



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting
Minutes
April 8, 2020
Zoom Meeting @ 5-7p.m.**

[Speaker] Wonderful. So hello, everyone. I'm Michael Lenmark, speaker of the GSO Senate. I hope everyone is doing the best they can in these kinds of circumstances. So everyone should have received the agenda from Jose. We are a little bit behind already, but we'll try to correct that as we go along so...call-of-order. So the first motion at hand is to approve the agenda. I will try to speak up. Sorry. So the first motion is to adopt the agenda. Do we have a vote for that? Rather, I will say said did you may have an issue with the agenda? Otherwise I will proceed.

[Secretary] So for this first motion, if senators could just say their department and then move to start the meeting, that would suffice.

[Senator] Ok, I'm Val. I'm from the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Department and I move to proceed.

[Speaker] All right. So. So do we have a second? Please go ahead and speak. Thank you very much.

[Senator] [Psychology], yes.

[Speaker] OK. So the agenda is adopted. Do we have a motion to approve the minutes from the previous previous Senate meeting. OK. All right. Chikako just typed in motion for approval. We have a seconder, thank you very much. So that takes care of our housekeeping on the Senate side. So now I'd like to turn over to our first guest speaker, who I believe is that she is Marisa Bisiani from Student Health, Wellness and Prevention.

[Gatteau] And I had sent you all the PowerPoint. Are you good, you want to bring that up or.

[Secretary] Yeah, I have the powerpoint and I can share screen.

[Bisiani] Ha! There it is.

[Secretary] All right, then.

[Bisiani] Okay. So you're going to have control of the pointer, I guess. So can you bring me to. I guess it's the third slide. Oh, thank you. All right. We'll start right there. We'll start over there. Rick, do you want to do a little intro or do you want me to start my presentation?

[Gatteau] No, it's fine. Feel free to start. I know everyone's got copy in advance, though.

[Bisiani] OK. Great. So welcome, everyone. So my name's Marisa Bisiani. And for those who don't know me, I am the assistant vice president for Student Health, Wellness and Prevention Services within the Division of Student Affairs. So I'm going to talk to today about the health and counselling fee, which supports caps in health services and Center for Prevention and Outreach. You go to the next slide. So this provides the funding for our medical, mental and preventative health services. And I want to talk to you about who we actually staff. So we staff licensed clinical professionals in, again, studio services, counseling and CPR. They are psychiatrist, physicians, social workers, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists and pharmacists. And just to give you some reminders, students are able to walk in. They're seen promptly. They're evaluated at the time of visit, and they're determined to what type of acuity and how, you know, what level of acuity it is. Medical services, behavioral services, they work proactively to support mental and physical health of all or undergrad and graduate students. And mental health needs of undergraduate and graduate students, they're actually on the rise nationally as well within Stony Brook. So we're going to talk a little bit about that today. Next slide. So we have a pool onsite pharmacy with laboratory services in our building over at one stadium road. We have an international travel clinic for consultation and vaccination fleet free influenza vaccinations. We have our suicide and sexual assault prevention programs such as our QPR and Green Dot trainings, 24/7 access to our survivor advocate, if a student is sexually assaulted, alcohol and other drug prevention programming and education such as our Red Watchband, which is very popular across campus, we actually have a free self-help counter where we have commonly over-the-counter medications. We give them completely free of cost to students. They can come into our first floor building over one stadium road. Again, they're in limited quantities, but we have acetaminophen, which is Tylenol, Advil, ibuprofen, Sudafed. We have some Claritin, just things that you could get over the counter so that students don't have to be, you know, struggling, trying to get off campus to find a local CVS. So if they're not feeling well and they don't have time to be seen by a provider, they can actually do some of these self-help measures until the time that they can be seen. We offer individual and group counseling services, stress reduction activities. We've mental health screenings. We've our pet-away stress program, which is our dogs that we have across campus. I'm sure you've seen them very popular healing arts and our mindfulness meditation programs.

Again, some other things we provide. I know I could probably go on all day. We have no costs confidential sexually transmitted infection testing. This is really important. When we actually looked at our Web pages, we found that this is one of the actually most clicked items. We have our prep HIV prophylaxis for medication prophylaxis prior to

engaging in high risk encounters, which is what the case manager since we have that free consultation dietician on site. Again, free consultation. We actually collaborate with student nurse practitioners. They offer free screenings and referrals to resources on campus. This is actually done over at recreation and wellness. So we are very strategic in how we place our resources across campus. So they're not always at one stadium road. And again, looking at our 24/7 resources, because we've recognized that, you know, we're not always open 24/7. So we need to provide those services after hours. So we've our caps after hours counseling support line that's again staffed with a licensed counselor and our medical advice line, which is staff with a registered nurse. Next slide.

So, again, you know, we are always looking. I just want to stress our mission is to always look how do we expand our services across campus. So we are looking to increase our access to care. We've expanded to all different locations across campus. We expanded our hours of availability to our onsite services, plus hour after hour supports. Again, looking at those 24/7 medical advice lines, we've been very flexible with our hours in student health services. So when we know that our peak hours are happening, we have been able to open on weekends and at sometimes even seven days a week when we've had to do that to support our students on campus. Influenza surveillance programs. And we have our risk reduction programming, including education provided to the campus community. Again, the novel Influenza Strains to do that on site hours. We've pushed out to the Southhampton campus. We've done the flu pods, increase offerings of the animal assisted therapy bystander prevention program. We've done a lot of virtual platforms. Our telemedicine or tele counseling platforms or Let's talk programs. That again is where you could talk with a counselor outside of one stadium road. So you don't have to steal any type of stigma. We've done that. We've expanded it to the LGBTQ center, our veterans athletics and our library. And again, we have a new family planning benefit program, which is also located over a recreation and wellness. Next slide.

So I wanted to talk a little bit about what's happening nationally with mental health, because I think it's important. So this is what, again, is happening nationally, but not within Stony Brook. So we always look at what's happening survey wide. So there's just one survey that's done to the American College Health Association. And this is some stats that we're holding in 2019. And they looked at just colleges across the nation. And when they pulled some questionnaires, they saw that 87 percent of college students have felt overwhelmed by everything that they've had to do. Sixty six percent said it felt overwhelming anxiety. Fifty six percent felt that things were hopeless. 13 percent seriously considered possibly hurting themselves. One out of three students screened positive for a current mental health concern or have been diagnosed or treated for a mental health concern in the last 12 months. Forty percent of students nationally report have had some feelings of previous thoughts of possibly wanting to hurt themselves. So this is concerning. And again, this is not within Stonybrook, but this is nationally of what's happening. Next slide.

So I want to talk to you about what's happening within Stony Brook. So within Stony Brook, when we look at our data for the students that we're seeing, we have a forty five

percent increase in our unique student visits to CAPS. I just wanted to see what unique student visits are. So that's counting one student visit per person. So if a student came five times, we're not going to count that visit. We're going to just count it for once. Ten percent increase in unique student visits over the past year, 11 percent in our total student visits over the past year. And our stone total student visits to caps and fall in 2018 was seven thousand ninety-four. In 2019, Seven thousand nine hundred five. And our trends are matching what's happening nationally. And we're seeing an increase in suicidal ideation as well. In our next slide...

[Gatteau] Marisa I just want to point out, I know the students have already seen this data slide. I think you can probably just do a quick highlight because they want us to stay within the five minutes.

[Bisiani] Sure. OK. So, again, this slide just shows you how our data and you can see that over a period of time looking at our fall, we are consistently going up. We are seeing more and more students. And that's not changing. Again, next slide. So how are we managing this? We are hiring more counselors. We are expanding our services. We are stretching or pulling. We are really being very strategic. We've been very innovative. We're hiring more case managers. We're thinking about how do we do business differently? How can we utilize our resources, be more efficient and expand what we do and what we have. Next slide.

So I want to talk because even though we're adding more counselors, we need to add even more because it's not meeting the demands of what's happening nationally and what's happening within Stony Brook. We have our student health advisory committee. We meet every month. They've been very supportive. They've seen the slides. They've seen the data. They're supportive of a \$17 increase per semester. This increase is going to help us add three additional staff members and it's going to help us increase the counseling and psychiatric support to our undergrad and graduate community. Quickly, I want to show you this. I think it's important you see it. This is the expenditures of how we're spending our money. The blue and the orange is our personnel and our fringe. So this goes back to my first slide in showing you that we employ licensed health care personnel. They are not cheap. They are very expensive personnel. But you have no choice when you're managing health and behavior, health and medical. So the cost of doing business to just sustain operations is literally where the fee is going. And that's why we're going to be using this fee to add more staff. And I think that's about it.

[Secretary] Thanks, Marissa. I just wanted to tell the next departments that because senators were sent these this PowerPoint presentation previously and they have gone through all of that data. If you could limit your presentation to what the fee increase is proposed for next year. And then the reasons or like Marisa just said, what will that increase go into for the next fiscal year.

[Bisiani] Okay. Sorry, guys, I'm a talker.

[Secretary] And we will hold questions after all presentations are made from departments.

[Speaker] All right. Sounds good. So thank you, Marisa, for that. Next up, we have Patricia Aceves from the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching.

[Martin Tessler] I'm actually going to go, well, the transportation fee is next. I think Technology is after that. I'll be up. Martin will be doing the technology presentation just so you know.

