

GSO Senate – Minutes – February 12, 2008

The meeting begins with 27 Senators and 4 Executives.

1) Welcoming Remarks

President Gersch congratulated the senators and thanked them for coming.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Kate Klein (Genetics) moved to approve the agenda. It was approved unanimously.

3) Approval of November and December Meeting Minutes

Helen Jolly (Anthropology) motioned to approve the minutes. Approved unanimously.

4) Update on Pouring Rights Bid

Karol Gray, Controller and Assistant Vice President, Finance, updated the senate on the Coca-Cola agreement. Some questions were asked and Karol answered them. No contentions came up.

5) Introduction of New Employees and President Announcements

President Gersch announced the hiring of our new office manager, Arlene Barksdale, the new web master, Mark Lindsay (Linguistics), and the new PR person, Dan Woulfin (History). President Gersch also talked about the occurrences during the last two months: the resignation of the former president, Ryan Soul, and himself stepping in instead and fulfilling the role of president during the last two months.

Following that, President Gersch described the new University policies on car pooling, and the new policies of the campus police for night escorting, both issues which he was working on during the last two months. He also announced the legal clinic and seminar coming up and the tax clinic starting next week.

6) Committee Nominations

- a) *Elections Committee* – Gregory Sabino (Biochemistry), Dan Woulfin (History), and William Lahti (Computer Science) volunteered to serve on this committee, headed by the GSO Secretary, Eran Shor.
- b) *Grad Council* – Gregory Sabino (Biochemistry), Gina Sorentino (Anatomical Sciences) and Juliet Kinney (Marine Sciences) Volunteered to serve on this committee.
- c) *Ad-hoc Committee for the End of the Year Party* – Victor Rosado (GSEU Liaison) and Eran Shor (Sociology) volunteered to be on this committee.
- d) *University Senate Executive Council* – William Lahti (Computer Science) volunteered to be the GSO representative on the Council.

7) Nominations of Vice President and President

President Gersch nominated Lila Naydan (English) to Vice Presidency. Lila served in the GSO senate last year and was also the editor of the GradMag. There were no questions for her from the senate. Speaker Antonenko led a vote on the nominations and Lila was elected VP unanimously.

Following this President Gersch announced his resignation. The GSO constitution determines that when the President resigns the VP becomes the President, so President Naydan read her oath.

President Naydan now went to nominate a new VP. She nominated Louis Esparza (Sociology), the former Secretary of the GSO, who is also writing a blog on the GradMag. Louis presented himself briefly, and then the senate voted on his nomination. His appointment was approved unanimously.

8) GradMag Report

Eileen Chanza (English), the GradMag editor, presented the hard copy of the latest issue, distributed it to senators, and said a few words about the contents.

9) Stony Brook Council Report

Speaker Antonenko presented the work of the Stony Brook Council. He attended the last meeting of the Council. He brought the resolutions of the GSO to the council and reported the actions of the GSO in general.

10) Clubs registration announcement

Treasurer Longobardi presented the latest policy of club registration. Below is the memorandum from Alexandra Duggan, Director of Student Activities:

To: Robert Gersch, Interim President of GSO
Luigi Longobardi, Treasurer of GSO

From: Alexandra Duggan, Director of Student Activities

Date: January 16, 2008

Subject: GSO Club Recognition Process

As per our conversation on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, all graduate student organizations will only have to attend the following 3 workshops in order to be recognized by Student Activities:

1. How to Start a New Club
2. Programming 101
3. Publicity and Marketing

All graduate clubs/organizations DO NOT have to attend 8 workshops in wrder to be recognized by Student Activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at alduggan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or by phone at 632-7320.

Thank you

11) Internal Committee Reports

a) Budget Committee

Treasurer Longobardi presented the GSO expenditures for last month and the amounts still available on the different lines. RAP expenditures are still going slowly, but more requests will hopefully kick in during the next few months.

The senate discussed a few requests for funding of events and conferences:

- I. A representative from the Chinese Association asked for funding for the Chinese New Year Festival. She asked for \$1900 for the festival. William Lahti (Computer Science) motioned to approve the request. It was approved unanimously.
- II. Dave Roelfs (Sociology) asked for \$1600 funding from the GSO (out of a total budget of \$4800) for the 5th annual graduate student ethnography conference and a photo exhibition held by the Sociology department. Jose Colmenares (Materials Science) motioned to approve the request. It was approved unanimously.
- III. A representative from the philosophy department asked for \$2000 for the first conference of the department (out of a total of \$6,354). The funding was approved unanimously.
- IV. Representatives from the Gesture Group asked for funding for a Speaker's Series. They asked for \$1,020. Dave Roelfs (Sociology) motioned to approve the request and it was approved unanimously.
- V. A representative from the Hispanic Languages and Literature asked for \$600 for the 3rd Annual conference of the department. Kira Schuman (History) motioned to approve the request. It was approved unanimously.
- VI. A representative from LACC asked for \$1000 for traveling to Manhattan and expenses for students. The request was approved unanimously.

