

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay, a mic check Mic check. Can everyone hear me. All right. Awesome. Thank you. It's now five o'clock, which is give everyone a couple of minutes to sign in. And then we'll get started in a little bit. Okay everyone, it's a few minutes after five. So let's go ahead and get started. Do I have a motion to call the meeting to order. Yes, so I see Spencer raise a hand also emotion from Amy second for know well thank you very much. Um, hold on, let me put up the slides to do that. All right. Okay. Slides are up.

So next up is the approval of the agenda. So, do I have a motion to approve the agenda. Alright motion from Amy second for Allison. Thank you very much.

And also a motion to approve the minutes from our previous senate meeting. Motion from Hannah and second. So thank you. Thank you all very much. So welcome to our last student meeting of the summer, our very last Friday setting meeting, which I'm sure everyone's quite happy about. So I hope everyone is doing well as we transition to the fall semester usual, we have a lot to talk about. So I will just go ahead and hand things over to Mallesh for his presidents report.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

Can I just remind senators that only certified senators can vote. So if you if your department did an election or whatever. And you're new. You can't vote yet because you haven't been certified, but hopefully tonight we will pass a certification process. Just a reminder. All right.

**Michael Lenmark**

Thank you. Jose. Alright. The floor is yours, Mallesh.

**Mallesham Dasari**

Thank you, Michael. Can you go to the next slide please. Thanks. So good evening, everyone. I hope you're doing okay staying safe before coming to campus when is open. I see a lot of students it seems like in groups of like large clusters. Thank God, I'm on campus. I have to come because of the issues and other but I suggest you do a wide coming to campus. Okay, anyway. So keeping all that aside. Let's see what we have. So as everyone all of you know that King resigned. A couple of weeks ago. And as for the Constitution, I am acting President of the GSO. So the EC and I have been sitting for a suitable candidate for the VP for quite a long time. And then we found Tristan Catalano who is best suited for the last presentation so I want to bring them down to the table and asked us to vote on this so that will officially start the position. I think so far is the interim Interim Vice President. Now after voting will be to take the official vice principal title. So Michael, do you want to put this to one to a vote.

**Francesca Polo**

Mallesh if I could please just a moment why is it after elections that he would get the vote. Why is that?

**Mallesham Dasari**

I don't understand the question.

**Francesca Polo**

Why is it after elections, he would become the Vice President.

**Michael Lenmark**

00:09:53

If I may, Francesca, I think what it means is that tonight's vote is to confirm Tristan as Vice President, who will serve from now until like the new Vice president takes over in October, after our official elections for everybody.

**Francesca Polo**

Okay, thank you. I'm sorry.

**Michael Lenmark**

Yeah, of course. Um, alright, so first up as a point of order like Kristen. Do you have any remarks that you'd like to say as our incoming VP.

**Tristan**

Not presently

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay. All right. Does anybody have any questions for interested in or for the UC regarding this appointment. Looks like not. So in that case, do I have a motion to confirm Tristan Catalano as our new vice president for the GSO. So to serve for the remainder of this 2019 2020 term. I mean, we could just do what we always do. And just to take yes or no in the box.

**John Klecker**

Oh, I was just gonna say if we if we nobody has an objection to voting by unanimous consent, then we don't need to count votes but if people have objections that we can do a roll call vote.

**Michael Lenmark**

About we just do our normal process, real quickly. So to someone proposed the motion to the forum.

**Francesca Polo**

Can we go by unanimous consent.

### **Michael Lenmark**

Okay, well, okay, proposed by Spencer Austin seconded by anyone. Second by Amy and Owen. So if you to support to vote for your trust in the type yes in the chat box if you oppose press no abstain for that as well.

Ready. So looking through, um, we'll get through all the results. There are two abstentions. But otherwise, the, the motion passes unanimously Tristan is now our VP. So, welcome aboard Tristan officially we're glad to have you with us. All right. Thank you very much everyone please continue with your support.

