

Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Budget Committee Mid-Year Report, FY 2006-2007

The Budget Committee of GSO has handled and coordinated a substantial volume of work throughout the first half of the year. We started out by first reconciling elements of our operating budget from last fiscal year. Our SUNY Designee, Dr. Lawrence Martin, officially issued approval of the revised budget on November 14th. This document can be found on the GSO web site: <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso/reports/budgets.php>.

In September, Senators and students were reminded as to the new Financial Bylaws in effect this year, after passage last spring. The Executive Board has since reached out to departments lacking senator representation and encouraged them to nominate a candidate to represent them in assembly. We have also communicated with and reminded “inactive” departments that in order to receive Resource Access Project funds (“RAP”) their senator or alternate would have to continue attending two out of the last three Senate meetings. The appropriate application forms have been revised and uploaded to the GSO web site to reflect the new bylaws. Overall, 150 students have applied for and received RAP funding thus far in 2006-07.

In October, the GSO Senate approved drawing over \$2,000 from surplus in order to compensate victims of the Chapin fire, which occurred at the beginning of the semester. Combined with the Vice President’s fund raising efforts, the GSO donated \$100 to each individual victim of this tragedy, which included more than 20 such residents.

The Budget Committee now meets exactly one full week (the Tuesday) prior to each month’s general Senate meeting to review funding petitions. Compared with past practice, this measure gives each club additional time, after receiving input from the Budget Committee, prior to requesting funding from the Senate at the general meeting.

The Budget Committee also formed an Ad Hoc Audit Committee to serve in conjunction with the Executive Board and Budget Committee for matters related to the external audit of our organization every summer. This was not a mandate, but rather a recommendation currently being utilized by the Faculty-Student Association (FSA) in accordance with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, a federal law pertaining to the auditing/accounting of both for- and not-for profit corporations. Sen. Melissa Patterson, who also serves on the Budget Committee, was appointed to serve in this capacity on behalf of GSO, along with GSO’s President, Treasurer, and Fiscal (C&D) Agent.

As a result of the summer’s audit, I personally presented the external auditor’s management recommendations and our responses to the recommendations to the Senate. The accounting firm retained to perform these services for 2006-07 is Lambrides, Lamos, Moulthrop, & Co. Copies of the recommendation letter and GSO’s responses to the recommendation letter can both be located on our web site: <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso/news/>.

Throughout the term, GSO has also funded a variety of graduate student cultural, social, and speaker series events, summarized below:

Group Name	Event Title	Amount Allocated
SBCSSA	Dancing Night	\$500
Graduate Linguistics Society	Speaker Series Event	\$580
IGSA	Fresher's Party	\$1,505
SBCSSA/TGSA	Full Moon Festival Celebration	\$1,910
Hispanic Languages	Letropolis	\$500
Psychology Department	Gesture Structure	\$890
CARA	Tanger Outlet Trip	\$782
Behavioral Ecology Group	Behavioral Syndromes	\$997
Graduate Linguistics Society	Speaker Series with Ray Jackendoff	\$790
SBCSSA/CARA	Spring Festival	\$1,900

The Budget Committee has also presented several potential bylaw amendments to the Rules and Constitution Committee (RCC) for consideration. In particular, GSO's President, Andrei Antonenko, and I met with representatives from the Research Foundation of SUNY in order to coordinate cross-agency financial disbursement policies.

Finally, on the following pages you will find a mid-year status report for each line item in our operating budget. Going into 2007 the Budget Committee is working in conjunction with the Executive Board in enacting new programs and services to graduate students. Two such tentative programs include an income tax workshop, to be available for free to graduate students in February and through April (tax season), and a financial planning workshop where students can receive free professional advice on planning for their financial future – i.e., playing the stock market, investing, evaluating prospective employer benefit packages, avoiding/managing debt, etc. Additionally, I am always open to recommendations for new services from department senators, committee members, and directly from graduate students throughout the university.

Sincerely,

Ryan M. Soule
GSO Treasurer, 2006-07

ryansoule2000@yahoo.com

Appendix 1
 Graduate Student Organization (GSO) - Operating Budget, 2006-2007

Ryan M. Soule
 Treasurer

Line Item	Projected/Budgeted (\$)	Cash Collected to-date (\$)	Difference (\$)
REVENUE			
Activity Fee	205,000.00	100,187.50 (as of 11/30/06)	(104,812.50)
Interest	2,000.00	~1,250.00	~(750.00)
Graduate School RAP Grant	10,000.00	---	(10,000)
Research Foundation RAP Grant	10,000.00	---	(10,000)
President's Office RAP Grant	10,000.00	---	(10,000)
CEAS RAP Grant	5,000.00	---	(5,000)
CAS RAP Grant	3,000.00	---	(3,000)
Misc. Income	3,000.00	3,670.00	670.00
Total Income	248,000.00	105,107.50	(142,892.50)
EXPENSES			
Line Item	Budgeted (\$)	Expenditures/Encumbrances (\$)	Available Funds (\$)
Office Equipment/Supplies	2,500.00	297.07	2,202.93
Telephone	1,200.00	621.77	578.23
Insurance	4,000.00	1,937.64	2,062.40
Officer Stipends/Office Manager/Payroll Tax & Insurance	24,000.00	8,160.63	15,839.37
Web Master	2,400.00	800.00	1,600
FSA Administrative Fee	27,000.00	13,827.00	13,173.00
External Auditor	4,000.00	3,270.73	729.27
Meetings	2,000.00	1,077.21	922.79
Misc. Expense	1,000.00	484.59	515.41
Meet & Greet	1,000.00	1,000.00	0

Elections Expense	150.00	---	150
Line Item	Budgeted (\$)	Expenditures/Encumbrances (\$)	Available Funds (\$)
Survival Guide – Printing	2,000.00	2,497.50	(497.50)
Survival Guide – Editor	700.00	700.00	0
Graduate Magazine – Editor	1,600.00	---	1,600
Orientation	1,500.00	---	1,500.00
NYPIRG	12,000.00	---	12,000.00
Child Care	10,000.00	---	10,000.00
Volunteer Ambulance Corps	1,500.00	---	1,500.00
WUSB 90.1 FM	1,000.00	---	1,000.00
Student Clubs/Organizations	4,000.00	2,500.00	1,500.00
General Cultural/Social Events	12,000.00	7,379.00	4,621.00
Speaker Series and Conferences	8,000.00	3,746.07	4,253.93
Departmental Allocations	4,000.00	1,713.00	2,287.00
Resource Allocation Project (RAP)	90,000.00	35,584.45	54,415.55
Legal Clinic	6,500.00	3,000.00	3,500.00
Graduate Lounge	27,000.00	29,745.29	(2,745.29)