



## **GSO Senate Meeting – February 9, 2010 – Minutes**

Published by M. Engel, GSO Secretary

### **1) Approved December Agenda and February Minutes**

31 Department Senators in Attendance. Absent: AMS, Hispanic Languages, Psychology

### **2) Provost Kaler Addresses the Senate (see attached ppt presentation)**

Undergraduate Tuition in Perspective - 4th from the bottom in tuition (Berkley, San Diego, Michigan). Florida State has passed 15% increase per year. SBU Out of state tuition is at the bottom - cheaper for undergrad to go to SBU than Penn State

Estimate to create 10,000 new jobs, \$8.5b in capital construction - an economic driver that will help NY State move out of the slump we are in.

400 new faculty

600 new staff

3000 new students

\$1b on west and \$1b on east campus

Education will be better, better faculty student ratios, more attention, more opportunities for community engagement. Increase attractiveness for philanthropy

Question: Affect on graduate student education - Will there be an increase in tuition waiver amount? Answer - Tuition for self paying students would go up. Tuition for medical and dental students would go up. Tuition for PhD students on grants would go up, but the grant would make up the difference.

Question: Impact on Faculty - 17,000 ->20,000 students. Answer - Undergraduate FTE:Faculty FTE ratio will get better than the average ratio for comparative universities. Individual teaching responsibilities per faculty will go down. Follow up Question - Total money coming in from tuition from undergraduates, how much will get invested in research? Answer - 6-8% tuition increase. 20% needs to be set outside for students who can't pay. Remainder will go to faculty hiring.

Question – This plan calls for up to a 10% increase in tuition. When tuition goes up, they are frequently followed by a decrease in state support. Responsibility for oversight - shifted from the state to the SUNY Board of Trustees. Answer - Dollar flows rely on state support. Further erosion of state support, SUNY will no longer be a state institution - the other side of the coin, SUNY support has to be maintained. Many public institutions are run by boards of trustees. Board appointed by the legislature, and can be removed by the legislature. Model works in many other states.

Question: PIs paying tuition out of their grants. Will PIs be required to take more money out of their grants to pay for increased tuition for grad students? Answer - Funding agencies rarely cap the amount of money you get, cap the effort. The NIH and NSF pay tuition, no questions asked. Safegaurds in case of any problems? Could there be a decrease in the level of RAs?

Question - Could money be used to increase stipends students are getting? The single best investment is increasing the amount of money we pay our graduate students.

### **3) GSO President Dylan Selterman Addresses the Senate**

What are the good parts and bad parts of this legislation (PHEEIA)? If we like it/ don't like it - what do we do about it? It seems like the majority of SUNY constituents like PHEIA. Straw poll from SUNY Faculty and student assemblies. Alot of divergence in State Legislation. Primary concern from Long Island Senators - undergraduate families from LI middle class don't want to pay more tuition. Upstate universities want economic investment. Jasper Wilon - Undergraduate Student Government President. EC is in favor of this. GSEU - Concerns, if this gets approved, state money can just fall away and constant tuition increases. Could be used for scholarship and financial aid - what will it due to middle class students here? Keep this an affordable education. Our current level of excellence can't be maintained at our level right now. We are currently getting millions of our budget cut each year. Even if state funding goes down. State wants to cut on higher education. If revenue comes more from students, and less from state - no one knows what could happen. Do departments keep their own money?? Different programs cost more to run - would the tuition for the science be more since they need more equipment? How would this affect TAs/RAs? Would TAs all become employees of SUNY now, rather than the state?

University Senate - We need people to serve on that. Most important semester to be in university senate since there are decision and votes on the table about endorsing PHEIA.

Presidents Strategic Plan - to investigate certain aspects of Stony Brook. President wants to set up his own committee on environment and energy. He wants graduate student input. Availability for reps. 1) Environment 2) Interdisciplinary Research 3) College Reorganization 5?) Globalization possibility - Committees that are going to be formed. The old committees will stay in place, and are part of university governance. They are not part of the administration. The new committees are going to have administrators on them and are for the purpose of advising the president. He wants input from us. Wants undergrads and grads on those committees.

### **4) GSO Vice President Angel Gonzalez Addresses the Senate**

Success in bowling. Lawsuit to block the building of the hotel. John Robertson requested a meeting with Sam Stanley. Lawsuit is stopping construction and building. Faculty and legislators are suing the university to stop construction. Campus environment committee is not against building the hotel. Were hoping there was more of a dialogue. They want to talk about environmental concerns before things get torn down.

Recent Faculty Survey - libraries, research - massive faculty service. 120 results from School of Medicine. Interdisciplinary Research was all over their responses.

#### **5) GSO Treasurer Chris Young Addresses the Senate**

Hired new Tax Service. Got rid of H&R Block.

#### **Budget Requests**

- Stony Brooklyn Presents Concert, Proposed concert, \$1500, APPROVED.
- Graduate English Society Event requested \$350 amended to \$250, APPROVED.
- Behavioral Ecology Group Invited speaker in Feb., \$830, APPROVED.
- SoMAS – Invited March Lecture Series, \$1450, APPROVED.
- Linguistic Society, March invited Dr. Michael, \$750, APPROVED.
- Chinese Student Association, Spring Festival 2010, February 12<sup>th</sup>, \$1800, APPROVED.
- Women’s Studies Conference, Third Annual WaGS Conference in March, received \$1550 outside support, Requested \$635, APPROVED.
- Ethnography Conference, April 30th, 9am-5pm. Received \$3000 from Sociology. Requested \$1180, APPROVED.
- Art Department, Invited Speaker Event, Honorarium was amended to \$250 and APPROVED.
- Art History Criticism, March 8th, 17th and 23rd. \$350 for each of the 3 speakers. \$1050, APPROVED.
- HERA Club, March invited Speaker, \$400, APPROVED.
- SARA - Schomburg Apartment Resident Assistants. Feb. 14th - \$200, APPROVED.
- CARA recycling series speaker event. Requested \$450, amended to \$280, APPROVED.
- SARA Valentine’s Day Event. Feb 15th, 8pm Advice from veteran singles. - \$200, APPROVED.
- Schomburg Movie Club - 10 movie nights throughout the semester. \$50/night - \$500, APPROVED.
- Bowling Night - 12 lanes at Port Jeff Bowl. February 2010. Next year we will have our own line for our own events. \$719, APPROVED.

#### **6) GSEU Update – Derek McGrath**

Ballot to approve or disapprove the contract. Frequently Asked Issues - 3% raise compounded on a 3% raise. Only current TAs will get their stipends increase. Limited retroactivity. If you were a TA/GA during that period you will get retroactive payment. Pro-rated according to how much time you were a TA/GA. If you are an RA now, do you still get the lump sum or no? 1) Retroactive Raises 2) Retroactive Fees - 1) SB Student 2) Must have been a TA or GA during the contract 3) Must be a TA/GA/or RA currently - will get retroactive raises during the summer. RAs included in CWA 1104, that's why you

get retroactive payments. Ballots mailed out Feb 8th/9th should be receiving in the mail. Feb 25th deadline to vote on contract. Majority of TAs need to approve this.

**7) RA Union Update – Clint Young**

Implementing the structure of the Union. Psych, SoMAS division coordinators. Is anyone interested in being a division coordinator? [www.sbraunion.org](http://www.sbraunion.org) - has new layout, can see times of upcoming meetings. Videos, blog from councilman. Bargaining - Journalism  
RAs got converted to RAs. RF should cover all fees. RAs should get minimum of 20k.  
Next open meeting is February 23rd. Come with questions.