[Neil Werner] Can everybody hear me alright. Hello. I guess we can hear. Yeah. Look, I'm sorry. Yeah, I'm on I'm on a phone. I wasn't able to get on on the pc. So rather than go through the slide presentation, I'll just summarize what the broad based fee will pay for. And next year, what we're looking to do, of course, is update our outdated transportation fleet. Currently, we've purchased nine new buses. We have a fleet of 30 and the average lifespan of a bus is about eight years for diesel vehicle. In addition to the buses, we have five shuttles and we have five ADA vehicles. Of 10 of those vehicles, five shuttles and the five ADA vehicles. They are in need of replacement. We currently have two of each that are permanently out of service. And from our bus fleet we have I believe we have nine. So we're looking to get another twenty one vehicles over the course of time. The increase in fee built in from last year allowed us to buy six buses. And the direction that the department is going in is to electrify the service. And we're looking to build the infrastructure for electric buses this coming year and in future years replace our outdated diesels with electric vehicles. Currently with state and federal rebates, they are approximately six hundred and twenty five thousand dollars a piece. Their lifespan is twice that of a diesel powered bus. The I'll say the fuel economy even though that they run on electric is equivalent to 25 miles per gallon, which is in contrast to all our current buses, which actually achieve about five miles to the gallon. So the direction of the state and the university is move to move to a more fuel efficient vehicle, a clean energy vehicle, and something that has a longer lifespan is more reliable. That's a summary really of what our expenditures will go for. I don't I don't think I need to go over what we've paid for in the past. I know that you're probably aware of our new transit app that was purchased this year, some improvements to bike share. And I'm sure everybody's familiar with our service already.

[Secretary] Just a quick question in the PowerPoint slide you mention and a fee increase of sixty five dollars. Is that per semester or per year?

[Werner] Per year. Actually, for next year. Yes. As far as future expenses and purchases, that's really a summary of what the department is moving towards.

[Speaker] All right. OK. Thank you so much. So doing what you said, it will be Martin Tessler from technology presenting on technology fee.

[Tessler] Yep. Charlie and I'll probably just talk back and forth. I'm not going to go to the slides and I think it's better off for Charlie and I just shoot straight at you guys and say a

lot of what our increased spend is going to be based on. As we've talked about this in the past, in the past meetings that we've had with you guys as Internet security and just security in general. I guess I do sort of point to one of the slides are we do have statistics on just utilization of Wi-Fi and security alerts and all that type of stuff that has gone up exponentially year over year. And our targeted spend will focus on online security and just I.T. security in general. That is a big portion of what our increase is going towards. Charlie, I don't know if you want to tack on more to that.

[Charlie McMahon] I think that that's pretty fair. The other thing I would mention is that we in technology, every support contract we have has regular fee increases from our manufacturers, from our vendor partners. That's another part of this. We usually see 15 to 18 percent increases built in to our smaller contracts or larger contracts. We usually negotiate more like three to five percent. But those increases happen every year.

[Tessler] And the 3 to 5 percent thing is something that you see across a lot of vendors. Usually what they call CPI or cost of living increases that they that they put into their contracts. It's standard across all companies, universities, you name it. That's typically how with their methodology is.

[McMahon] Yeah, I did see a message flash across the chat about, you know, do we pay \$20000 a year for these vendors? We have many of our vendor contracts that are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. You know, so. They range from small contracts in the 20000 range to do well over a hundred thousand dollars for many of them.

[Secretary] Can any of you quickly remind us, fled the increase proposed is per semester or per year?

[Tessler] 14 percent.

[Secretary] Do you have the dollar amount?

[Tessler] I think it's in the powerpoint. I don't have the PowerPoint in front of me. Do you have the PowerPoint up?

[Secretary] \$53.51 per semester.

[Tessler] There you go.

[McMahon] That sounds right. Yeah. So if you just a little history on that, we have historically had the lowest tech fee of all of the SUNY centers. And so three years ago we had gone to SUNY and gotten permission over a three year period to increase our our tech fee to be in line with what the other three SUNY centers are doing. This is the last year of a major increase. And after this, we are we are seeing minor increases going forward.

[Speaker] All right, so thank you for that. Anything more for y'all to add at this time?

[McMahon] We'll just take questions.

[Speaker] All right. So before that, we have one more presentation. So this will be regarding the Career Center and Alumni Association fees, just as a note to senators. These these are bundled together for their one fee. So I will hand it over to Marianna Savoca from the career center.

[Savoca] So hi, everyone, and thank you for your time and attention. I acknowledge that you've seen the slide deck, so I'm just going to summarize what we're doing. Matthew Colson could not be on the call with me today. He is deep in activities with the Alumni community, trying to raise funds and various gift in-kind donations for the hospital for this unbelievable situation. So this is a fee that we are proposing to all students. We've met with the undergraduate student government as well. And it is about alumni and career development over your lifetime. So the services that you were getting as students will continue throughout your lifetime. For those of you who were in this organization last year, you may remember that we created a presentation and a proposal for such a fee. Last year, students overwhelmingly felt that was a good investment for students, for yourselves now and for your future. I've pointed out last time, but also evident in the slides, you will have seen the increase in career development activity, the increase in job listings. And also you would have seen the fact that I've got to raise about half my spend every year from companies, which is also worrisome. What I want to focus on, however, is the amount and then what it's going to fund in the coming year. And the amount we are asking for is twelve dollars and fifty cents per semester. That is on slide I think it's 14 of my deck that is less than similar fees at other regional campuses. So in fact what we are presenting is a joint effort between. So it's keep going back. Keep going back. There it is. So what we are presenting here is one fee that the alumni office and the career center are going to share and maximize the networks and the contacts, the relationships and the skills that we all have to support to in the most affordable way possible.

So Binghamton, for example, has two separate fees to fees, twice as much more than this. Albany has a \$60 fee just for its alumni. So just to make that clear, if you want to go down to the funding priorities, if you don't mind Jose or whoever's driving. So this is what we were looking to do before the pandemic, right? We believed that. And we still believe, frankly, that human resources are the most frankly, they are the most expensive. But we're going to supplement those with paid student employees. So I have I have a number of career coaches that are graduate students who are being trained for this work. We'd like to increase that. We'd like to increase the staff available to support all of you, whether you are interested in academic careers or other than academic careers. I really don't like the term old act. I have to tell you, I don't think it's it's less than I think an industry career is just as valuable for a graduate student if that's something you're looking for. And then we are looking to supplement the human resources with both programming and networking solutions, as well as technologies that can support the work that we do. So certainly not to replace what we do, but to support what we do. Matt would also add there's a bullet under technology solutions that that was his add

that he has shared previously that alumni have been asking for a long time for online access after they graduate to the Stony Brook libraries. So I'm going to stop there. And I'm going to be open for questions.

[Speaker] All right. Thank you, Marianna. All right, so before we enter the general Q and A, I have on the agenda a presentation from Alec Cali who will be discussing a general response to the proposed fee increases. So, Alec?

[Senator] Before I get into it. Can you guys hear me? Yes, yes. OK. My microphone is always a little finicky. So. Overall, the GSO is just generally opposed to fee increases, so we're just going to start because we got the slides early from the beginning. According to Slide 2, it's claimed that SBU has one of the lowest tuition fee rates of any of its peer institutions. The GSO wants to clarify that this is just misleading for two main reasons. One, SBU has one of the highest fee rates among its peer institutions. This holds true with Slide 3. When we break it out nationally and within slide two. Some peer institutions that the administration is comparing itself to even generously waive tuition and fees as part of their stipend packages for PhD students, which the university does not do, many students on stipends at Stony Brook University make approximately 60 percent of the net minimum living wage as calculated by M.I.T. Before having to pay these mandatory fees, which Masters and international students typically have to pay even more in fees and just general living and tuition costs. And there's an even larger financial burden for these students all around. Students of all degree tracks typically rely on side jobs and missed meals and poor living conditions to get by. Because of this very low living wage. And in these slides that have been presented to us, the university fails to mention that its high level administration salaries, so people who are in the position of Dean and above make about thirteen and a half percent of the yearly salary expenditure for the universe, which is roughly, approximately what the university pays out for all of its researchers. This apes, what other universities of this peer group pay out for high level administrative salaries of about 8.6 percent. And as we keep seeing year over year, student fees continue to rise and as salaries for high level administrators keep skyrocketing.

And our first response is why are graduate students consistently burdened with some of the highest mandatory fees among our peer institutions. While the administration benefits from the highest pay. And I will briefly mention... This increases for specific fees because we have these in the slides and we went over these for the past half hour, just so we kind of get a sense of this. We're increasing health student health service fee by 18.7 percent. The transportation fee by 30 percent. The technology fee by 14 percent.

We would like a report for why the administration is increasing the health service fee, when every student is required to have health insurance and could bill our health insurance for the services that are typically covered by our insurance companies. Most of the services that you are saying are freely provided by CAPS are typically covered as some sort of payment by the insurance.

[Bisiani] Do you want me to address that now?

[Senator] No, we can wait for the Q&A. Many of the fees, technology fee, are typically proposed for running a university and additionally, most of the transportation fee that is being addressed by this increase is part of running a university. This should not be considered a luxury service that students would be paying for. We would also like to know how much of this new budget increase will be going to the rearrange spending that's going to be coming towards the COVID crisis. And what's going to be going on. So as was kind of hinted at in this presentation, spending difficulties are going to be coming around and new priorities are going to come about in the health center, technology and transportation, as well as decreases in certain spending. Maybe some of the fees might not even have to go up this much. Maybe some of the fees for the semester could have been reimbursed. And the GSO would be very interested in either having a reimbursement put out or having fee waivers put out in later semesters. And additionally, based on the COVID crisis, why are such large increases being proposed when so many students are going to be facing family difficulties and financial strains based on the economic crisis that we're starting to see unfold? There's a lot of jobs being lost among our own grad students and among their families. So why are we increasing the financial burden for many of these students who have to be paying mandatory fees?

[Speaker] Yes. Thank you, Alex. So I think Marissa had a response.

[Bisiani] Oh, yeah. I could start. How much time do I have?

[Speaker] So maybe we get to meet five, 10 minutes for if any of the administrative representatives have something to say that was a response to Alec. And then we can transition into the general Q&A.

[Bisiani] Sure. I mean, what I'd like to do is I'd like to respond and then give you a moment to process what I'm going to tell you, because I think part of my responses, I need to do some education and I don't say that disrespectfully, but I need to do that backed up by my twenty five years of health care experience and working and managing actually health insurance plans. So I feel very comfortable in responding, especially about the health insurance.