### **Mallesham Dasari**

Thank you, Michael. Um, yeah. So the next thing I wanted to bring this up is remember I was talking a lot about the diversity, equity, and inclusion in the last meeting. So for this, these two months until October I thought I would be able to do something. So I've been meeting with people in the administration to talk about these things. Including the newly appointed vice president of Dr. Davis, Jr. Famous and Clark and the director of the Accessibility Services Wendy and the graduate school Dean. I also talked to Kathleen So basically, like we're when I talk to, as you would expect, everyone is in support of the creation of some sort of opportunities are like some services for the underrepresented students and bringing the Diversity and Equity and Inclusion awareness to like everyone on campus. So I wanted to mention a few things.

So Tristan, particularly as vice president role because we don't have much productions. At present, Tristan will take over as the chair of this committee for now and he's working with the committee members. And he'll put more on that in future, but for now. What I found was the available services, some things are like in terms of for example, for disability services and accessibility services. Kathleen from the graduate school. She said that she has grants for faculty mini grants for faculty to support students who need this kind of services. So if you know any student that requires special services you can reach out to the graduate school. So they already have some sort of programs to help this way. The reason I'm bringing up this is I received the moment I introduced this special committees in the last meeting. There were a number of emails that I received from many students that the department's not not helping them in providing the services. So I have been talking to the students and putting them in touch with the graduate school by myself and with other other departments like Accessibility Services Department and the other is just but but but having this committee dedicated for this purpose and closely involved with involving in this in tackling these issues is really important. So I want to emphasize that and whoever is in that committee please make sure that this happened and and reach out to the graduate students that we have the special committee that we care for this. Okay. And like I said last time the Vice President for the diversity of pace thought she said she has a budget if you need to write proposals if you want to do something about it. Okay. And yeah, so this. These are the things that I wanted to discuss if you have any questions, again, feel free to reach out to me and Christian Christian will focus more on this, especially because we don't have much money.

Okay, if you don't have any questions on that. I'll move on to the next topic. Right, please. So it's the this time of year, like we're starting the new semester. So if you remember last year, we've been fighting in since last couple of years we've been fighting with the administration. Quite a lot to basically eliminate these fees for at least G5 students right so in the spring, they they agreed, basically they send out an email, particularly microphones sent out an email saying that we will face of this technology for G5 students in two years and from the fall 2020 and until spring will have to pay half of the technology fee, I think, yeah, half the local GPD. So, but we still see that technology people technology fee on solar so don't get are extroverted he assured me he sent me another email saying that they are trying to implement this from fall 2020 itself. It's this. They're, they're a little bit slow it seems.

So I talked about this. We talked about this with Dean Wertheimer. What about like why they have to put this solid, they should have just just would have peace for my students by default. Right. So they said, there are some complications, it seems, but he couldn't convince these people finance people to to basically put have peace in Angela science today when they're going to provide some sort of funds, I think, from case from something so that it it's it looks as if like, you know, the transportation fee that database, the Union, right. So we'll get some sort of credit from some other funds, it seems, and then we'll get like how the technology. And that will happen sometime soon. So expect some sort of an email from the graduate school, saying that you don't have to. You don't have to pay off of the technology. So we talked about this. That's all about the fees, but you're still fighting, we still want to fight to eliminate the rest of the fees for the graduate students, particularly for my students. So I want to emphasize that for the next EC. And for the next sentence for the next year, so please work on that as well.

Questions?

**John Klecker**

I can bring it up later when when we're doing Q&A

**Mallesham Dasari**

Okay, yeah, I think, yeah, you can basically. Yeah, that's all I wanted to say about fees. Maybe if you guys have anything

**John Klecker**

Um, yeah. So I guess my question about the G5 tech fee is so I was really like, we know surprised when I saw that they doubled the fee. And so, you know, I know in the spring we received confirmation that they were going to cut the fee by 50% and so by then doubling it this fall, you know, we're basically paying the same fee. As we did last year and I know they said in the spring that they were going to use cares act money to offset the difference. So they're like they're using care Zach money to help pay our tech fee for us, theoretically, my, my question or my real concern is are they simply just raising the tech fees in a way so that they can give themselves care money that is supposed to be directed towards students and say, look, we're using this student directed care money to

pay the tech fee, even though it's going right into the slush fund. So that's my, that's what I'm really concerned about with this. I don't know if that's the case, maybe I'm just being cynical, but at this point I have no reason not to be so.

