri
- Aya Cheaito
- David Allemeier
- Kevin Zuniga Cuellar
- Sandra Nnadi
- Alexia Bove
- Basu Bidari
- Lindy Burch-Durkee
- Lucy George
- Alicia Finney
- Suraj Bhattarai
- Daniel Munteanu
- Marcus Weinman
- Ekraj Dahal
- Paul Suk-Hyun Yoon

- Rosaura Chapina
- Justin MH Salisbury
- Ciara Herman-Dunphy
- Tate Moeller
- Michelle Saunders
- Reid Lemker
- Curtis Browne
- Jennifer Le
- Holly Paige Chaos
- Berke Tinaz
- Maddie Hatch
- Michelle Nikfarjam
- Atoosa Parsa
- Abigail Rec
- Baxter Worthing
- Jenny Bower
- Julia Chimienti
- Parisa Suchdev
- Nina L. Smolyar
- Victoria Treto
- Maïke Holthuijzen
- Katie Horner
- Jayita Barua
- Everett Arcuri Ware
- Andrew Gerlicz
- BC Garvey
- Jenan Husain
- Rosaura Chapina



- Miki Beach
- Allison Hall
- Irfan Tahir
- Patrick Payn
- Guests:
  - Montana Laura
  - Megan Egler
  - Cynthia Forehand