So I've actually explored that. So when you have entities that are in outpatient care and they bill health insurance, they do that to make a profit. They do that because their revenue producing. We are not revenue producing. We are out to provide quality care. At no cost to us, meaning that we are not. Producing money, we are not looking to line our pockets. We are looking to provide unlimited. And let me stress that unlimited services to our student body. And that's when I said unique visits. It doesn't matter if you come in five, six, seven, eight, twenty times to Health Services. There's a rumor in caps around campus that says you're limited to 10 sessions. I have students that have stood with caps for four years. I have students that have such medical and behavior health issues that they have been refused by mental health professionals that we are carrying

them. And that's not appropriate. But they have nowhere to go. That you cannot put an insurance price tag on, if we were to accept insurance, we would have to charge students co-pays every single time you come through student health. Every single time you come through caps, we'd be taken ten dollars. Twenty dollars. And when you don't have the co-pay, we'd have to bill you. And guess what would happen? Students wouldn't come. Students wouldn't be safe. That would not be in the student's best interest. It wouldn't be in anyone's best interest. It wouldn't keep our campus safe. That is not what I am in business to do here. That is why we don't take the students insurance at certain health services, caps or CPL. It is a free suit... It is a fee based student. So you pay your fee. It covers you the entire time while you pay that fee for the services that we offer. And we are in business to provide those services, increase them, bring them to you and be there for you no matter what. COVID is completely irrelevant to this. We were charging this fee before COVID existed. You happened to get really lucky because guess what? I got twenty five years of healthcare experience behind me and I was a director of infection control. You can't you can't get that experience anywhere. My staff, board-certified, has nothing to do with COVID.

I could back up this health and counseling fee any way you want to put it. I feel 100 percent confident in the work that we do. I do. I know what we do. I know we're keeping our campus safe. Even if you say you don't use our services. The fact that you're able to walk on our campus and not get a communicable disease. We work for you. I don't know what else to say. We're here for you guys. Graduate student population. If you want to say you guys don't use our services. A pool of data that will make your head spin. Do you know how many suicides we have averted? Our behavioral health team, our care team, we have a threat assessment team. Who do you think prevents active shooters coming in on campus? That's my team, guys. What are we talking about here? This is the safety of your campus. Let's argue about a fee of some other magnitude, but health? This to me is almost silly.

[Senator] If I can interject a little bit. I first of all, my name is Howard. I'm the senator from the Clinical Psych Department. I know exactly how insurance works and I've worked in pro-bono clinics in the past. I have a lot of experience dealing with insurance. I think that that's basically untrue. I think that to say that you are non-profit and that's the reason you don't take insurance is basically covering up for the fact that you require funding and we get it. But why you're not doing it out of the kindness of your heart or from your own money. You're doing it by stealing money from us. This is our paycheck, and... Hold on.

[Bisiani] (laughing) Stealing money?

[Senator] Yes, you need money to keep this running. And we recognize that, right?

[Bisiani] (interrupting) Absolutely

[Senator] Don't interject me. I did not interject when you were talking. Please let me have my time. Alright?

[Bisiani] (laughing) OK.

[Senator] Thank you for that show of respect. I'm saying that it requires money to run your services and it is absolutely essential. We recognize that. Right. I'm also in the mental health profession and I see clients every day who are on the fringe of suicide, on the fringe of many crises under fringe school shooting. And we recognize the importance of the service that you are providing. However, the claim that your service needs to be without insurance to maintain its non-profit status is simply untrue.

And it covers stop for the fact that this fee, which is protecting all students, should be the responsibility of the institution and not its staff. Essentially, the graduate student fee is taking out a proportion of our pay, and I don't see the logic of taking that money from our pay into maintaining a service that is essential to the existence and maintenance of this school. We... our pay and our salaries are not something that you can use freely and you can take out freely to maintain an essential function that the school depends on that essential function, which is, as you say, vital to the functioning of the school, should be paid for by the school itself. And of course, is making absolutely insane amounts of profit as seen by the raises and salaries of a lot of the upper level management class. So why are you justifying taking parts of our salary to fund something that is essential to the school running itself, which should be the responsibility of the school? We don't pay for infrastructure for the school. We don't pay for the school to continue existing. We work for the school and we get money in return. The school should not be taking a part of our labor to pay for something that it itself relies on. And so all of the things that you've been talking about, all the great things that you do right as a mental health profession. I congratulate you. And I think that the work that you're doing is absolutely important. However, when it comes to money, when it comes to the existence, the financial support of this service, it is absolutely untrue that you have to take portions of our salaries to support your existence. They be the sole responsibility of the institution itself.

[Secretary] I also want to add to Howards point. Sorry, my name is Jose Moscoso, GSO secretary, that if our stipend is twenty thousand dollars a year for this year and \$20000 a year for next year. And this year, we pay twelve hundred dollars in fees. This year, the university is telling us you need to be able to do your job with eighteen thousand eight hundred dollars before tax. Now this year, you are increasing fees by three hundred more dollars. So what do we have to do? We have to live now with eighteen thousand five hundred dollars for the whole year. Right? So you're asking us to do the exact same job year after year when effectively you're reducing the amount of money that we receive to live on Long Island, And that is the fundamental issue that I have with fees being increased disproportionately compared to how our salaries are increased.

[Bisiani] I'm going to say just two things. 2 to just. Just two more things about insurance. When you accept insurance, you also get denied claims. Those denials go to the student who has to manage them. Secondly. When you when you go seek care outside of our campus, and I'm not sure if you have done that, you will wait about 90 days if you

even get a phone call back from a mental health professional. You will see a caps provider from the moment you walk into my building.

[Senator] That is not factual. I have a lot of clients who have been on waitlist for caps and they actually come to the KPC because they can get access to care at your service.

[Bisiani] We do not have a wait list. So if you want to give me their name, I would look that up.

[Senator] I am not going to disclose my clients names on here. If you don't know how this works, I am telling you people are being kicked out of caps because they don't have the adequate service and because they have things that are outside of anxiety and depression, which are aggravated by the COVID situation. You only see anxiety and depression. We don't choose. We get whoever it is that is left from you guys and we get no money from the institution. So don't pull that, right? We know how this works.

[Bisiani] We actually. Rick. Do you want to address that KPC?

[Gatteau] Yeah, I just to point out a side point. From the fees you pay, there is actually does help fund Krasner just so you know.

[Bisiani] So, you know, we actually pay Krasner. Just so you know.

[Gatteau] And we have a relationship that they do help see our students as well based upon specific needs and try to reduce I know what they charge for insurance purposes. A lot of students we have found in our experience, unfortunately, even through Krasner, often don't have money to pay a co-pay, which is one of the other reasons why we don't want to go the co-pay route because many students wouldn't seek care otherwise.

[Senator] I'll tell [redacted] about that next time we're fighting for funding. And anyway, this is tangential. I want Marisa to answer this, actually.

[Gatteau] (interrupting) I just want to make sure you heard me correctly that we do provide funding. Feel free to talk to [unintelligible]

[Senator] It's not enough, but this is a relevant to the topic at hand. I want Marissa to answer this. Why...

[Bisiani] (interrupting) I'll answer whatever you want.

[Senator] Why? From the fees? Why from our checks? You need money? That's fine. Why from us?

[Bisiani] I just want to make something clear here. I just want to make something very clear here. When I started three years ago, I did an assessment of this institution because I worked in private institutions and I did an assessment and they said, why are

we charging a fee? Maybe I'll move to an insurance model. Maybe I will. And I did a full assessment. This is when Peter [unintelligible] was vice president of student affairs. And I did it and I weighed it all out and I went, wow, this is really interesting. And you know what Peter told me? He told me Marissa, I did not hire you to do that here. That is not the mission and vision of this institution. He said, if I wanted that, then you have to stay back at the hospital. That is not what student affairs is about. And I know that you think I'm out to get you and I know you think that we have some big coercion and we're trying to do this. And I promise you, CAPS does have... you come in. We are assessing you. We've hospitalized people the same day they walk in. I know you don't believe me.

[Senator] I'm not questioning the service. I'm not questioning your service. I think their service is great and essential. The question is, why us? Why are you taking it out on a graduate student?

[Secretary] Why is the funding for these programs coming out of our stipends which remain the same year after year?

[Senator] Why us? Why graduate students? Why not school? Why not you?

[Bisiani] Why not me?

[Senator] And especially I. Can I just add really quick? Especially this year with COVID-19. You know, like there are no rent freezes. Like people might be out of a job that they work on the side. It is just unbelievable to me that Stony Brook is increasing Graduate student fees in this time of insecurity.

[Senator] May I ask the question?

[Secretary] Yes, please.

[Senator] Tristan from geosciences. If the student health fee is in part paying for the Krasner Center. And for students to be seen at the Krasner Center, there is an associated fee, at least as I have been told, if I would like to get service there, I need to pay some fee every week course to see someone. Why can't a model like that be used at the student health center?

[Bisiani] I don't know if everyone's been listening to me. You wouldn't want that model, you wouldn't be able, it would inhibit care.

[Gatteau] Can I get you some clarification? I think if I heard it correctly, the student health fee does not pay for that money for Krasner that a student supports. It's not from that fee. It's separate money. It is not from student fees. The money we

[Bisiani] Oh yeah. Wait. Not from the...

[Senator] Wait. Is the Krasner Center supported by student fees or not?

[Gatteau] No, I don't know how. Maybe you can share if you know more. I'm just saying we do give some money in support of the operation because they do see some Stony Brook students, but that's not out of the student fee.

[Senator] Ok, guys, I think the Krasner Center is not the not the focus of our attention here. Marisa has not answered our question. And that is why specifically graduate student fees?

[Bisiani] Because graduate students use our services. I don't know if you're understanding. They use our services. Your population are using our services. If you guys don't want I mean, I don't know what to say. I can't shut my doors and say, don't use our services.

[Secretary] Why are you relying on graduate students to be able to provide those services?

