

GSO Senate Meeting- October 11th-Minutes

- I. The oath of The Speaker – Catherine Salussolia
- II. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Catherine Salussolia
 - Thirty-seven senators present.
- III. Approval of Agenda and September Senate Meeting Minutes
 - Unanimous consent. Agenda and minutes approved.
- IV. The Associate Dean and Director of Student Life – Dr. Susan Dimonda’s report concerning the New Recreation Center
 - The New Recreation Center is expected to be opened next to the Student Union in fall 2012.
 - A \$75 fee per semester will be required to finance the costs of the recreation center and only Stony Brook University students will have permission to use it. Although this \$75 fee was voted for undergraduate students, no fee has been established for grad students yet. The graduate students’ fee can be paid in two ways: A fixed fee per semester or an individual basis with plans to be announced in the future. We will vote on these two options.
 - The report by Dr. Susan Dimonda provides detailed information about the plan of the New Recreation Center.
- V. Reports for TLT, Technology Fee and Wireless Network Upgrades by the Assistant Provost and Executive Director of Teaching, Learning and Technology: Dr. Graham Glynn and The Director of Networking: James Hart
 - The Technology fee was initially planned to be increased by 35% but then this rate was lowered.
 - They are purchasing a device to accommodate the increasing demand for internet usage by the students.
 - New access points are being added to campus buildings like the resident halls and Kelly Quad. This way we can just walk around the buildings without losing signals.
- VI. President’s Report

- PhD movie night was a success with 400 attendees
- Meeting with Lawrence Martin regarding the GSELF and how we need to rework the procedural problems that it faces.
- The SSC situation
- Meetings with the CIO Chris Kielt and the new Provost Dennis N. Assanis
- FSA Elections
- Cooperation with the president of the USG to combine resources such as tax clinic

VII. Vice President's Report

VIII. The Speaker: Catherine Salussolia

- New committees were reported to the Stony Brook University council.

IX. Suggested Amendments for RCC

- Updating Standing Committee Bylaws to reflect changes noted in February 2011 minutes-Amendment approved unanimously (37-0-0)

After the Amendment:

Section J: Committee on Academic Affairs

1. As noted in the Constitution, the CAA shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate and shall include a minimum of three other GSO members.
2. The committee will meet to make recommendations regarding any proposed changes that could affect the academic progress of graduate students. If said changes involve a particular department, the committee shall invite the senator(s) of that department to participate and provide recommendations on behalf of the GSO.
3. The committee shall also serve as an official liaison between GSO and the University Council.
4. The committee shall invite three faculty members to review the applications for the Distinguished Travel Award, according to the guidelines in the application.

- Updating the Internal Control Program-Amendment approved unanimously (37-0-0)

After the Amendment:

6.3.5.1 The Distinguished Travel Award

A. Is a special line of funding designated to support graduate students, who present their work at prestigious conferences, performances and professional meetings that will contribute to and build the national and international reputation of their departments and the University.

B. The application call will be issued twice a year- typically, during the first week of each semester- and will be forwarded to all the departments represented by a GSO Senator. The application will require the following documents:

a. A written statement of no more than 500 words on the scientific or artistic contribution of the presentation, its impact in the national and international discussion of his/her area of specialty, and the significance of the event.

b. An invitation or acceptance letter to the event. This requirement will be waived for conferences taking place between the call for applications and the first day of classes of the Spring semester (Fall applications) or June 30 (Spring applications). In such cases, an invitation or acceptance letter shall be a requirement for the reimbursement.

c. A letter of recommendation from the student's advisor, stating the student's contribution and impact on the field or discipline.

C. Every department can nominate two students for each academic year. However, additional nominations based on merit will be considered by the Committee of Academic Affairs in extraordinary circumstances. TA letter of support is required from the Graduate Program Director.

D. The applications will be reviewed, and evaluated by the Committee on Academic Affairs and three invited faculty members.

E. All funds will be reimbursed following the same guidelines as for RAP (6.3.2.).

3F. The student may receive the Distinguished Travel Award only once during his/her academic career. Further, the student is not eligible for RAP funding for the same conference.

- Changes to the ICP relating to the Budget Committee/Allocation of Funds-Amendment approved unanimously (37-0-0)

After the Amendment:

A. 6.3.2 General Cultural and Social Events

H. If approved by the Senate, the money allocated for an event will be released only after the GSO Treasurer receives the following documentation.

- i. Original receipts of the expenses for the event. Expenses for which receipts are not available will not be reimbursed. All documentation must be in English in order to receive reimbursement.
- ii. A summary evaluation of the event that includes a narrative description of the event, the total number of people in attendance, the number of graduate students in attendance, the actual costs and the original W-9's for the people who are receiving reimbursement for their services.

K. No budget request may allocate more than \$300 toward the purchase of food.

L. No single prize or giveaway item may exceed \$25. No budget request may be allocated more than \$100 towards the purchase of prizes or giveaway items.

B. 3 Disbursement of GSO Funds

The following section was added:

H. GSO funds allocated for events from the General Cultural and Social Events, Speaker Series and Conferences, EPIC lines, as well as, Club Allocations, or Departmental Allocations may not be used in the form of donations to or compensation for organizations such as, but not limited to charities, spiritual/religious institutions, and/or foundations.

- Updated forms-Approved unanimously (37-0-0)

The following forms were updated to reflect changes in the ICP and Budget approved in May 2011: Club Allocation, Departmental Allocation, and Recreation.

x. Vote on Shared Service Center Resolution

- SSCR approved.

xi. Budget Committee Report

xii. Meeting adjourned.

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Selin Gonen, GSO Secretary.