### **Mallesham Dasari**

So that's a good point. I, I have a complete answer for that. So multiple things right. First, the short answer is no, they are not doing that. But let me tell you why. So they've been they've been increasing fees. Over the years, right. So in the spring we met them couple of times, even before the London, I think, in February, March, so we already had this in docs that they're going to increase the space decrease so, so, because of that, so there any we're going to increase. They weren't even going to increase the case when I think that it can it can later. Right. So I don't think they increased fees, so that they can use case, get a sense for sentence. It says that it happened that because we fought in because we've been fighting quite a long time Michael Bernstein was actually very helpful. He was really nice in talking to us. He really wanted to eliminate fees. But the other people like Kathy Bynghton were not letting him because if if they do it they don't know the, the, are they don't know the problems that they see a they basically do not have this piece. So, so instead Michael Bernstein said they came up with some ways to to eliminate this piece of it. So they found this loop on this case. So they wanted to use it this time. So I don't know how they're going to do it for the next couple of years, but he again sent an email, I think, to you all as well. But the other thing that you mentioned is the technology fee. It's not double right so I know that there was some discussion going on in in some groups. I was there. So the technology. Last year it was \$360, I think. And then this time it is \$432. So I don't know. So is there some miscommunication. Are you sure that it is doubled. I don't think so. Is it

### **John Klecker**

I'm at this point, I'm not sure, off the top my head right

### **Michael Lenmark**

I think the proposed increase what it's doubled compared to the proposed increase in the spring meetings.

### **Francesca Polo**

Hello this is Francesca from tech tech and society, another thing I'm going to add to john is that, um, since some more recent developments, they were dealt a pretty heavy blow from SUNY, they had planned so the way they see it. They were dealt a really heavy blow this is administration. They had planned on and we're certain that they would get approval for a tuition increase. I think it was \$200 A credit, something like that. And that was denied and two other things were denied and they had to scramble and create money. So, but there's there. They also thought to have a student don't check me on this, but it's like a student healthy or something like a membership something about Jim fee or something that they normally charge, but students aren't using the gym. They were adamant that they were, were able to still that they can buy for getting those funds and be able to charge those and Sunni denied that also. So these are all different.

**Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah.

**Francesca Polo**

You know, I wouldn't be surprised if all this came down the pipe, you know, in June, sorry, in July and August as additional ways to just...

**Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah, so, so, so basically from the talks that we had in spring in the increases. I personally felt there was no surprise that is increased, we weren't going to see this in the fall, and also the technology fee waiver. It is going to happen. Half of the waiver this year and next year and follow me as a company technology. So, If you have like specific numbers just find that out, we would definitely be able to talk to record out, they cannot do that, basically, that's, that's why. I don't think that has been the case that is the case, but if it is, we should be able to talk to them. Um, yes. And that's not that's not...

**John Klecker**

My direct response is I want I want confirmation If so, so I think that they should goes back to what Michael mentioned where the proposed tech fee increase is double what it was in the spring when they showed us what they were thinking. And so if that is the case, and if they you know there's care Zach money going to paying down that tech fee, then if, like if I'm understanding this correctly that effectively they're taking care of like money that's designated for students and they're giving it to admin and I just want to confirm that that's not happening. So that's the real concern that I have and I don't know if we can.

**Mallesham Dasari**

I mean I have come in close communication with this right. I've been dealing with this stuff. So I'm like, pretty sure that they propose \$70 increase per semester in tech fee. So last year, it was in spring. It was this. And now it is 430 so I think it is correct. But if I'm mistaken, so we will we will definitely be able to talk. I don't think that is the case. So is that the proposed increase. So yeah 70 is the number that I remember the proposed \$70 increase every semester so but anyway these are useful discussion so I'll double check the numbers because the moment that I saw the message that in some circles that we have that the tech fees increased I was super surprised they cannot do this they because they were talking to us right. And other fees, whatever they did. They did it exactly what they said. So immediately looked up what the technology was before. And what they propose and it was saying. So, if I'm not mistaken. So, that is fine, but stay that is not fine. I'm not saying they are right. But yeah, this if there is something we will definitely be able to talk to them. Um, so I had something has been reduced on my solar.