[Bisiani] I'm not relying on you. I'm not relying on anyone. We're here to serve all our students. I don't separated and say graduate, undergraduate. This student. That student. We're here for all students. I do. I really feel badly that you feel that way. And it's very hard.

[Secretary] The difference is that Stony Brook University not only controls the amount of money that they ask from us each semester. They also control them amount of money that I receive every paycheck. And so if you're controlling increasing the amount of money that you want to receive from us to provide all these services, there should be an increase in the amount of money that we get because otherwise, effectively, you're asking us please go without one paycheck, take one paycheck and give it to the university so that we can provide these services. That is the essential part of our argument.

[Bisiani] and I

[Grad Student] hold on one second. I would like it to be like recorded. The fact that I need to struggle to pay for my groceries is more damaging to my mental health than anything that you have to say. I want it to be a part of this. I want to be noted that this that the feelings that I don't have the money to pay for my groceries. I don't understand how you seem to think that this is some magical conversation that we can have with me not being able to pay for my food, I cannot pay for my rent. I cannot pay for my food. This is a conversation that you need to have before you bring up the question of fee raises.

[Bisiani] Sean, thank you. Please understand. That's why we are not transacting money at the point of care. That's why other health care institutions, they're there. They're transacting copays and money. Half a point.

[Senator] This is an early transaction, though, before we get the service by paying a fee.

[Bisiani] Well, let me finish. You're not walking around with 10, 15, 20 in their pocket. They won't seek care.

[Grad Student] I would like to point out that I already know that because this comes at the start of my semester.

[Bisiani] Let me finish. I am very sorry that you're not happy with whatever salary you're not getting paid. I am here for the health and wellness of the student body. I'm not here to count your salary.

Let me finish. Because you're accusing me of taking your money. So I have to say that to you sir. You're telling me I'm taking your money. You're telling me it's COVID and you're accusing me of horrible things. I'm trying to explain to you, we're trying not to take people's money at the point of care, because that is a horrible thing to do to somebody when you're seeking care and saying give me ten dollars of your money for your co-pay. That's not the model we want to do. That's what I'm trying to explain to you. That is the model of care. That is the model at any SUNY campus. There's no other SUNY campus that accepts insurance at their student health or CAPS. Find me one. They don't do it.

[Grad Student] Thank you. That is completely not germane to my point, which is that for the start of the semester, one entire month, I do not have money. I do not have money to buy food. I don't understand how this is such a complicated thing for you to understand. This is something that you need to understand, is that why would higher you raise your fees to let for an entire month? I actually have less than zero money. I don't I don't understand. That's the most important part I want you to answer.

[Secretary] Marisa, what Sean is saying is that by you saying we need to increase this fee to provide these services to students. You're saying we need to provide these fees to increases fees to provide services to students on the back of students' stipends. That is the problem. We are carrying these extra services. graduate students. That's the problem.

[Senator] Jose, if I can also interject. Marisa, you talked a little bit about how we're not happy about our salary. We're not just not happy about the salary. We're getting poverty level pay. And still, of course, we're fighting against pay cuts because we need to eat and we need to survive. You mentioned something about not wanting transactions to happen for the students, and that's fine. That's great that you're running a nonprofit for students where they can just come in without worrying about having to pay anything. Right. That's great. You know, ideal role. That's awesome. However, what you're essentially doing is you're putting that transaction under the rug. And who's the rug? It's us. We're doing the transaction. We're giving you all the money so that you can tell these students that actually, I don't need your ten dollars so that I can feel good about giving you free services at my expense. Well, guess what? It's not your expense. It's ours. It's our expense that you're using to highlight the fact that you are a very moral

person who's providing this great service that's free to students without co-pays. Well, here we are. We're the underbelly of that situation. We're the ones you sacrifice to get your services.

[Grad Student] I would I would like to second that. And I wanted to be recorded that I second that. It is a service that is you cannot say, you cannot dare say that it is something that it is not paid for. You are asking for us to pay for it. And that means it is paid for. It's not free. It's not us. It's a service that you must ask us to provide. But it's also a service that you, as an answer to a you and as an institution, are controlling directly by how much you're paying us.

[Secretary] Ok. I think that we should move on to conversations about all of the fee increases, not just wellness right now. And I want to open up the Q&A by asking this question. Due to the coronavirus crisis. If your budget line changes, for example, in a previous meeting, Kathy Bynghton said that there would be no capital purchases in the next fiscal year. If there are no capital purchases, that means that there will be no electric buses being purchased. If there are no electric buses being purchased, why are we getting a fee increase? Sure.

[Gatteau] Lyle are you on the line? Lyle? I think he fell off, right? So Melissa, maybe just to... just because... Jose I know that was a discussion that we had, but I don't think that's exactly what was said. Melissa, can you.

[Melissa Hogarty] Yeah, I do. We are... we're looking at all options. We're looking at all options for the buses. I don't know that we are going to make capital purchases or aren't we also can't have buses that don't run at all. Right. So, you know, I think we're making general statements.

[Secretary] OK. Sorry. OK. Sorry for Interrupting. For the representative from transportation, please tell me if you said last meeting, if the electric buses were purchased, whether or not you would need the fee increase.

[Werner] No what, I... The majority of the increase will go into infrastructure for future purpose purchases of electric buses. Just to clarify that, we have 30 buses in our fleet. We currently have nine new ones. The rest of them are older than their useful lifestyle... Life expectancy. They are in desperate need of replacement. So part of the budget increase is going to go to purchase diesel buses because they are readily available. And really we will have to cut service. We don't have a reliable fleet next year and additional funds will go towards future investment so that we can get away from diesel powered vehicles and go towards electric.

[Secretary] So here's the thing. Why are we thinking about future investments and future things when right now we're being told by the administration that we're about to enter a very hard financial time? Why are we thinking about purchasing these things? While we should be focusing on dealing with the current crisis without having to negatively affect graduate students, which are the poorest employees on campus

[Werner] Ok. Well, I can only speak for my department for transportation, and hopefully sooner than later, we will be out of this COVID 19 pandemic. I hope by fall. I would hope that we return to normal function at that point. We are we're going to need equipment to move students around campus. So although times are very difficult now and there is a huge financial burden. We need to look towards next year because if we don't, we're going to get out of the crisis we're in now and we're going to fall into another crisis that we're short of equipment and we have an unreliable fleet and it'll just be a different issue. So although I do understand everyone's financial burden, we can't forget the fact that we need to move forward and not forget about the future. So we need a fleet of 30 buses. We currently have nine new ones. The remainder of them are old and unreliable. So one way or another, we have to replace the fleet. And actually, by moving towards the electrification, we're sacrificing buying additional buses that we desperately need for the future. That in the in the future, we will have equipment that's more efficient, more reliable, and has a longer lifespan. If you don't want to go down that road, we still have to spend the money. But it's going to be on antique vehicles that require a tremendous amount of maintenance and repair and have a shorter lifespan or less fuel efficient. So our hope is to continue the direction that we've been in, upgrade our fleet and make it so that our service is available next fall for students. Because if we if we let it go, we're going to fall that much farther behind and it's going to be detrimental to efficiency. So I do understand the financial burden, but we can't not look into the future because it'll it's just going to be detrimental to transportation in this case.

[Senator] So can I please just say something in general? So I was not. This is not just about transportation. But I was actually really shocked that all the departments were using the same exact presentation as we were given before the crisis. It's because I mean, all the other I mean, like a lot of other schools are either trying to refund the fees for this semester or just give lower fees next semesters. The fact that you didn't change anything in the slides shows, you know, you you're not concerned about students being in this crisis and making it very difficult for our student pay. How come the concentration of COVID is not included in the fee proposal.

[Grad Student] I would also like to interject at one point and just say I would like to piggyback off the transportation secretary's statement that we need to consider the future and especially how well we need to set up infrastructure for the future. It's a great point and it's a point I fully agree with. If my stipend was also double. I fully agree with your idea. If I had more money to pay for. Thank you.

[Werner] I can appreciate that.

[Senator] If I could just make a comment about the buses, we know that buses typically have the diesel buses have some kind of life expectancy of eight years and you guys are able to make them last longer than that. God bless you. They have a known life span, and after that lifespan goes, it's typically time to start thinking about when the when to replace them. We know when the roads are going to typically need to be repaved. In the eight years previous, did we not include in the original fee money to be

kind of put aside to purchase new buses and repave the roads or even I'm a it would be putting too much faith, I guess, in the state legislature to assume that they were planning eight years ahead for electric bus infrastructure. But even several years ahead of time to be assuming that we would be getting some type of new fancy bus system. So why is it just now that we are getting 30 percent fee increase when the legal maximum is 2 percent for transportation where we have all these lifespans? Especially when this is kind of the more predictable of the fees.

[Werner] I understand your point and I actually I agree with you. I've been with the university for three years and I came from the private sector and I ran a private fleet. And part of planning is a replacement vehicle process, which means that money is either set aside or, you know, borrowed each year to replenish your fleet so that it doesn't get to the breaking point. When I came on board here, I can't answer that question, but it wasn't in place. We... remember that Transportation does not borrow money. We need funding to make an all-out purchase. So I can't speak for the department prior to my arriving here three years ago. But my intention was to create a replacement program for the fleet in regard to new technology. It as you're aware, technology advances very quickly. Two years ago, the battery capability in vehicles was not sufficient for a vehicle the size of a bus. You had smaller vehicles like a Prius or some other electric cars. But to move a commercial vehicle that's over twenty-six thousand pounds, the battery technology just wasn't there. It's advanced dramatically in the last two years. So now is when we're looking at it. Had we done that some other year in the past, we would have wasted money on something that really couldn't be utilized because it wouldn't be anything that would that would fulfill our needs. Now, the buses are the ones we look at. They have a range of anywhere from one hundred and fifty to two hundred and fifty miles on a full charge. That's what we need. Years ago, buses or even smaller commercial vehicles, they had a range of 30 miles. And those companies that produce those vehicles, they're out of business now because municipalities would buy them for green initiatives and they would sit around because they couldn't use them. So it's only now that technology has come far enough that we can say, I'm willing to invest your money in vehicles that I believe will last for the length of time that we're making investment for and can be utilized the way we need them. I'm not buying a vehicle for the university that is just for show. That's just a green initiative. And it can only do, you know, a loop around circle drive for two hours and then have to park to be charged. That's a waste of money and I wouldn't consider that two years ago. But now the technology's come to the point where it's time to invest in the future. And I mean, if you watch the news price of oil is down to \$25 a barrel, it's dramatically inexpensive. I guarantee you in a year, two years from now, it's going to go the opposite way. All fuel costs are about a quarter of a million dollars a year. Now add about \$2 a gallon for diesel. If that doubles, you have a half a million dollar a year cost for fuel. So we really need to look at the future and we need to start acting now because these buses are 18 months or longer to build. So starting the contract, we won't get them for a while.

