

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024, Time: 7:00 pm**

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

aimed at collecting data for a survey to identify areas of focus. He highlighted the need to increase the budget to accommodate club needs, proposing a fee increase. Additionally, he mentioned plans to revise the GSS constitution and discuss the acquisition of new GSS office space at the Discovery Hall.

**b. Vice President**

Cara Simone discussed the need for greater engagement of graduate students in the Senate and overall. She emphasized collaboration with the graduate college administration while maintaining autonomy as a separate student-run entity funded by students. Cara highlighted upcoming challenges and plans for the semester, including revising resolutions. She encouraged committee members to propose ideas and offered a survey for feedback. Cara expressed a commitment to setting up the next E-board for success and discussed efforts to document their work for future reference.

**c. Treasurer**

Yasaman Pedari, the GSS Treasure reported on the proposed budget for the spring semester, outlining purchases already made and planned social events such as bar events and boardgame. She mentions potential events and explains the revenue and expenditure status, highlighting a revenue of \$15,000 and \$2,600 spent so far.

Jenan Husain moved to approve the office report, it was seconded by Emma Myrick.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committee reports  
**Events Committee**

Bren Cable from the Events Committee mentioned about upcoming events. She echoed Yasaman's mention of a tentative Boardroom Cafe event on February 16th or 17th. Additionally, Bren highlighted a scheduled soccer game at the indoor UVM soccer facility in February. She mentioned that advertisements will be circulated closer to the event dates.

**Professional Development Committee**

Toyib Aremu, representing the Professional Development Committee, informs the group about a recent event organized by their committee. He shared that the event featured a representative from the Career Center who discussed the services offered. Toyib mentioned that the event was successful with approximately 10 to 15 graduate students in attendance.

**Health and Wellness Committee**

Gift Omoruyi provided a brief update, mentioning that they don't have a formal update at the moment. However, they have reached out to the recreation team to plan something, and they will provide an update on this matter in the next meeting.

- b. Ad hoc Committee reports
- c. **Student Affairs Committee**

Ijaz Ul Haq mentioned plans for the Student Affairs Committee. He states that he will reach out to two other committee members to collaborate on drafting resolutions and making changes to the constitution along with the Eboard. He mentioned that this update will be discussed further in the next meeting.

III. Old Business:

a. **CHI Alpha Graduate Christian Fellowship Club Recognition Renewal**

Nathan Colgrove, president of the club, highlighted the club's mission dedicated to facilitating interfaith dialogue, especially among Christians, Muslims, and Jews. He emphasized the club's support for international students, including providing transportation from the airport and organizing events with the Office of International Education (OIE). Additionally, the club offers learning opportunities in a Christian context, such as an ancient Greek class for studying biblical texts. Nathan mentioned their weekly meetings featuring corporate worship and providing meals for students in need, underscoring their commitment to addressing food insecurity among graduate students.

Anthony Barrows moved to approve the renewal of the club, it was seconded by Gift Omoruyi.

New Business:

- a. Engaging GSS
  - i. **Attendance/Reimagining Elections**
  - ii. **Goals to represent and support Grad life**

Cara mentioned that the Executive Board (e-board) is focused on engaging graduate students and increasing their participation in Senate and other activities. She discussed a resolution related to this engagement. Additionally, Cara highlighted the upcoming elections for the new e-board and emphasized the importance of setting up the next e-board for success by providing comprehensive documentation of their activities and initiatives.

b. **Grad Student Survey Preview, feedback, Deployment Plan**

The new business presented by Vice President Cara is a survey aimed at learning about graduate students' needs, interests, and thoughts regarding student government advocacy and support. The survey covers various topics such as housing, post-graduation resources and support, mental health, communication and events, and general questions about what graduate students need to be successful. Cara briefly presented the survey questions and sought agreement from the members to send out the survey and continue editing it to send it out in two weeks.

i. **Discussion**

Jenan Husain, who recently rejoined the GSS after involvement in the GSS Housing committee,

continuity and efficiency within GSS operations. She highlighted the importance of having personnel dedicated to tasks such as website management and financial responsibilities. Cara drew parallels with SGA's structure, where executives receive generous stipends, and committee chairs are compensated. She suggested exploring similar models to enhance GSS's effectiveness and engagement.

Taylor Kocian expressed the need for more detailed information regarding the proposed increase in GSS fees and the hiring of a part-time administrator. She emphasized the importance of understanding the financial implications and ensuring transparency before voting on the 318 Tdf 405.4308.5 Td( )82 reW\*nB.0 (f)-6\*ng (1 gTT1 11)5.405..0 (5670.584 6-2.0 (en)2.0 (cy )-3 (be)1