

Minutes of the GSO Senate meeting on Wednesday April 9th, 2003

Meeting started at 6:04pm with 26 senators present.

Minutes from March 26th unanimously passed with no changes.

Shawn Pottorf made a motion to give the Lounge Committee report before the Budget Committee. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lounge Committee

Shawn Pottorf gave the report of the Lounge Committee. During the report Dr. Lawrence Martin joined the meeting. He pointed out that the fact that everyone (President's Office, FSA, Graduate School) gives money for the new graduate center shows a good faith effort. He added that if we decide to put money to it, it would mean that it is important for the graduate students and shows the administration that we are serious. He urged the Senate to see it as an investment and strongly encouraged the Senate to approve \$30,000 towards the relocation of the SPOT. Scott Graves made a motion to end discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron Willa gave the monthly P&L, the loss for March at the SPOT was approximately \$2300. Karl Juhnke asked how last year although \$17,000 was budgeted for the SPOT, the amount of approximately \$28,000 was spent. Tanya Smith said that every December the question comes to vote on whether we should keep the SPOT open, even though we exceed the budget, and the Senate always approved keeping the SPOT open and giving money from our budget to keep it open. Salih Kocer made a motion to end discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget items

- a. *IGSA* requested \$1000 for the event 'Rhythms'. The Budget Committee recommended \$950. Salih made a motion to fund the event for \$950. Jasmina made a friendly amendment to raise the amount to \$1000 (\$50 extra taken from the General Speaker Series. Karl Juhnke objected to the friendly amendment, so the motion to raise the amount to \$1000 came to a vote. The motion passed (19 in favor, 1 opposed, 4 abstain). The discussion about whether the event should be funded \$1000 started. Salih made a motion to end discussion. The motion passed (20 in favor, 3 opposed, 2 abstain). The motion to fund the event \$1000 was put to vote and passed (23 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstain). The event will be funded \$1000 (\$550 from General Cultural Events, \$400 from GSO Sponsored advertisements, \$50 from General Speaker Series)

Salih Kocer made a motion to pass the items for the *Music Department*, *Cabaret at the SPOT*, *Relocation for Graduate Cultural Center and Campus Life Awards* all together. Karl made a friendly amendment to separate the expenses for the relocation of the Graduate Cultural Center since this is an item that is \$30,000. The friendly amendment was accepted. The motion was put to a vote. The motion passed (23 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstain). So the following three items (b, c, d) passed:

- b. The *Music Department* requested \$700 for 'Context Performer's Collective'. The Budget Committee recommended \$700 to be taken from the General Cultural and Social Events.
- c. *Cabaret at the SPOT* requested \$250 for 'Virgin Escorts'. The Budget Committee recommended \$250 to be taken out of the General Cultural and Social Events.
- d. *Campus Life Awards* requested \$50 (in addition to \$250 that is already budgeted for). The Budget Committee recommended no increase.
- e. The *SB Rockfest* requested \$750 for their concert. The Budget Committee recommended \$250 as long as the Committee showed that they had at least three graduate students organizing the event. Salih Kocer made a motion to fund the event for \$0. Motion passed (14 in favor, 3 opposed, 9 abstain). Jasmina Sinanovic made a motion to not fund the

- event financially but to back up the event in name. Motion failed (0 in favor, 21 opposed, 4 abstain).
- f. *Relocation Expenses for Graduate Cultural Center.* The Budget Committee recommended a grant of \$30,000 to be given from the GSO's surplus. The SPOT is closing and GSO is given 2,000 ft² in the Student Union. The President's office, Graduate School, FSA are contributing about \$130,000 to pay for construction and paying for the new accessories. Tanya Smith made a motion to give the grant of \$30,000 taken from the surplus for the relocation of the new Cultural Center. Motion passed (21 in favor, 2 opposed, 0 abstain).
- g. *Invention Club* requested \$900. The Budget Committee's recommendation was to put more work on the proposal. Weil Liu made a motion to fund the Invention Club \$900. Motion failed (0 in favor, 22 opposed, 2 abstain).

Committee reports

- a. *Rules and Constitution Committee.*
Karl Juhnke gave a report for the Committee (he chaired the Committee at the last two meetings). He requested an amendment of the October Senate meeting minutes to reflect that Tanya's motion passed (Rules and Constitution Committee report, last line). He made a motion for the above correction to be made. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. *Elections Committee.*
Bin nominated Jasmina Sinanovic as the Chair of the Elections Committee that was approved unanimously by the Senate. The Senate also approved unanimously all the new members of the Elections Committee (Abhijit Sengupta, Fan Wang, Bin Tang, Pegine Walrad, Zenny Zhang). Jasmina made a motion to have an absentee ballot in the elections this year. Motion passed (13 in favor, 1 opposed, 3 abstain). The candidates for the officers elections that were present at the meeting (Guofeng, Angeliki, Bryan, Chris) were given the chance to present themselves in front of the Senate.
Bryan presented the budget for the fiscal year 2003-2004.
Scott Graves made a motion to be removed from the RCC Committee that passed unanimously by the Senate.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 8:15pm.
Submitted by Angeliki Field-Pollatou
GSO Secretary
05/09/03

Secretary's report- Submitted by Angeliki Field Pollatou for the April Senate meeting

Graduate Student Cultural Center and Student Life Committee
March 21st 2003. GSO representatives had a Meeting with Dr. Martin, Dr. Millar, Dr. Stein, Dr. Kelly, Mr. Rispoli, Dr. Meyer where a space a little less than 2,000 sq. ft was offered to the GSO. The space that was allocated to us was the same space the GSO representatives(Christine Promin and Angeliki) had requested at the previous meeting with the administrators (March 11th). We proceeded to the financial part of the operation. The estimation of the total amount of money that it would cost to renovate, move and equip the new space is between \$160,000-170,000. Dr. George Meyer told us that the administration is willing to put \$70,000 towards this operation.