[Senator] If I can interject for a bit. You know what? That sounds amazing. And I am really excited personally for the change to electric cars. So we're investing a lot of

money on this thing. And you know what? I actually want to invest my money on this. How much are you investing in this initiative?

[Werner] I invest my time.

[Senator] You know what? If you want me to work for you, I can give my labor to you. But I have no choice in that. Right. I get I get my money taken to invest in this. So how much from your salary are you getting out to pay for this? And in fact, how much of your salaries all of the administrators in this chat right now, how much of your money goes into these essential services for the for the university? Because you know what? You are right. We need to invest in the school. And we are all in this together. We are all a part of the school. And you are part of the school as well. So how much are you paying to fund for all of these fantastic programs that you've designed and the budgets of which you know so well?

[Grad Student] How much is anyone in admin paying to use the Internet every day? An essential service for all of us to do our jobs. Which foundation to which graduate students paid for out of the fees? Rick do you pay for the Internet out of your salary? Do you give any to the university?

[Gatteau] So, you know, I think you guys are all raising larger issues and questions that I know I've heard from other grad students over the year. You know that point about stipends? I totally get it. I certainly understand the concerns...

[Grad Student] Please answer the question, what is the dollar amount?

[Gatteau] So I am answering the question. And what I want to share is that I think the distinction here is between you and graduate students. You are kind of making the point to think about employees versus students. And I think there is a distinction that the university makes in terms of what is a student at the university. There may be disagreement about that. And that is a point we may just have to agree to disagree on it.

[Senator] But no, that's not the question that I asked. How much are you paying? This is literally the question. Give me a dollar amount. How much are you paying for these items?

[Gatteau] I'm not really going. I'm not going to answer that question. That's not an appropriate question.

[Grad Student] Alright. Let the record show that, Rick will pay zero dollars for any of these services that he considers essential. And so graduate students have to pay all of it. Think about it.

[Senator] Noted. Thank you.

[Bisiani] Stephen, this is Marisa Bisiani. I'm just going to note something. Do any of you pay state or local taxes? Because I know.

[Senator] Yes.

[Grad student] Yeah.

[Bisiani] Do you pay over twenty thousand dollars a year? Look, when you do that, you come back and talk to me.

[Grad Student] Wait, are you gonna pay me?

[Grad Student] So you pay more taxes? That's just taxes work.

[Senator] Would you like to make \$20000 a year? I make thirty thousand dollars a year. But, do you know, lower taxes work?

[Silence]

[Secretary] Alright, alright. Please, everyone just... I muted everyone so that we don't lose control of the room. But Marissa, that comment was a disrespectful because we all pay taxes and we all pay taxes according to our income. Even us graduate students and I can show you my tax form, if you'd like. So I would like to move on to other questions from other people.

[Senator] I would like to ask a question. Am I muted?

[Secretary] You're good, I can hear you.

[Senator] OK. Sorry. I'm not entirely sure why various departments find it acceptable to shove these fees on the backs of employees of the university. Not all of them. Just a small subset of pretty poorly paid employees at the university. And why would each department support this system when it's pretty blatantly awful? Why do you support this system by perpetuating it, by continuing to ask that money of us?

[Hogarty] I think I know you guys are going to come after me for saying this, but I think the problem is that we're not showing the distinction. I know that your employees, but you're also students. I was an employee and a student, and I did pay the fees as a student. And I think that's where the university is drawing the distinction that we're charging students, not as employees.

[Senator] I understand the point, but it just because you have to pay the fee doesn't mean like the future students have to suffer. I am graduating in fall, but I'm fighting for the future students because they shouldn't have to suffer it. You know what we have to suffer and I urge the university administration take a stand with UNC who decided to, you know, cover all the graduate students fees of employees for 2019 to attract more

graduate students. Because, I mean, increasing fees like this is not going to help the university. If you don't have a lot of graduate students, then who is going to pay your high fees? It's not going to be good for a student here. If you keep rising fees like this. You won't be able to attract good students because you're competing with other schools. And other schools are trying to start covering fees for graduate students because they understand the importance of graduate employees. And what we see is that this Stony Brook is not understanding at all.

[Secretary] Melissa, I want to ask you a direct question from what you said. So you say that we're half students and half employees. Right?

[Melissa] I didn't say half and half. But I said you're considered students and employees.

[Secretary] Ok. So I'm being paid for 20 hours a week. Right. And I dedicate a lot more than 20 hours a week to my degree. So let's go with 50/50 for sake of argument. Then why do undergraduate students, whom are full time students pay the same amount for the fees that we pay? Why don't we pay half of that? If we're only half of what they're consuming or half the time being students. Is that a reasonable argument?

[Senator] I also want to piggyback on that, from geosciences. Really quick before you answer, we provide essential services to the university...Essential services as teaching assistants, graduate assistants. We basically are the essential components for the university to operate in terms of the classroom and outside the classroom and the labs, office hours, etcetera. So we are employees. We're developing employee responsibilities and yet we're not considered employees. This university would not be functioning without any TAs or Gas. That's what i had.

[Hogarty] I agree those are both valid arguments and I don't have the answer to those, I don't know.

[Grad Student] And can I also point out that when you have a system that like separate in these two separate ways. It is automatically unfair if only one side benefits while the others don't. And I hope that you understand this especially and I would like to more. And another one, you said that, yes, we would like to have a system that works well for all the students. Are we, pretending that student intake for the fall is not dropping. because I am in touch with my department and we have an absolutely incredible dropoff happening and it's been happening already befor eCOVID 19 became a problem. I do not understand. I am deeply confused about the fact that as you decide to increase your fees, you are making this this university even less competitive than it already was, which is an incredibly uncompetitive place to be.

[Senator] And a tad on that. There are many prospective students that came to interview here that as soon as I told them what the fees were. They said, oh, that is super terrible and I am not interested in coming this university anymore. Guess what? They did not take their offers. They went somewhere else. We are losing great talent because of the terrible decisions that you all are making to charge us more than 10

percent of our yearly stipend, which is so far below the poverty line that we can't afford to pay rent and buy groceries.

[Senator] I would second that and I that is something I personally experienced last year when we tried to get new students and they all mentioned that when we showed them the fees, they immediately said, no, we lost everyone from that group, the entire cohort, all of whom every single one of them who interviewed in my department. All of them who were very promising. Some of them would they were choosing one of them had a choice between us and I might be. Now that I probably wouldn't come here anyway. Where all the rest, we lost all of them. None of the students who came for that perspective student weekend showed up in my department. Do you think that this is something that is you are going to somehow glossed over? Thank you.

[Hogarty] I'm not sure what you guys are asking me. You're giving me anecdotal data. You know, I. I'm not saying these aren't good arguments. I'm just saying that from the university standpoint, from an administration standpoint, we charge student fees and you guys are students. You're getting a degree.

[Senator] I understand. But I think that the proposed increases completely not justified. Like the amount we have to pay right now is so much already. And on top of that, in this COVID situation, the university is asking us to pay more money is completely insane, inhumane. And I just... what you're giving. It is just not a good enough answer.

[Hogarty] I understand and I understand what you're saying about COVID. I think the problem about COVID is that it's changed the whole world. It's unprecedented. We're still trying to wrap our hands, but how much it's gonna cost and what it's doing. And so we're moving forward with the whole fees process without factoring COVID in yet because we don't even know what the full impact is yet. I do understand what you're saying.

[Senator] Well, that means that those fees not going to be used as, you know, as you explained.

[Hogarty] But the school is not going to be closed in fiscal year 20/21

[Senator] So let's just say you collected our money for reasons, too use for specific reasons and you decide not to do those things. And then what happens to the money?

[Hogarty] Well, first off, for 19/20, which COVID is affecting, there is going to be a reimbursement. For 20/21, we don't know if all we can work on is that the university is gonna be functioning in 20/21.

[Senator] Well think so if you ask for increased fee for specific reasons that you just explained. If the money isn't going to be used for that specific reason, what's going to happen to the money. Is it even legal to get money that way?

[Hogarty] I don't have the answer to that. You know, I don't know, I can't tell the future. I don't know what in 20/21 I don't know.

[Senator] At least. Is it morally right to do this?

[Senator] My name is John Klecker, I'm a GSO, senator from Chemistry. I want to make a point. And what's really frustrating to hear in this chat is, is people like Melissa. I think your suggestions for increasing in costs like the proposals were reasonable and the services that all of these departments offer are clearly used on campus. And I think that there's no doubt that they're valuable. I think what we are arguing past each other on is the is the fact that your specific departments need to be. It seems like they need to be financially austere from other parts of the institution. And then in addition to that, the fact that these key services are being funded on graduate student fees and you can you can square the circle any way you like. But when you are charging more in graduate student fees and you're keeping our stipends the same, that's effectively us taking a pay cut. And I think that what we're frustrated with is with a lot of people on this call, it seems like you've been doing this double thing, where in good faith you seem to be accepting the fact that you're saying we hear your concerns and they're valid and that feels good to be validated and have those concerns. But then in the same breath, you're saying, however, we still want to increase these fees on you. And I think that there seems to be some agreement that like our financial plight is heard. But what's really frustrating is to is to feel like you hear the play. But then it doesn't seem like at an even higher level in terms of how these fees are being assessed on us. Nothing is being done to change the direction. And this COVID crisis is just going to exasperate, you know, all of these situations.

