General Senate Meeting

Student Government Association/UConn Stamford

Meeting called to order by Mohammed Ruwaid   
Date | time: 9/14/2023 2:10 PM Total Voting Members: 9 Quorum: 6

# Officer/Director/Advisor Attendance

President - Mohammed Ruwaid

Vice President - Noah Park

CFO - Adrien Vincent

CAO - Kiyoshi Perretz

Emma Downey

Nathanelle Eveillard

Mbiya Kabongo

Madina Mamedli

Day Morales

Stu. Activities Coord./UConn – Gayle Riquier

# Voting Senator Attendance

# Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from the 4/24/2023 meeting.

Moved by: Kiyoshi Perretz Seconded by: Noah Park

Senate Discussion:

Voting results: Motion **Passes**

# *President* – Mohammed StamfordSGA-President@uconn.edu

Welcome back to the first official GSM of the Fall 2023 Semester. I am excited for this upcoming academic year and there's a lot of development behind the scenes.

There was a constitutional review for the University Senate which going forward, gives a seat to the regional campuses and allows for representation of all students. Our first senate meeting was last Monday where I met with other Student Body Presidents, University Administrators, Leadership, and Senior Faculty and Staff members. I am happy to announce that UCONN's overall ranking has risen from 103 to 46 according to the WSJ. The Stamford Campus also has some of the highest retention numbers for 1st-year, 2nd Year, and 3rd year students against the other regionals.

I would also like to announce that given the budget cuts from last year, the University as a whole was able to optimize and save costs with only 70 Million under budget. The university was also able to help decrease the percentage of unmet needs from 35% to 30% for this year as well.

From the Stamford Campus -

We have a new and upcoming financial technology Major under the School of Business and if you haven't heard the new meal plan is up and running. The Cafe is also set to be up and running in December, more updates as we progress into the semester.

# Vice President – Noah StamfordSGA-VP@uconn.edu

**1. Halloween & Homecoming:**

Madina has undertaken the responsibility of coordinating Halloween and Homecoming events. For Halloween, she is currently developing a detailed plan and budget estimate for the Among Us-themed event on campus, with a particular focus on decorations and logistical requirements. Suggestions and additional ideas for Halloween are encouraged.

Homecoming week was also discussed, with a call to brainstorm creative ideas to maximize student engagement during this period. Collaborative initiatives with other Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) were suggested as a means of enhancing attendance.

**2. October 6th Trip:**

Emma reported on her efforts to secure cost-effective transportation options for our upcoming October 6th trip. While coach bus options were initially deemed expensive, alternatives such as school buses and activity transport were explored. The decision to proceed with the school bus option was made, with a resultant reduction in transportation costs to approximately $800. This change will also necessitate informing Alex of the adjusted attendee count.

The need to continue booking local events was highlighted, including a resumption of weekly movie nights and the exploration of bulk purchase requests for movie vouchers. In addition, the revival of the popular RPM event was emphasized as a priority. I am still in contact with the NY Giants, NY Jets, & The Murray show. Once we discuss and confirm numbers then I will update and pass on info to you Emma to take care of paperwork.

**3. Comedy Show on October 26th:**

Nat provided an update on the comedy show scheduled for October 26th. Although the initial choice, Alex Babbitt, was unavailable and costly, Corey Rodriguez emerged as a viable alternative. It was agreed that Corey Rodriguez should be selected for the October 26th event, and Alex Babbitt could potentially be considered for a November date.

Immediate action to confirm the chosen act was deemed essential to maintain a strong working relationship with the vendor.

**4. Communication and Marketing:**

A reminder was issued to Nat, Emma, and Madina to maintain regular and consistent communication with Mbiya and Dayna, our key points of contact for additional support and marketing purposes. This collaboration is crucial to boosting attendance numbers at our events.

The group was encouraged to brainstorm and formulate effective strategies for increasing attendance at homecoming events, particularly intramural soccer and basketball. Collaboration with other RSOs was suggested as a valuable avenue to explore for enhancing campus spirit.

# Chief Financial Officer – Adrien StamfordSGA-CFO@uconn.edu

Motion:

Motion to approve **African Students Association**- **AfroKaraoke**(req. **0245**). For purchases not to exceed**$650.00**in the following categories **Services/Contracts**.

**Moved by: Adrien Seconded by: Mbiya Kabongo**

**Discussion:**

**Vote Results:**

In Favor: **2** Opposed: **0** Abstentions: **3**

----------------------------------------------

**Motion:**

Motion to approve **African Students Association**- **Mixology Night Presented by ASA** (req. **0244**). For purchases not to exceed**$400.00**in the following categories **Catering/Refreshments**.

**Moved by: Adrien Seconded by: Noah Park**

**Discussion:**

Cocktail mixing event to express individual creativity. (Non-Alcoholic)

**Vote Results:**

In Favor: **4** Opposed: **0** Abstentions:**2**

----------------------------------------------

**Motion:**

Motion to approve **African Students Association**- **Brunch with Asa**(req. **0243**). For purchases not to exceed**$450.00**in the following categories **Catering/Refreshments**.

**Moved by: Adrien Seconded by: Kiyoshi Perretz**

**Vote Results:**

In Favor: **6** Opposed: **0** Abstentions: **0**

----------------------------------------------

**Motion:**

Motion to approve **African Students Association**- **Fall-Fest** (req. **0240**). For purchases not to exceed**$860.00**in the following categories **Catering/Refreshments, Supplies/Equipment (purchase)**.

**Moved by: Seconded by: Noah Park**

**Discussion:**

**Vote Results:**

In Favor: **4** Opposed: **0** Abstentions: **3**

# Chief Administrative Officer – Kiyoshi StamfordSGA@uconn.edu

## Update of Senator Status

* Senator Appointments

# Advisor – Gayle gayle.riquier@uconn.edu

* Nothing to Report

# Open Discussion

* Nothing to Report

# Announcements

* Nothing to Report

# Next Meeting/Adjournment

**Next meeting 9/20/2023 1:00 PM in Room 132**

**Motion to adjourn was made at 1:45PM and was passed unanimously.**

# Approval:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Kiyoshi Perretz – Chief Administrative Officer/SGA |  | Gayle Riquier – Student Activities Coordinator/UConn |
|  |  |  |
| Date 9/13/2023 |  | Date 9/13/2023 |

Names & Emails:

Venice Montanaro [Venice.montanaro@uconn.edu](mailto:Venice.montanaro@uconn.edu)

Brianni Cabrera [Brianni.cabrera@uconn.edu](mailto:Brianni.cabrera@uconn.edu)

Ashlei Nunez [Ashlei.nunez@uconn.edu](mailto:Ashlei.nunez@uconn.edu)

Tarkeshwar Bhupal [Tarkeshwar.bhupal@uconn.edu](mailto:Tarkeshwar.bhupal@uconn.edu)