After that meeting the GSO representatives called an internal meeting in order to talk about sources that we can take money from (March 25th). The suggestions were FSA, Graduate School and GSO.

March 25th 2003. The Student Life Committee met in order to discuss the progress of the SPOT negotiations. Michelle Millar, Angeliki and Christine presented to the Committee the progress that they have done so far towards the relocation of the graduate lounge.

Along with the above committee, Dr. Kelly requested from the committee financial help in order to complete the renovation of the new space for graduate students. The Chair of the Committee, Dr. Feldman showed a lot of support and promised that he will help us as much as he can. The GSO along with Dr. Kelly is preparing a proposal to give to Dr. Feldman. Additionally, the GSO representatives (Angeliki and Christine) along with the GSO Treasurer (Bryan) were in negotiations with FSA and the Graduate School in order to secure additional funding for the new space to start to be renovated.

April 4th 2003. The last meeting was called by Dr. Meyer and focused on the financial arrangements of the new area that is allocated for the graduate students. The cost of the construction will be about \$75,000 and will be paid by the University. The furnishings will cost not more than \$95,000 and it will be covered by different sources. FSA will contribute \$20,000-\$30,000 subject to approval of the FSA Board and agreement by GSO Lounge Committee for lunchtime usage of the space for food service seating. Dr. Martin will request \$20,000-\$30,000 from the Administration/Graduate School/Student Affairs.

Dr. Feldman (chair of the Student Life Committee) will request \$10,000 from the Dean of Medicine office as soon as GSO makes a program description on the value of the new graduate center to the HSC students. Finally GSO has to allocate the remaining amount, approximately \$30,000 in order for the construction to be complete (subject to approval from the Senate).

There was a concern about whether the student union ballroom will be available for construction during the summer. Mr. Walcott informed us after the meeting that the Ballroom will be available for construction from June 2-July 14. According to Mr. Rispoli the total time of the construction will be approximately 4 weeks.

Graduate Council (03/31/03)

1. International Students' Fee. The discussion for the international student fee continued. The fee will be used to hire additional staff in order to keep up with the SEVIS demands. The University is on a hiring freeze right now so there are no funds to hire new people. It is been proposed that the international students will have to pay \$50 per semester (initially it was proposed \$100) in order to hire enough staff to serve the international graduate students. This is a proposal, the final decision will be taken at the University Senate.

2. Graduate Council housing tour. The Committee discussed the tour at the on campus housing complexes that took place on 02/24/03. There was concern expressed by Angeliki that the complaints of the students do not get addressed and that many times students do not get response for their problems regarding the housing problems. It was proposed a website to be created for the graduate students to address their concerns and

problems about housing. Members of the Graduate Council and Angeliki are working on finding out if that will be possible to be done through the On Campus Housing website or if a new website has to be created just for this issue. If you have some other solution to propose please contact me.

Rules Revision Committee (03/13/03)

The Committee is revising the Student Conduct Code (it had to be done every three years). All corrections have and additions have been made and they have to pass through Dr. Preston to get approved.

Administrative Review Committee (03/13/03 and 03/27/03)

A survey for faculty and staff is been prepared and it will be put up online. The last time this survey was done was in 1997 and the response was very poor (~9%). It will be ready in the beginning of the next month, so urge the faculty and staff of your Department to participate!

Submitted by Angeliki Field Pollatou
GSO Secretary
email: angeliki@grad.physics.sunysb.edu
04/12/03

Vice-President's report

Chapin and Schomburg Rent Reviews

Every year Chapin and Scomburg Apartments have rent reviews do go over the respective budgets and decide on the rent for the following year. Process is conducted by CARA and SARA (Chapin and Schomburg Apts Resident Associations) members and Campus Residences. Before finalizing the decision CARA and SARA meet with the respective residents.

Rent reviews are nearly over and both complexes will most probably face 5% increase across all the rental types. (Entire campus is facing the same increase in rent).

Prices ranges are the following:

	2002-03	tentatively 2003-4
Schomburg single room in 4 bedroom apt	\$489	\$523
one bedroom	\$1013	\$1063
Chapin: shared space in 6 bedroom apt	\$283-301	\$297-316
single room	\$440-462	\$462-485
one bedroom in 2-bed apt	\$651	\$684
one bedroom	\$856-890	\$899-\$935

Due to utilities annual inflation and state mandated budget expenses, rents would normally be expected to increase 3%. Additional increase in Schomburg

is due to the debt service (from the time it was built) that needs to be paid off. The additional increase in Chapin goes towards renovations (that has been approved by residents 2 years ago).

Social Concerns Committee

Quality of Life Survey organized by GSO, FSA, Graduate School and President's Office is currently underway. Phone interviews should be over by 04/11 and we hope to have results by May Senate Meeting.

For GSO records,

Masa Prodanovic

GSO Housing Committee Chair

GSO Social Concerns Committee Chair