[Senator] So I second that. And I have been wondering what the point of this meeting is if you're trying to listen to our input, but you are not moving on the increase in fees.

[Secretary] Valerie, thank you for pointing that out. So honestly, from the very beginning of this meeting, I've had this question in my mind and I would like to ask the Admins. Starting with Dean Gatteau, and the four offices, that presented. Are you here in this meeting in good, good faith to have a negotiation with GSO and graduate students about these fee increases? Like... is there room for compromising? And if there is and if you came in good faith to negotiate, what are you willing to compromise on? And I think that's a very clear and very specific question. And I hope that admins can directly answer that question.

[Gatteau] So, so let me again, I'm going say I'm not going to give a firm answer right now. What I will say to John, to John's point, I agree with you. The point about, you know, everyone wants to feel validated. The concerns are validated. And in the end, the years that I've been involved in these discussions with both the USG and GSO, it's very clear on the GSO side. It's, it could be partially the issue of the fees themselves in terms of I've seen some other chat tonight about I'm not using that service, why are we paying for this? But I do think a big part of it comes down to you look at a stipend minus the fees. And what does that actually leave you in a paycheck? I have heard that. I know

that we've discussed that before. I'm happy to raise the issue even with senior leadership. I know this was raised last year about stipend levels. That was a conversation happened and there were some modifications to that given the fee increases. That's not, can't be part of this particular conversation because this is separate and apart. We don't look at people's salaries relative to the fees. We're saying what does it cost to provide the services? It is that there is a differential that needs to be looked at. I'm happy to rate that as a separate conversation, but that's not part of the fee conversation. I said what's in the world that we're talking about? I just want to be clear.

[Secretary] The question is, is there room for negotiation as to the fee increases? Can we negotiate instead of a \$17 increase? Can we negotiate a \$12 increase for wellness and counseling? That's my question.

[Gatteau] Again, I will raise that I mean, this is why the normal chain would be that we would meet with the EC afterwards is a third meeting. We've done that with USG to talk through any fees as well. So I'm happy to engage in one additional conversation with the EC to talk through other proposals that come through. You know, I just want to highlight again what Melissa is that and this is one of the big challenges is that the university, again. I know students themselves, family members, whether people lost jobs. There is so much uncertainty now, even in terms of a state budget because of revenues that are obviously not being generated because of taxes that would go back to the state. I'm saying this is not just SUNY, but this is around the United States. There is going to be a lot of upheaval in the next year. And while, again, I don't like putting things on the backs of students, I think there are large concerns about being able to manage even what it's going to cost, what's going to mean to run the university next year. There are a lot of issues that are going to be unanswered. And I just want to say, as a community, we're going to have to brace for potentially significant changes at the university if we don't generate revenue in order to maintain operations. I just want to point that out to it, because there is so much unknown that's happened in the last month. Jose prior to this conversation. I share this with Qing and the EC prior this conversation, there was more room for negotiation in the discussion. I think where we are today, it's just such a. Is that the ground has been pulled out from, you know, has collapsed in front of all of us. And I think there are a lot of things that we need to work through. And that's why it's a much harder conversation than what it would have been about a month ago. Unfortunately

[Secretary] Ok. So let me get this clear. What you're saying is that due to the current situation, the administration will not entertain reducing the increases that they're proposing for next fiscal year.

[Gatteau] That... That... That is correct,

[Senator] Then we're done,

[Grad Student] So we're done.

[Gatteau] I'd like to finish... When Stony Brook sends over their proposal to SUNY, SUNY does have to approve them. There may be concern about approving things that may not be approved at the SUNY level anyway.

[Secretary] Right. But SUNY officials are not in this conversation, but the Stony Brook administration is. That's why I'm asking you, are you willing to entertain lowering these increases?

[Gatteau] Well, we actually already did do that. And some of them were review. The career and alumni fee, we cut that in half through some negotiations that happened. I mean, there was some review and a reduction in fees throughout the process, just so you know.

[Secretary] That's fine and dandy. Again, are we negotiating... are we able to negotiate decreases in any of the four fees that are being discussed today at all? Any whatsoever?

[Gatteau] Unfortunately, no.

[Secretary] OK. Then I think that we know what the future of this meeting is.

[Senator] Yeah.

[Senator] Then what are we doing?

[Senator] I just wasted an hour.

[Senator] If I could just comment really quickly on the university's confusion about the what it means to be in a phd Program, because it seems like the administration seems to have forgotten the kind of tacit understanding of joining a phd program. So from what I was explained in undergrad about by my professors and their professors and from professors that I had who got their phd when they were going to school in the 60s. You go to go get your phd to go join the academic institution. And when you're getting your phd You're working for the university to create publications and work for the school during that time period. So the idea now you're just a student to take classes and get your degree and go work in the private sector is kind of ridiculous. We're getting our phd to go back into the academic world, to either go back to work for Stony Brook or another institution of academia to continue publishing. Academic works. So we're not just here as students. We're here as workers. even if we're not TAs, generating publications and academic prestige for the university. We're doing research even as master's students and trying to publish them. So the concept that graduate students are just students is trying to shove this to the side. And if there is no movement by the administration or the university to reduce fees or even straight up abolish fees, this is just on that not a good faith argument by anyone. And we should not be entertaining trying to negotiate with them anymore.

[McMahon] Jose, when you can I would like to take a chance.

[Secretary] Yes, please. Charlie, if you could, I'll give you time right now.

[Grad Student] I've been raising my hand for a while and I'll go after Charlie or perhaps I just have to jump in. Thanks.

[Secretary] Ok, let's go. Let's go with that Corinna. Thank you.

[McMahon] All right, so indulge me a little bit. But I will I will give you a direct answer to your question before I'm finished. So like many people, particularly at the stage of the career, I mean. I could do other things, make a lot more money. I am here because I believe in the mission that we provide. And I remember the struggles that I went through that all of you are talking about right now. You know, I'm on the other end of the spectrum. I had to look at my Social Security retirement. And during my college years, I made between zero and two thousand dollars a year. And that experience has stayed with me. I came to Stony Brook in December of last year. And one of the things that that the president asked me to do is to make sure that we are spending our I.T. money as effectively as we can. In a big picture, about 40 percent of our funding comes from student technology fee and about 60 percent comes from the state. When you're when you're managing I.T., you've got a constant struggle with increasing demands and increasing costs and fixed budgets. So we have a few techniques that we use to deal with that. One, we try and do more things with less. If so to speak. And that's possible in technology, because over the past few years, we've gotten more efficient at using technology. So we're able to do more things with less money. The other technique that we use is looking critically at what we're doing and deciding what we need to stop doing. And so to answer your question directly, I would be... I would welcome an opportunity for our graduate students and our undergraduate students to sit down with me and walk through our budget and talk about the things we're doing and talk about the things that from a student perspective, we can talk about not doing. And that is a way that we can we can address the fee increases. So I don't know how you know, how effectively we can do that. I don't know how the logistics work with so many students. Not here, but I am sincere in making the offer that I would be willing to walk through our budget and talk about everything that we're doing and whether or not that is a valuable service for the students.

[Senator] A quick question. Sorry, Corinna, I just. Just really quick. So how would that meeting be different from what we were just doing? I know this is not all students being , but we are representatives.

[Secretary] I'll answer that question quickly. The meeting for today was to talk about fee increases, and I believe that what Charlie is talking about is revising the budget of that department so that we can revisit what the actual, the current fee for technology is. Is that correct, Charlie?

[McMahon] It is, and I'll say we do the same thing every year with the administration. We look at what we are spending our money on and decide whether or not that that we're spending it on the right things. And again, one of the ways we try and control costs. One of the ways we keep an eye on I'm sorry to say this. I know the situation you're in with the salaries that we're paying and the amount of money that you're paying in fees. But one of the ways we keep our cost increases down is looking critically about what we're actually doing and deciding whether we really need to be doing that or not. You know, if I'm providing a service that is a is not a value to the students... This will be a complicated, complicated set of discussions to look at everything that we do, because there's nothing that we do, virtually nothing we do that is purely for the students. Nothing. We do this purely for the faculty, nothing that's purely for the administration. And sometimes it's hard to tease those apart. And where we've got services that we think are essential, we try and apply a formula that's a kind of a ratio of how much our our faculty staff use versus how much our student use and try and balance. Who pays for it? Where we get the money? So the only two tools I have really to use is to use technology to do things more effectively and to and to decide which things we stopped doing. I welcome student involvement and participation and partnership there. The one thing I will say in that we need to have do need to have undergraduate voices in there as well as graduate voices because they are they are also paying this fee.

[Secretary] Thank you, I appreciate that, responds Charlie. I would do want to give Corinna some time. Corinna, please jump in.

[Grad Student] Thank you. I'll try to make this quick. I just wanted to bring up a voice from a graduate student just so that we all are on the same page, that there is no one size fits all situation. I'm a phd Candidate. I currently live in California because I was off funding. I have been paying graduate fees for the last two years while working as a visiting faculty at the San Francisco Art Institute. The San Francisco Art Institute is closing their university just announced as of two weeks ago. So obviously, while a lot of us have had to move online to teach on Zoom, I now have a classroom full of graduate students and undergraduate students who have been told that the school is closing in part because of an overreliance on student fees and student tuitions, so I'm just noting this as a warning that, you know, among the many universities that are shutting down, in part it's because of an overreliance on student fees and student tuitions. Thus, with the San Francisco Art Institute, it was noted that there was a drop in enrollment. And as we know, yes, there have been continuing decreases in enrollment since the 2008 financial crisis. So I'm bringing this up also because I am not very happy about the fact that I have absolutely no employment as a graduate candidate living at the other side of the country who will now, you know, possibly be living out of my car for the second time.

