

October 11, 2005 Senate Meeting Minutes

Meeting starts with 23 senators, 4 executive members.

Changes to the agenda: Budget committee report goes after Speaker elections.

Agenda and September 13 minutes are unanimously approved, Andrei Antonenko, GSO president, will chair the meeting.

1) Speaker elections

Nominations: Monicca Shanthanelson, Neuroscience senator, nominates Miranda Moore, Economics senator, and Kris Baker, Marine Sciences senator. Sabyasachi Pradhan, Computer Science senator, nominates himself. Melissa Patterson, Chemistry senator, nominates Ruchi Gupta, Chemistry senator. All nominees accept. Short self-presentations follow:

Miranda said she is aware of what kind of work is involved with the Speaker position, chairing the meetings and the RCC, and that she has already chaired many committees, therefore she has the experience needed.

Sabyasachi said that he has some experience, having been also a senator last year, and would like to contribute more.

Ruchi said that although she is a senator for the first time, she has been learning by observing Andrei chairing the senate meetings and that she promises to do the job honestly. She has organized events before, both in her department and in India. Monicca asked if she knows what the Speaker position involves, Ruchi replied that she would have to give a fair chance to everyone to speak and keep the order. Kris said that he wants to be more involved in student government and he is willing to put the extra time. He said he has much experience, having been in the Budget committee last year and many committees in his department. He has been in the university for 4 years, so he knows the administration pretty well. The candidates leave the room, vote: Miranda 5, Sabyasachi 0, Ruchi 1, Kris 11.

2) Budget Committee report

Ron Willa presented the external auditors report – see relevant documentation. The general outcome was “not qualified”, which is good. We have a pretty large surplus, therefore he suggested that we do not create any more this year, as it would mean that we overcharge our members. There is a vague rule that if the activity fee is mandatory, we should not have more than a 10% surplus (GSO now has ~20%). This year is a good time to spend the surplus on something big, maybe in addition to the planned increase in RAP.

Anirban Dutta presented the final profit and loss summary of the last fiscal year – see relevant documentation.

Funding requests:

- The IGSA requests \$2000 for a party for new students. The BC recommends to the senate to give \$1330. Motion to approve this amount by Dan Woulfin, History senator, seconded by Monicca Shanthanelson, vote: 20 for, 0 against, 2 abstain, motion passes.
- The SBU Function Morphology Group requests \$352.50 for a guest lecture from biologist D.Riskin. Motion to approve this amount by Dan Woulfin, seconded by Monicca Shanthanelson, vote: 20 for, 0 against, 2 abstain, motion passes.

3) Committee Members Nominations

The Budget committee can have only 4 members in addition to the treasurer, right now there are too many. Andrei and Kris volunteer to be alternates. Andrei proposes to make Jin Zhou also an alternate, unanimously approved.

The following GSO committee members were approved (UC means with unanimous consent):

<i>Committee</i>	<i>Members</i>
Rules and Constitution Committee	Monicca Shanthanelson, Andrew Farke, Andrei Antonenko (UC)
Board of Appeals	Kristin Ericson, Dumaine Williams, Andrew Farke, Ruchi Gupta, Michele Tedesco (20 for, 0 against, 2 abstain)
GSEU Liaison Committee	Dan Woulfin, Wendy Erb (UC)

The following University committee members were approved unanimously:

Random University Committees	GSO Representative
Alcohol Revision Policy	Anirban Dutta
FSA Committees	
Board of Directors	Anirban Dutta
Retail Service	Sabyasachi Pradhan
Standing Committees of Univ. Senate	
Undergraduate Council	Paul Fodor
College of Arts and Sciences Senate	
Arts and Sciences Exec Council	Miranda Moore
Arts and Sciences Senators	Ruchi Gupta, Ilektra Christidi
Academic Judiciary	Roberta Harnett
Academic Standing and Appeals	Robert Gersch
Academic bill of rights committee	Andrei Antonenko
Committee for the study of the influence of the increased student number to the learning process	Dumaine Williams

Ramona Walls requested to be removed from the University Senate, unanimously approved.

4) SCC report

Paul Fodor presented a review of the bus committee meeting: they promised to change the routes to more convenient ones the week of October 11 the latest. Several alternative routes were proposed, and the transportation administrators wanted input from the students, which was given to them in that meeting. The changes are: the Chapin bus will go directly to the SAC, and not pass from the South P-lot anymore, to make the route shorter. There will also be a new shopping route to Meatfarms once a weekend. Monicca Shanthanelson suggested that input about the bus routes is collected from all the graduate students, not only the Chapin residents, and proposals are submitted to the administration altogether, but the rest of the grads do not really use the buses.

5) NYPIRG updates

Scott, NYPIRG's Project Coordinator, outlined the latest NYPIRG activities:

- The September 17 beach clean-up was very successful, they also collected data on bottle garbage for further environmental studies.
- They went to a hearing about a proposal for a natural gas facility that poses security and environmental threats, more on their testimony can be found online.
- Last Wednesday there were higher education hearings about the proposal of NY State to institute automatic annual tuition increases in State Universities – see relevant documentation. The State Assembly did not let NYPIRG speak in the hearing. Right now the increase affects only the undergraduates, but it is an issue that will eventually the graduates will also have to face, therefore NYPIRG urges GSO and the senators to talk to their students and fellow students and mobilize for this issue.
- The voter registration campaign is ongoing, the deadline to register is on Friday October 14.

Catherine Contino, NYPIRG's Project Coordinator, presented a resolution against the automatic annual tuition increases that many student clubs have already signed, and urged the senate to agree to sign it too. Neither the senate nor the executive committee was informed in advance about this resolution, therefore a motion was made and passed to give the power to the executive committee to review it and decide whether to sign it or not.

A motion to adjourn was made and passed by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned.