

GSO Senate Meeting – October 5, 2010 – Minutes

I. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Paola Espinosa, GSO Speaker

- Forty-six senators present.

II. Speaker's oath and Statement of Fiduciary Responsibility

- Paola Espinosa took the oath of office (found in the Internal Control Program) and signed the statement of fiduciary responsibility before the Senate.

III. Approval of Agenda and May & September 2010 Meeting Minutes

- Unanimous consent. Agenda and minutes approved.

IV. President's Report

- Thanked everyone for their participation in student governance. All University-wide committees have been filled, and President has received positive feedback from university administrators.
- In collaboration with the Graduate School, the GSO is working to sponsor a travel award, RAP for Excellence, which would fund graduate student travel to prestigious conferences. We will need the help of graduate students to implement and carry out this scholarship.
- The Faculty Student Association (FSA) provides \$60k in scholarships annually to undergraduates, but currently none are available for graduate students. Senators Stalin F. Mafla-Trujillo, Mudit Aggarwal, Andrés Estefane, and Sharonah Fredricko volunteered to work with President Enciso on a FSA graduate student scholarship proposal.
- Reports from University-wide governance:
 - Executive Committee of University Senate passed a resolution endorsing the closure of Stony Brook Southampton (Enciso abstained from voting, because he had not heard from the GSO Senate on this issue).
 - SUNY Albany announced the effective closure of five departments this week (French, Italian, Russian, Theater, and Classics). After consulting with the administration, similar procedures could happen at SBU and within the graduate programs.
 - Enciso would like to hold a Congress on the State of Public Higher Education in the spring semester. This is a major project that will require the help of GSO Senators and graduate students, in order to be successful.

V. Vice President's Report

- Currently working to improve the efficiency of International Student Services.
- Will meet with Barbara Chernow, VP for Facilities, to address safety concerns between North Entrance and Stony Brook LIRR Station (would like to see speed bump or stop sign added).
- Planning to have a GSO Bowling Night scheduled later this month.

VI. Baine Consultant Representative will address the Senate

- Baine declined our invitation to engage graduate students in the ongoing process of improving services at the university (Project 50 Forward).

VII. Rules and Constitution Committee Report

- Constitutional amendments:
 - Section A: Duties and Powers of the GSO Senate
 - “A quorum shall consist of 25% of the total number of active GSO senators, or 8 active senators, whichever is greater.” Twenty-nine senators in favor. Amendment does not pass.
 - Section B: Standing Committees
 - “The RA Union Liaison Committee shall have a minimum of three members. It shall be responsible for serving as a communication bridge between the RA Union and the GSO.” Thirty-nine senators in favor. Amendment passes.
 - Article X: Communication
 - Section A. “The GSO will communicate to all senate members through a listserv. Any GSO member who *wants* to be included in the *listserv* should send a request to the secretary and they will be included for the duration of the academic year.” Thirty-five senators in favor. Amendment passes.
- Board of Appeals
 - Article III: Appeal Procedure
 - “If the appeal pertains to a conflict of interest, as considered in the Robert's Rules of Order (Article 45 Chapter XII), a written request should be supported via signature by 25% of active senators or 8 active senators, whichever is greater, and submitted to the chair of the Board of Appeals.” Twenty-one in favor, 14 opposed, motion passes.
- Standing Committee Bylaws
 - Section I: RA Union Liaison Committee
 - “1. As noted in the Constitution, the RA Union Liaison Committee shall have a minimum of three members. It shall be responsible for serving as a communication bridge between the RA Union and the GSO.
 - 2. The committee chair shall make sure that at least one RA Union campus officer is invited to every liaison committee meeting, if is not already a member of the committee. The committee is also expected to follow RA Union activities by attending RA Union monthly meetings, and by reporting to the GSO senate.” Motion passes unanimously.
- Special Committee
 - THE GSO PRESENTS
 - "THE GSO PRESENTS shall consist of at least three GSO members. This committee shall oversee programming and entertainment at the Graduate Student Lounge as well as any programming that uses audio and/or visual reinforcement equipment owned, rented, or borrowed by the GSO. At least

once every semester, the committee shall present a detailed report to the Senate describing the status of the Lounge, the status of programming, and any future plans." Motion passes unanimously.

VIII. Committee Nominations

- Deanna Seid nominated to Social Concerns Committee and Academic College. Kai Wu nominated to Student Life Council. Elizabeth Sklute nominated to Rules and Revision Committee. Bill Wenzel nominated as Chair of THE GSO PRESENTS, and Denise Fillion, Deanna Seid, and Dan Woulfin nominated as members. Adam Jacobs nominated to RA Liaison Committee. Froylan Enciso nominated to FSA Committee and Denise Fillion nominated as alternate representative. Chris Young nominated to Meal Plan committee. Nominations pass.

IX. Student Welfare Committee Report (Andrés Estefane)

- There have been talks that fees will be raised to levels on par with SUNY Buffalo. Will request a meeting with Karol Grey, VP of Finance, to get more information and report at the next senate meeting. Buffalo clearly outlines how their fees are allocated and have a consultation process. Contrastingly, fee increases here at SBU are less transparent. If SBU would like to increase fees to the levels of Buffalo, we would like to have the same levels of transparency as Buffalo.

X. THE GSO PRESENTS Report (Bill Wenzel)

- Concert this Thursday at the UCafe at 8:00 p.m. Interested in starting a game-night on Thursdays (when there isn't a concert), Jazz Nights on Wednesdays, concerts on Thursdays and Karaoke on Fridays.

XI. GSEU Liaison Committee Report (Mudit Aggarwal)

- Rally on Thursday at noon outside of SB Union. Please call your senators to pass Senate Bill S4077, a.k.a. GSEU pay-bill.

XII. RA Liaison Committee Report (Adam Jacobs)

- Recent negotiations have doubled dental coverage, and raised minimum salary to \$21,500. Negotiating to receive same fee waivers as TAs, a bridge-fund to support students temporarily that lose funding. Next meeting on October 21st. More info at: www.sbraunion.org

XIII. Southampton Resolution

- Introduced by Deborah Klughers, from SoMAS. Graduate student from philosophy noted that projected student enrollment nearly doubled for the fall of this year. Senator Esam Al-Shareffi motions to postpone discussion till next meeting. Motion passes.

XIV. Budget Committee Report

- Funding Requests
 - Chapin Apartment Resident Association (CARA): requesting to funds from the

- 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host Halloween Party on Saturday, October 13th. Funding requested for food, pumpkins, and decorations in total of \$530. Motion to approve for \$200. General consent.
- Art Dept.: requesting funds from the 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host La Unidad Latina, on Friday, October 8th. Requesting \$500 in total. General consent.
 - MFA Dept.: requesting funds from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host an artist lecture. Have secured \$250 from Art and Hispanic Languages Depts. and requesting \$375 in total. General consent.
 - Global China Connection: requesting funds from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host a speaker event and Career Center event geared toward helping graduate students find jobs. Requesting \$710 in total. There was discussion on the nature of the organization. The person requesting funds was an undergraduate. General consent.
 - Linguistics Dept.: requesting funds from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host a conference at SBU. Requesting \$564.90 in total. General consent.
 - Linguistics Dept.: requesting funds to plant memorial tree outside of SBS building in memory of Irina Tarabac, a Linguistics Ph.D. student and accomplished scholar that passed away in 2007 of breast cancer. Original request for \$531.34. Senator Charilaos Papadopoulos motions to approve up to \$1000, on condition that they conduct their planned fundraiser. General consent.
 - Graduate Chemical Society: requesting funds from 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host Halloween Party on October 29th. Requesting \$600 for pies, refreshments, prizes, and decorations. General consent.
 - Music Dept.: requesting funds from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host a SB Grad Music Symposium. Requesting \$1,200 for honorarium, speaker travel, refreshments, publicity, and miscellaneous expenses. General consent.
 - Trivia Night: Matt Bezdek requesting funds from 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host 4 trivia events on Thursdays. Each night costs \$150, for a total of \$600. Requesting \$300 from GSO (\$300 coming from FSA). General consent.
 - THE GSO PRESENTS: requesting \$1,000 to repair music/sound equipment that belongs to FSA. In return, FSA will donate \$7,000 worth of gear. General Consent.

XV. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Al Herrera-Alcazar, GSO Secretary.