

October 12th 2004 GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

The Senate meeting starts at 6:10PM with a quorum and all the executives present in the meeting. The agenda for the meeting is unanimously approved without any changes. Minutes of the September 14th meeting are unanimously approved without any changes.

New Business

Speaker Election

Andrei Antoinenko nominates himself. Venkat nominates Mark Coleman but Mark rejects the nomination. Andrei is the only nominee. He introduces himself, talks about the committees he has been a member of and about the importance of chairing meetings. Angeliki makes a motion to appoint Andrei as the speaker. Grossman seconds the motion. Motion passes 19 to 1, with 2 senators abstaining.

Appointment of new members to GSO Standing Committees

Gina is nominated to the Budget Committee, Miranda Moore is nominated to the Lounge Committee and Venkat is nominated to the Social Concerns Committee. Motion to approve made and seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Appointment of new members to University Committees

Dumaine is nominated to be the President of the Committee on Diversity, Tarah is nominated to be a Senator in the University Senate, Lugi is nominated to the Graduate Council, Andrea Greene is nominated to the Arts and Sciences Executive council and the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee. Motion to approve made and seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee Report

The GSO Treasurer Rong Su presents the Budget Committee report. She informs the senate of the Budget Committee meeting dates. Rong gives a report of the operational expenses for the month of September 2004. The amount budgeted was \$3200. \$200 was spent on the editor for the Graduate. She explains the difference between accrued and approved expenses. She also reports that 26 RAP applications were approved in September 2004. The University Café subsidy for is \$1058 as opposed to \$2903 for the month of July 2004.

The following funding requests were discussed:

- 1) The English department requested funding for an event to be organized on February 25th. The proposal will be presented to the senate in the meeting before the event.
- 2) Request to fund outdoor gear for the graduate community - it was decided to

postpone the proposal to the next senate meeting.

3) Request to fund \$400 for the Student-Faculty-Staff retreat. The representative gave a presentation about the retreat. \$400 would cover room, board and transportation to Glen Cove. Angeliki wanted to know why an announcement was not made to the graduate students. The representative informed that a general announcement was made during the second week of September. Rong said that they wanted to present it to the senate so that the graduate students would know. The representative informed the senate that there are 5 slots available for graduate students, 2 of which would be chosen by GSO. Applicants have to write an essay and the students will be selected based on the essay. Some of the results that came out of the retreat in the past were learning communities, campus communities, campus life time, SBU 101 and undergraduate colleges. Grossman asked if the application deadline can be extended for graduate students as one week is not enough time. The representative said that extending the deadline means that graduate students will miss the October 18th pre-retreat event.

Motion to end discussion and vote is made. An amendment to the motion is made to require SFS to notify GSO at least one month in advance in the future. The amendment is accepted. Angeliki told the senate that such a motion cannot be allowed because the rule cannot be enforced. The GSO cannot take the money back from SFS if they do not inform us.

Angeliki made a motion not to fund the event. The motion is amended to fund SFS after the event. The motion is seconded. 6 senators voted in favor, 17 voted against and 4 senators abstained. The motion fails.

Michael Feigen made a motion to fund \$400 for the event. The motion is amended to send a notice to the SFS committee that GSO is funding the event as a sign of goodwill. The amendment is accepted. The motion is further amended to fund \$300 instead of \$400. The amendment is rejected by Michael. The motion is seconded by Anne. The motion passes unanimously.

Lounge Committee Report

Chad Bender presents the Lounge Committee report. Rong has already presented the numbers from August. The predicted loss for the Cafe was \$4000 while the actual loss was \$1000. Chad reported that he met with Ron Villa for the numbers for September. He has the preliminary numbers but they have not been finalized yet. Chad told the senate that there has been a lot of interest from graduate students to join the Lounge Committee. If the committee is too large, there would be a problem getting a quorum in every meeting. He asked the students to become non-voting members if they are not sure about full membership.

Graduate Council Report

The GSO President Prasanna presents the Graduate Council report. He informed the senate that the Graduate Council identified three priority areas for

graduate students:

1) tuition and stipend - the need to make tuition/stipend packages more competitive. The tuition has been increased recently and for students who are fully funded, this increase is covered. Students who are partially funded or not funded have to bear part or full portion of this increase.

2) graduate student housing - ensure adequate capacity and improve the condition of current housing facilities, especially Chapin. The Graduate Council recommends a push for new construction to address the problem of inadequate capacity.

3) graduate student teaching - many respondents to a survey conducted by GSO considered current training inadequate and were critical of training programs like CELT. The training needs to be tailored to the specific needs of each department and the faculty needs to be more involved by mentoring and supervising the TAs.

University Senate Report

The GSO Vice President Monicca presents the University Senate report. She explained that the University Senate is for faculty and staff, represented by up to 6 graduate students in the senate and 1 graduate student in the executive council. She reported that some of the issues discussed were

1) Undergraduate Enrollment - we need to have better students for the teaching assistants

2) Bus Service - is the current frequency enough? Are there any problems with the bus service?

3) Campus Police - takes time to respond to escort requests. Mark wanted to know if this was the only way they could communicate with the police. Monicca informed the senate that we can invite a representative from the police to the GSO senate meetings.

Mark raised the issue that crosswalks do not have yellow signs posted for 'yield to pedestrians'. This could be dangerous to pedestrians if the drivers do not notice the crosswalk.

The senate was asked if they wanted the University Police to come to a GSO meeting. 16 senators voted in favor and none against. Angeliki informed the senate that there is a President's Safety Committee.

GSEU

The GSEU representative informed the senate that GSEU is organizing a demonstration on October 13th 2004 (tomorrow) at the old fountain to negotiate better salaries for graduate student employees. Angeliki asked him if any news organizations are going to be there. The representative told the senate that Newsday will be covering the event.

Announcements

The next senate meeting will be on November 9th and the December senate

meeting will be in the first week instead of the second due to the final exams.

Senator Workshop

The executives proposed November 3rd, 6-7PM for the Senator's workshop. The matter was discussed with the senate and it was decided that the workshop will be held on November 9th at 5PM immediately before the senate meeting. This workshop is not mandatory but is recommended.

Motion to adjourn made. Seconded by Mark Coleman. The meeting is adjourned.