Okay, yeah, I don't know, computer science cases are different. So any other questions, anything...

**Robert Wuagneux**

I have a question. This is RJ from the Music Department. Hey, so, um, what am I am all about this reduction in tech fee for G5. But what are we doing to ensure that you know, up to g4 they're not just saying, Alright, cool. No, no fees for G5. We're just going to put the onus on everyone else to pay them and we'll just keep raising their fees, then what are we doing to ensure that everyone else isn't left out of this bargaining. Because I see a huge this being a huge divisive thing that will split grad students. I just see it being a potential issue. If we're not looking out for everybody else, but only G5. That just doesn't seem right. We're fair. So what are we doing to ensure that everyone else is having to toe the line, so to speak, and will never have to and will always have to toe, an increase line. So that's my question. It doesn't have to be answered. Now it's sort of her propose that because I see that as being an issue on horizon.

**Mallesham Dasari**

So yeah, you're right. Actually, that was not going to happen. But it didn't happen that way. So if you remember that. They initially they did not accept our proposal that did not accept that they're not they're going to waive the technology for G5 students, either. So they anyway created this piece they propose this increase, increase for all the graduate students uniformly and then later because of our proposal for my students and because of a consistent fight later in June. I think end of May, Michael Bernstein said that okay fine. That's a, it does not influence increasing fees for the students. For now, but you're right that may happen in future if you want to. If you want to do this for

**Robert Wuagneux**

My antenna is up. Because I guarantee that's going to happen. Sorry to interrupt.

**Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah, yeah, of course. I think that I didn't that was going to happen. Actually, if they consider our proposal. But, you know, there are there are multiple ways to deal with it, right, like, one is to ask them to eliminate fees for all the registrants which is not going to happen. But we still want to advocate for that, um, the other thing is, like, you know, we need to accept that the most effective students. Our students are PhD students because for like me students for my students, considering the students they they tuition fees, tuition is a lot more than compared to the fees.

Are they do not even think about these fees. So, which is the reason why I felt that maybe let's first deal with different students and then go for the master students because they demonstrated the students and behind some sort of logic to right because we are not taking classes anymore and we are not utilizing most of the services, as well as the other students like G 1234 students, they're utilizing all the senses as a logic. So, so these are the things that we had in our discussions. So we thought, okay, there is a chance that if we talk about my students, they will be able to listen to us. But yeah, I agree with you. I mean, we need to talk about these things to we certainly can eliminate the fees for the students as well.

**Mallesham Dasari**

By the way, about fees. I have a little bit of positive news for us, computer science students. So we've been talking to the computer science department. About the possibility of the department supporting PhD students about the same. The fees. So we talked to our chair department chair. So if he expressed really like really positive opinion on this and they said, like the the faculty is really happy to pay that. But it's not like unanimously, it's not it's not voted or anything. So they're still it's unclear how to do, how to go about it. So, so they said, like they're very positive about it. They need to think about it. That's not going to happen this semester, but it will certainly may happen maybe next semester. But they're really happy to do that for all of these, for instance. So I strongly encourage each and every one of you to talk to your faculty to talk to your chair GPD and everyone by basically blame the university that they're doing this kind of BS. So that's what we did. It basically the university is not listening to us, you know, doesn't care about us. As a faculty can you care about us and they were they were really happy. So I think that that that is that is really so try to reach of your faculty faculty is the best way to go.

**Francesca Polo**

Did you also reach out to other departments, besides your for your own or I'm just wondering

**Mallesham Dasari**

So this news, I'm telling you, because we did this as part of as part of our CS department, not as a person. But, but this is just to let you know that this can happen in other departments as well. About me reaching out to other faculty and some time to get a list of all the GPDs chase and faculty list. I don't think I have it. So that I can basically let all the faculty know about about this. So I'm going to do that. Actually, I have been talking to some of the senators woodworking and fees. I been in contact with some other senators and Jesse you we are putting together to basically fight again against the fees, the circumstance.

