

## **February 12<sup>th</sup> Senate Meeting minutes**

February 12<sup>th</sup> senate meeting starts with 27 senators and all the executives in the meeting.

Speaker announces that if a senate meeting falls on the snow day (The day on which classes get cancelled because of snow) then the senate meeting will be automatically postponed to next Thursday and the meeting would be at the university café.

Before the agenda and minutes are approved, Dean is requested to give his welcome remarks. Dean says that he is happy that the senate meeting is in university café and he says that the university café is one of the proudest achievements of GSO.

Dean announces that some major changes are made to the tuition scholarship program. Dean says that due to the increase in the tuition fee by the New York state 2.4 million dollars of university money is used to fill the deficit in the tuition scholarship program. He says that this money should be used to hire professor and improve academics. Hence some decisions regarding the tuition scholarship are taken to avoid the support of the tuition scholarship program by university money. He adds that the tuition scholarship contracts that are already signed will not be affected by these decisions.

He says that students who come here with partial stipend will receive half tuition waiver and students without any stipend will not receive any tuition scholarship. He adds that tuition scholarship for masters' students will be limited to NY state residents only after the first semester.

Dean remarks session end after a short question and answer session.

The agenda for the meeting is accepted unanimously. Maria moves a motion to approve the minutes of December 9<sup>th</sup> senate meeting and the motion passes unanimously.

### **Budget Committee Report:**

Executives explain WUSB representative that in GSO budget money is allocated to WUSB for its subscription to Pacifica news and now it's known that the subscription is free. Representative explains that the money is a donation and they are not aware of its free subscription. Senators express concern that WUSB is being paid twice by the Undergraduate and Graduate student organizations. Motion to produce a detailed report regarding WUSB in the next senate meeting and move on to next issue is made and it passes unanimously.

Karaoke contest: Maria moves a motion to fund the event by \$900 and it passes unanimously.

Korean New Year Party: Recommendation to give \$700 by the budget committee. Motion to fund the event by giving \$700 is made and it passes unanimously.

2004 Piano Project: Recommendation by budget committee to give \$570. A motion to fund the event by giving \$570 is made and it passes by in favor 17, oppose 5 and abstain 4.

University café subsidy: Budget committee recommends re-allocation of \$2000 for university café from spring festival. It's agreed unanimously to discuss this issue in the lounge committee report, which is to taken as next item in the meeting.

A motion to conduct the upcoming election online is made by shiva and it passes unanimously.

#### Lounge Advisory Committee Report:

Lounge committee chair gives a presentation on the income and expenses of university café. Chair points out that the café may need subsidy for another semester or a year. He highlights the progress in the café services. Motion to move \$2000 from the spring fest and \$3000 from the previous year surplus to university café subsidy is made and it passes unanimously.

Motion to move on to next item and not spend time to hear comments by Karl, regarding WUSB is made by Maria and it passes unanimously.

Graduate Council Committee Report: Angeliki Field-Pollatou (President) requests the senators to give a feedback as how helpful is the curriculum in their respective departments to improve their teaching methods and eventually take-up the teaching profession.

Motion to table the discussion of senate meeting location by Kavitha to next meeting is made and it passes unanimously.

Senate unanimously approves all the new committee members appointed by Angeliki Field-Pollatou (President) unanimously.

Angeliki Field-Pollatou (President) nominates Monicca Shanthanelson as Vice President of GSO and her nomination is approved unanimously. A request asking Dean to appoint a lawyer to go over GSO constitution and suggest improvements is made by some senators.

A NYPIRG representative goes over couple of events planned for next few months.

A senator, Andi Abedini informs the senate that many people are complaining about paying \$95 infirmity fee even after paying for the health insurance.

Carl discusses some issues regarding dispute in Pacifica foundation and about WUSB airing free speech radio news.

The meeting adjourns at 8:00PM.