And I still have to pay these graduate fees. I am hoping that even if graduate fees can be reconsidered that there perhaps should be different sections of the graduate student population paying fees, that maybe they there could be something worked out. That's all. Thanks.

[Secretary] Yes. To support that, a lot of the arguments that GSO, the EC board has made before in previous meetings with the administration is why are fees just an umbrella? There's one fee and everyone pays it. Why isn't there a case by case? You know, that it will graduate students will pay this much for the technology of fee whereas undergraduates who pay this much for the undergraduate fee. And we've been told by the administration before it that you're not able to do that. But truth is, you can.

[McMahon] On the technology fee, I will answer that I don't know. I don't know why we have one fee for all. Those kind of question truly are above my pay grade. The thing I can do is offer to sit down with you and make sure that we are controlling costs as best we can by providing the services that you think are necessary. Stopping doing the things that we think are unnecessary.

[Grad Student] Yes. May I just say one thing I agree with your missions. They are good missions. You are thoughtful and I do not disagree. I don't think that any one of you is being enormously wasteful with the money that you're supposed to be using. It just so happens we have no more money to give you. And that is, I think, the most important point. We are dancing around this point. We are moving around it. But it's the point that we have to come back to, which is that we have no more money to give you. It's us. It's as simple and as complicated as that. If we have more money, we can give you more money. If we don't have money, we can't give you money. it's not a very complicated discussion to have. Thank you.

[Senator] I'd like to add to that by saying that on average, for the past six years, fees have gone up eight point seven percent per year. That's unsustainable, as other people have pointed out. And it's illegal. There's a 2.6 percent yearly cap on how much you are allowed to increase these fees. And you have gone above that. Year after year.

[Secretary] And I believe this question is open to not just the technology department, but other administrators, including the dean of students.

[Senator] I just I didn't get to make a rebuttal to Rick after he talked to my point, and I just want to say something quick. So first of all, I think that a lot of the frustration, this meeting and I agree with what you said, Rick, were the questions of why do we charge these fees or we view them as a condition of employment. You appear to not view them that way. And you said, you know, we can have another meeting about that. And I think

every senator in this call would welcome another meeting on the philosophy about why these fees are being charged and how we can come to some sort of mutual ground and accept each other's reality where we can make some negotiations. I honestly feel that every admin on this call is not negotiating in good faith except for Charlie. I really think that it doesn't seem anybody is willing to make... to reach any sort of middle ground, which is the definition of negotiation. And so I have to say I'm pretty disappointed. And I think a lot of the frustration that's coming out on this call is the fact that we have exactly one meeting two hours a year to discuss docking our pay by, you know, an 8 percent increase in the dock, our pay or whatever, whatever the percentage increase on the fees was. And so if we only give us this one opportunity, this is not sufficient enough to discuss something like this. I think that cramming it into this and consulting with us is not efficient or effective for the purpose.

[Gatteau] John, can I just respond? Thanks for what you just shared. I did want to mention though, and I don't think it was mentioned by each group. But we each group does have an advisory board and we do ask and there are representatives from GSO in each advisory board and they meet at least at least quarterly. And part of what? And I know I asked both Qing and Shaheer the presence of both groups to early on last year to please make sure there was representation ongoing on these groups, because the goal of that committee work was to go back and forth. So even to Charlie's point about it, there are services or things that shouldn't that we don't want or shouldn't be included. That's why we want the student representation early on. So it doesn't wind up being here is just a two-hour meeting. We've got to move on. I would rather it be an ongoing dialogue. So I don't know if your group or anybody on this group was going to those meetings, but they do occur regularly during the academic year to solicit feedback.

[Grad Student] I have a direct response to your point, Rick. Yes. I'm for example. I'm on the interview review board of CARA in Chapin apartments. It doesn't matter how early on we voice these objections; we are told the same thing, which is that we can't do a thing, the budgets are fixed and they have to go up. I was told to my face that despite the fact that I have a 2 percent pay increase, my rent is about to go up 5 percent. And I was told that it's not negotiable. Even so, the fact is I was part of that interview committee right from the very beginning. There was not an option. I was told, you know,

[Gatteau] I just... let me just separate that because that's a little bit different. I'm talking about these broad based fees. You know, for housing... It's a little bit different cause that also that whole operation is self-sustaining as an operation. So, yeah, but I just wanted to point out that's a separate in terms of a separate review process.

[Grad Student] my point was that I spoke to my experience, but from what I heard from everyone else, that's not you, despite the media, even in the meetings early on. It's not that we are given an option to decrease those fees. That you have to understand. We would like that option on the table for decreasing the fees or increasing on fee. One of

the two, that's the option that we would like to have on the table. And regardless of the goal and regardless of the meeting, it is not. And that's a point I would want to point out regardless of even if we give feedback early on. It's not an option. That's the option we need. That's the option we need to have. If either the fees go down or pay go up, one of the two options.

[Senator] I'm going to piggyback on Shawn a little bit here. I think that to insinuate that the lack of negotiations that is currently going on in regards to the fees amount is because of some kind of lack of engagement from us, the student body... I think is quite insulting and frankly untrue. You have a group of 70 something people, right? The whole GSO, the heart of graduate student body, the heart of the union, the heart of the student body against the fees. And that message has been clear for years, for years, we've been saying that we do not agree with the fees. And yet here you are saying that it is because of a lack of engagement with the administration, that we have failed to decrease the fees or abolish it completely. Frankly, I think that these past two hours was an insult to all of us because as Jose was asking and got a very clear response from the administration, there is absolutely no willingness on the part of the administration to negotiate and otherwise change the fees. And always we are being given the response that we should have another meeting, always another meeting, always another administration frustration for us. And you know what? All that labor that has gone and has given us exactly nothing, in fact, worse than nothing, it has given us an average of 8 percent increase in fees every single year. And you know what? That doesn't reflect incompetence from our part, I think it's the other party whose incompetence is showing.

[Senator] Can I also say one thing if possible? So if you're saying that honestly, if you're saying that, you know, for the COVID situation, we have to, you know, being in this situation together and fight and, you know, we have to endure this then. So like Stony Brook is known for having higher proportion of salaries paid to upper administration right at Stony Brook was number one or number two compared to pure universities based on according to this report. Then are you at least cutting those high up admin staff salaries first before increasing or proposing to increase fees? I think this is for Mr. Gatteau.

[Gatteau] Yeah, I saw that in one of the slides. I know I can't speak to the accuracy of that information. I don't know how the Bunsis report came about, what the comparisons are. I really can't speak to that particular, but a lot of a lot of you are being paid for like \$200,000-\$300,000 dollars a year. At least two of you or three of you are paid that much, isn't it? Is it moral to not do pay cuts and then ask student to pay increased fees?

[Gatteau] Yeah, I mean, I don't really have an answer to that question, I mean, I guess this is a separate question in terms of compensation levels for staff. You know that that's something that's negotiated between an employee and the university.

[Senator] I understand, I understand. But if you're saying like we have to be in this together and that kind of pay cuts should happen, too, right. If we have to all suffer together, why all the students have to suffer, not those in upper level administration class.

[Senator] Yeah. To be clear we are the only ones taking pay cuts.

[Grad Student] Yeah. A 10 percent increase on fees on me is maybe that's a couple of hundred dollars at most. A 10 percent decrease of a few hundred thousand dollars salary would pay for a lot of the improvements that you're asking for.

[Senator] And one of our salaries.

[Gatteau] I mean, not to pass tuition to Melissa, but I did want to just mention as well, you know, we're part of a state system. And what all this comes down to is the university wouldn't need to charge fees if there was a different support mechanism for the university. You know, as opposed to other private institutions, the may of other funding sources, we're really rely on the state and then philanthropy to provide the resources for the university and so to maintain a quality name of Stony Brook, there is a cost associated that how that money gets collected to then be the full amount to run the university. Those amounts that have vary depending upon recessions in good times and bad and what that looks like. But that is the challenge to me. I always use the word dallies is trying to balance what's the right amount that the university needs to run its operations as efficiently and effectively and maintain the quality of the university. And that's a difficult thing to different depend on where everyone's viewpoint. But I just want to share as a state institution, that really is one of the challenges and the advocacy the university makes to SUNY and the governor to say, let's, you know, how do we invest in Stony Brook and the SUNY system as much as possible so that the cost of the student is the least possible. I mean, that's an interest we all, I think, called collectively it just that unfortunately, you know, especially where we're going to be facing now in the next several months and probably several years, there will there will be huge implications of that for the university. And I think, you know, every school is going to be trying to hold on to as much revenue as possible to offset what we know will be significant losses probably, and even state support.

[Senator] So nothing's your fault. It's all everybody else's fault. There's no responsibility here. From admin. That's your message. And we don't have a quality institution. We've already been over the fact that we are losing excellent candidates because this university is too expensive to attend to. Like what kind of quality institution are going to keep building if we can't bring in our number one and number two choices? Like you. So just summarize what you just said. It's not your fault. You don't control these fees.

You're just responding. It's everybody else's problem, not yours. And we have a great institution, which it seems like we're probably not going to because we can't keep good graduate students. We can't bring good graduate students in.

[Grad Students] And I would also like to piggyback on that point when you said that you're discussing the question of people getting paid and fees and what so what about faculty? Faculty and staff in the sense of professors and adjuncts have already experienced the issue of hiring freezes and no money for them. This is not a question. This is this is a very complicated discussion. And you're going to have to have that. You aren't bringing in good faculty that will attract new students.