So we are going to do that. So basically, the bottom line is so far. So basically, we've been learning right how to fight against face. In the like a mere two years before we've been fighting for peace against the initial piece for all the students, which we did not realize that that is not going to happen. And then later we thought about like only different students and we achieved something some type of victory for now to create confusion. But then later we realized that faculty faculty is the main support for us. So we need to reach out to faculty and faculty will tell that frustration, our faculty by themselves. So I think that is a good way to go about it.

**Michael Lenmark**

I get there is a motion on the floor to table this discussion and move on.

**Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah, actually. That's right, yes. Please, yeah. If you have any questions just reach out to me again. About the next thing is So there are there are Multiple orientation for incoming graduate students. They're already like couple of them happened already and



we scheduled for the future. So like as a senior student plays involved in these orientations and like you're in answering questions of the new incoming students. I'm pretty sure they might have a lot of questions that they didn't know that you had when you train so please involving these orientations meetings to answer some of the questions and we need each and every one of you because the students are from different departments. Right. And we only have one or two centers from each department and and it's really important for up qualities. Good. So yeah, that's all I have to say, if you have any questions, one or two questions.

**Michael Lenmark**

If anyone has any questions, please raise your hand and then I'll call you. I do see a question from john in the chat.

**John Klecker**

It was on the previous stuff I'll just, you know, Mallesh

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay, that's fine, thank you john. Let's have Tristan, you had something real quick in the chat.

**Tristan**

Yes, It's about fees. Um, if it's okay if I put it in chat. I'd be happy to. But I don't want to take up any more time.

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay yeah that's that's fine. All right. In that case, it looks like there is no more questions for him. So thank you very much for your support. Thank you everyone for your great questions. And now let's move on to our very first vice presidents report from Tristan. Thank you.



**Tristan**

Thank you very much. Um, so this is going to be real quick because I haven't been around for very long and just showed up, um, The two things that I'm focusing on, for the most part, for what will be. What about two months or however long my tenure is a is going to be the DEI committee and orientation. At this point, the DEI committee if anyone else wants to join or sit in on meetings or something please email me, I'd be more than happy to accommodate you. It looks like we're going to have our first meeting on Tuesday. Boy howdy, what day TUESDAY THE 25th probably like 3pm. I will get that out shortly to confirm it with everyone who's in the committee, um, and as far as

orientation goes looking at a virtual orientation seems like it's going to take a little bit of time setting up and the issue with that that I'm seeing is that it's going to be a bit later in the year than one might expect. Um, and part of that problem is because offices were being juggled around at the time. So we didn't, we couldn't really plan.

For an advance on that. Um, As far as New Student Orientation goes I'm open for questions or comments on that.

### **Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah. So basically, there was a lot of this disruption right from the previous question and vice president. So it took a long time to appoint Tristan. So when you go on this edition in advance, partly because of the many other things going on, right, like this orientation happening the Graduate School is also hosting another orientation in here. So we thought maybe instead of hosting an orientation maybe we can host a town hall meeting where where we can just stay there. Once a question is from your students so anyway, so let's see. Yeah. Question from that.

### **Michael Lenmark**

Yeah, if anyone has any questions for Justin, please raise your hand. John has a question.

### **John Klecker**

If we are really going to do a town hall meeting with administrators would be fun. We could talk, Um, but if not, if we're just going to do like like student issues, I think, you know, highlighting the relief fund and highlighting like like making it a point to highlight places where students should go to seek resources should be like one of the key priorities for this. That's all.

### **Tristan**

From what I have planned right now. In terms of like orientation, it will end up being kind of like a town hall with admin on just a whole lot of offices all at once. And if that's what what you were getting at John sorry

### **Michael Lenmark**

Right. John says that sounds good in the chat. Does anybody have any other further questions for Tristan. All right. Looks like no further questions. Thank you very much.

Tristan. Well, once again, welcome aboard. Alright so next up is our treasures report as a non. You have the floor.