* Treasurer Longobardi next gave an update on a few changes that the GSO executive Council wishes to make to the budget: an extra expense for Grad Student Mixer (additional \$1000), additional budget for the GradMag (additional \$1400), a reduction in the budget to the tax clinic (\$1000 less), and adding \$1500 for a Seminar/Workshop Travel. Kate Klein (Genetics) motioned to approve the adjustment of the budget. The motion was approved unanimously.

Treasurer Longobardi also asked that the budget committee be authorized to recommend overspending. William Lahti (Computer Science) motioned to approve the request. It was approved unanimously.

Finally, Treasurer Longobardi asked to approve that Dave Roelfs (Sociology) will present instead of him during the GSO March meeting. It was unanimously approved.

b) GSELF Committee

Jose Colmenares (Materials Science) asked the senators to notify the GSELF Committee on anyone in their department that needs financial assistance. He presented suggestions for some changes in the GSELF by-laws. In accordance with the recommendation of the GSELF Committee, Mark Rice (History) motioned to approve an allocation of \$20,000 to bridge loans for a period of one year. The motion passed unanimously.

c) Rules and Constitution Committee

Speaker Antonenko asked the senate to approve a few modifications to the GSO GSO Internal Control Program (ICP). The changes were approved unanimously. Below are the changes that were approved:

Changes to 6.3.1.1 Office of Student Activities (OSA) Recognized Clubs and Organizations, p. 16

Recognition by the GSO also requires regularly conducting meetings and/or events, advertised through the GSO listserv and in various other media every semester. The club allocation will be released in one installment, no earlier than after the organization's first general meeting or event of the fiscal year. All meetings and events must be publicized through the GSO listserv/website at least three business days in advance unless guided by a separate Memorandum of Understanding.

Changes to 1 Introduction, pg. 5

The Internal Control Program (hereinafter, ICP) was originally voted into law by the GSO Senate in April 2006, but at that time it was entitled, "The Financial Bylaws." It is hereby being renamed to "Internal Control Program" in order to comply with the auditing standards. This document outlines the policies and procedures for the disbursement of the Graduate Student Organization (hereinafter, GSO) funds. The guidelines for applying for funding from the GSO can be found under the appropriate headings. Further, the guidelines and procedures for applying for short-term loans from the Graduate Student Emergency Loan Fund (GSELF) shall be included in this ICP as Appendix D.

Appendix D is added, and includes the complete GSELF Bylaws

Appendix A.5: NYPIRG MoU is added

d) GSEU Report

Victor Rosado, the GSEU Liaison presented the latest issues discussed in the GSEU and handled by the organization. We are heading for negotiations quite soon, so he urged the senators to come to the next GSEU meeting in which our position will be discussed. He also stressed the importance of attending the SUNY day at Albany.

e) NYPIRG Report

* The NYPIRG representative discussed the NYPIRG news conference in Albany today with Governor Spitzer endorsing his plan to create a \$4 billion endowment that will serve as a foundation for future improvements to New York's public higher education system. This is a \$220 million increase each year devoted solely to funding and resources for SUNY and CUNY students. More money for higher education in New York State will include more faculty and other services for all students. Cheryl Lynch, NYPIRG's chairperson and also a student at Stony Brook University spoke at this news conference expressing NYPIRG's full support and devotion to this issue. NYPIRG's Student Action Meeting is February 20th, from 12:50 to 2:10 in the Stony Brook Union basement room 036. All is welcome to come and learn more about what NYPIRG does on and off-campus.

* Treasurer Longobardi invited the senators for a beer at the University Cafe.

* Kate Klein (Genetics) motioned to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eran Shor

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:29 AM

Deleted: regularly

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:30 AM

Deleted: meetings

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:30 AM

Deleted: two equal

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:30 AM

Deleted: s

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:38 AM

Deleted: publically announced

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:30 AM

Deleted: semester

Andrei Antonenko 2/12/08 10:37 AM

Deleted: Failure to do so will result in the suspension of funds for that club. An organization wishing to obtain funding in any other manner or appeal a suspension must submit a Clubs and Organization Funding Request Override Form for approval by the BC.