[Senator] I have I have a bit of a confusion, to be quite honest. So from this whole conversation about fees and where it's used, right in the beginning of this meeting, most of the energy was being used on justifying the fees and how they're essential services and whatnot. And all these essential services are essentially infrastructure for the school. They're needed for the school to perform. And where the funding from these things come from are supposedly from expendable pools of money. Right. Pools of money that the school can use to fund these things. And somehow that ends up being our paychecks. As you know, we're students. Yes. But our only source of income contractually is from the school. So you're essentially taking our money asked to so disposable pulls of money for this amount. And what I'm getting from you, Rick, is that the school is financially struggling and it's in competition for funding against a lot of other SUNY system schools. So my question, if Stony Brook is really struggling so much that it has to take money from the students to support its own infrastructure, what justifies the increases in pay that we've seen in administration for the last year alone? There were substantial increases in pay in administration levels. So clearly the money must be coming from somewhere. It's not coming from nowhere. You know, I mean, where's the money coming from? If there's such a magical source of money that is going towards the increases in pay for the administration, which, by the way, can pay for a lot of these services, no problem. Then why are you asking us for money?

[Gatteau] I mean, again, I know the question was asked earlier. I can't, I can't. These are totally separate buckets of mine. I can't speak to in miniature salaries. You know, that that again, that's negotiated between when someone gets higher at the university.

[Senator] Oh, my God. You have no say in your own increase in pay. You have advocacy, you had no power whatsoever in the fact that your salary increased by an insane amount last year. You have no play in that. That was what just saw upstairs.

[Gatteau] I mean, Melissa I guess if you want to, because, again, in terms of union contracts, these are things that are negotiated the SUNY level. They're not even actually at Stony Brook. They're negotiated at the state level.

[Senator] Yeah. OK, so you can get money somehow, but we can't.

[Hogarty] We've had to have an enormous amount of cuts in order to fund contractual salary increases. So they're negotiated by the governor, but the governor does not give us money to pay for those increases.

[Grad Students] So we've found a problem there that rather than being inflicted on graduate students should be done somewhere else/

[Hogarty] No, I don't think... We made cuts, we've made cuts.

[Grad Student] Did you make cuts? Did you make cuts in the admin or in the faculty?

[Hogarty] In administration. Not on the backs of students.

[Senator] Maybe we need to cut more. I mean, because at the beginning, the meeting started with each department justifying for increases. But then at the end you are saying that those monies might not be used for those reasons. But we need it because we are in a difficult situation. That doesn't make sense to me. I don't think it's even legal to do that.

[Gatteau] No, that's not. No, I mean, whatever it goes to, the fee can only be spent in that fee area. That's all it. I mean,

[Hogarty] It doesn't supplement salaries.

[Senator] You know, that's not what I'm saying. So because of the COVID situation, those fees may not be used for the reasons why, you know, they said they will use. Isn't that what you said? Are they really going to be used for those reasons this coming year? Because you're asking our money this time this year. Yeah I don't think there was.

[Gatteau] I'm trying to if there was an example of what wouldn't be used as scheduled. I mean that they would be I will say that the challenges and Charlie and Neil alluded to this in each of the fees even though what we charge students a fee. Some of that, cause to forget to run the entire tech enterprise and entire transition enterprise. There's

still state funding that goes towards that. The concern is that that may be cut. That's the issue that that's my bigger concern because and then we should real fear shouldn't be used for that right.

[Senator] Because that's different from the reason that you said that we'll use what is he for.

[Gatteau] Well I mean the best thing would be for these services if everything was fully state funded but it simply is not. So the fees are charged to cover the difference basically. So we're paying and we hope we get state funding. If we don't it's gonna be an added challenge. Again the fees won't go up from what we've proposed at all but I'm just saying that that is a concern at the university level that that the state funding system lies not just Stony Brook but all of SUNY will likely have less funding next year which are most effective in other services that we could even offer.

[Senator] So if the service is not going to be offered then the fee might not go up. That is what you're saying?

[Gatteau] No I don't know an example. The services will all be offered that we've proposed that. That's why. What did you hear differently that we wouldn't be doing?

[Grad Student] Because you just said we'll make up the shortfall. Right? If we lose state funding, Graduate students and undergrad students will make up the shortfall.

[00:01:42.61] Well I'm not saying that would happened. I think what we're all doing internally is looking at how do we think, to Charlie's point, how do we look at our operations and say what should we do. If you had to go through a list of priorities and say what do we not do that won't affect quality of service, we would try to do that first. That would obviously be the very first but we don't want to increase for all the reasons you just said we don't want to lose enrollment. We don't want to lose the top candidates that come to us don't want to come to Stony Brook.

[Senator] Then don't.

[Senator] But you don't have that reason to increase. Not a justified reason.

[Gatteau] The last thing I want to say is that these issues are being faced at every college and university now. The only ones where it's less apparent are those that have

massive endowments that can take money to help address the concern in the short term.

[Senator] Then be better than them.

[Senator] Well we're seeing that change now. Actually Rick we're seeing you to see waving entirely graduate student fees. We're seeing some universities. Waive G5 fees. I'm even seeing UCLA which you in the presentation labeled as one of our peer competitors. They included four endowments and certain graduate stipends there. Those certain stipends the entirety of their graduate student fees are waived but not all of them. So we can actually separate graduate student fees for being waived and they're doing this because they recognize that graduate student fees harm the competitiveness of the university. And somewhere down the line of the last 20, 30 years we've had states cut funding from state universities and I recognize this. I think all of us can see how damaging this has been to state colleges and state universities that the university has to start coming up with new ways to find funding that has been cut from the state. Cuomo has been very good at this since he's been governor even before that.

[Gatteau] But can I add a point I think you make a great point.

[Senator] Can I just get to the less point. But the kind of thing that either we've all been tricked into thinking or, not the fault of Stony Brook, but something that we all thought that we would be doing when we went into a Ph.D. program was that you enter the program into the kind of degree that is free in terms of the tuition all the costs are covered because you're going to be doing research and work and all of that kind of stuff for the university. And as I noted earlier that the fees SB you are that one of the highest. And that's kind of mandatory we can't get around that with the stipend. So that's where the kind of... the sticking point for all of us is coming from. That we can't not bring that up. And as we're kind of raising the fees now to either preempt any cutbacks that are coming and any cutbacks that have already happened we're kind of seeing that all of the work that we're putting into a PhD and doing for the school to raise the provenance of SB you which is pretty good. We have top tier programs for certain programs. That's putting much more financial pressure on us for the kind of tacit agreement that is between the school and ourselves and just the institution itself and everyone to kind of take takes part in it. And I'm done now.

[Gatteau] So I just want to add one piece I think you use good examples and you know as you were talking it made me think about competitive advantage and I think Stony Brook regardless of you know a stipend level or fees some students I think do choose schools based upon the ranking of a particular program that that drives a decision. But just to give some perspective. Like for UCLA and UNC for example they don't and I don't know this to be true in terms of they're using their endowments for this but they may be doing exactly what you said about giving you know, having no fees or giving better stipends because they're using it as their competitive advantage but they each

have five billion dollar endowments. I just looked it up as you were talking and Stony Brook endowment is three hundred and forty million. So I just want to just turn the scale. I mean I wish we were an institution that was 200 years old because our endowment would probably be much larger than it is as a 60 year-old institution. But I just, I just, I'm trying to give perspective so everyone understands what some of the challenges are at an institutional level of trying to do right but realizing we don't have the same resources that very wealthy schools do unfortunately. If we could do what competitively would others are doing. Of course we would do that, and so schools are using it to their advantage their endowment to keep the best students I wish we could do that. Believe me I wish we could. I think I think it's a very I mean let's look at the landscape. It's true other schools are going to use this to their advantage.

[Grad Student] So I'd like to ask about something in the beginning of your point you're saying that Stony Brook is not as rich as maybe the other institutions are but, again, we as graduate students are disproportionately affected by your decisions here. We are a small group. Asking us to pay our fees, is a small amount, compared to the rest of the other people on this campus and you still want to charge us money. This small group that provides you value and somehow you are justifying this all by saying that we have to do this. I'm sorry it doesn't even make financial sense because there's not enough of us to really make up your shortfall. And I believe you guys know this. This is not something that's a surprise to you. There's around 4000 of us on campus that are graduate students. We are not a large resource that you can tap into for paying for fees and yet we are the ones who are paying a disproportionate amount of our income as a fee. And this is this is our sticking point. We understand you that you need money. This is the thing that has happened but maybe don't take it from your most vulnerable population who also happens to be the reason you are a school. Again, we do the work. That's what I'm here to do my work as a student. I'm here to study where I am indeed I believe I'm pretty sure that my work also contributes to how this university is viewed. If you don't believe that I am valuable. Please understand. I think I'm valuable. I know I'm valuable. I am part of a good program. I am proud of the professors I work with. I am proud of the students. And I'm pretty proud of all the others who are here. We are your resource. Please don't treat us like a resource to be squeezed for money. We are the reason we have papers; we are the reason that... we are the ones who teach. We are the ones who do the work. We are. We are asking you to have some kindness for our situation.

[Secretary] I will summarize what Shawn said with the common phrase that we see on stickers around campus: SUNY works because we do. We, the graduate students. And with that I would like to thank the admins that came to our meeting and will request that senators that are still in the call remain present so that we can adjourn our meeting.

Motion to release a statement condemning fee increases, by Senator from Psychology, seconded by Senators from Linguistics, Chemistry and Technology and Society. Majority voted yay, motion passed.

The amount of money GSO has to be reimbursed to students for Graduate Activity fee is about \$100,000. If reimbursed, it will amount to about \$10 per full time student, \$5 for half time students. Treasurer proposed to carry this money over to FY 20/21, instead of reimbursing the fee. Senator from Geosciences proposed that we vote to carry over the full amount to FY 20/21, and in the May Senate meeting to decide what these funds will be used for, and that one of those outcomes could be to just issue a \$10 check to all graduate students. Senator from Sociology moves to return Student Activity fee, seconded by Senator from Linguistics. 12 votes in favor, 6 in opposition, 2 abstained. Motion passes.

Senator from Sociology moves to table discussion in the event that previous motion does not meet quorum. Motion passed unanimously.

[Note from Secretary, quorum of 25% of certified senators is 13, so motion passed]

Senator from Sociology moves to adjourn meeting, seconded by Senator from Technology and Society.