### **Anand Aiyer**

Hey, thanks. Oh, can we go to the next slide. Yeah. So this year we are expecting at least, The I mean for the fall. We're expecting our budget to decrease by 60%, But this is the activity fee if there is no I mean this is the income if there is no decrease. So We got the numbers only in December and Like, just before the start of COVID for last year. So we have around 4800 to 5000 full time students and 2000 to 2200 are a half times students and this year. I mean, in the last Senate, we voted to have a uniform \$45 student activity fee. So yeah, so yeah so \$45 activity fee from halftime students. The

justification is that all students with active senators are eligible for reimbursements and most of our events are most of the GSR function is reimbursements and not you know event based. So even half time students can benefit. So hopefully that will bring us like some additional money. So that's like \$100,000 there that we can count on. Yeah, and the only orientation budget may be decreased. Other than that, I don't see any other decreases. We have results of \$75,000 from two years ago, which we couldn't spend last year. So we're carrying it forward. Can you go to the next. Oh, yes. So now this is the accounting, we have to pay FSA 34,800 they are the fiscal agent, we need to investigate further. Who else can we legally appoint as our fiscal agent. So we were in touch with USG President last year, he can't he they have a much bigger but do they have a budget 10 times our size and he alleged that FSA is not very efficient and we have also not been very satisfied with the FSA. But what is the alternative to FSA being the fishing village, and we need to find out. The external auditor. That's like a form that we use every year. Please go to next slide. Yes. Yeah, so we have allocated \$5,000 for the new office. Currently, the secretary Jose is managing that. It's the old commuter lounge in the SAC. So this money is for buying furniture and things over. The telephone bill is \$800. That is what we pay every year. I'm open to suggestions on you know whether we should use some cheap like I don't know plan or something, we happy to do that. Insurance is for in case anybody gets you know injured during any events that we conduct. It covers all senators and Officers of the GSO from any kind of lawsuit, you know. can you, next. Yeah, so the payroll is a big change. So, we are trying to have a uniform payroll for the executive committee so that each even though each role is different. We feel that having a uniform payroll and here are justified. It's \$11 an hour 15 hours a week 52 weeks. So what happens is sometimes some roles get overloaded. Like, I don't remember working less than 20-25 hours a week. You know, but so if we can be we won't put this for international students like in their contract officially but this is, this should be like the understanding. And we'll also have a smaller government in the sense that The officers will perform most of the activities we can hire the production director and the social media manager, only if the officers are overwhelmed. So that \$4,000 is kept you know in reserve. We also the Budget Committee also discuss that. For all the office for all the staff that we are hiring. We should have [unintelligible] , so that the executive can track how much work is being done. And in case you know like they are not able to perform their duties, we can refer it to the senate. So currently we have to office managers and I feel that it is useful to have to office managers in square one, especially since we are planning to move to electronic checks only in November, that thing has got yeah, so the chief of staff proposal we are trying not to have new positions for this year. That's why I removed the chief of staff from the, Also the fundraising Person I removed it. Instead, since we are paying the officers more and we are also paying the senators. So that is like something john will talk about So for senators. We are going to pay \$1,000 for 52 weeks but it is only for the primary senator and they have to be in good standing. That is, they have to attend The Senate right and they should be member of at least one year so committee. And yeah, the roles and stuff. I'm sorry I'm not able to keep up with the chat. So if I don't answer your question somebody this pointer. Then what else are, yeah. Apart from that, we have the graduate student advocate.

So this year, the Graduate School cannot pay for the graduate student advocate. So that is like \$5,000 usually so instead of that. And we normally don't have direct control of the graduate student advocate, we only nominate somebody to be the graduate student advocate and they work directly with Dean, what time is on this, but then we spoke with data timer and said, if the GSO made the graduate student advocate a role of the GSR then that person can act as a liaison between the GSO and the graduate school and You know better serve the graduate students. So that is the new position here.

### **Jose Moscoso Nunez**

So I just want to point out that when I applied to the position of grad advocate that was a GA with tuition waiver. It wasn't \$5,000 so I don't... with the amount of work that that person does, I don't think anyone would do that for a stipend of \$4160 for a year. I personally don't think so.

### **Anand Aiyer**

I may have been misinformed by Dean Wertheimer. I can check with him again. So maybe there is a full salary and I think we are contributing this component to their salary. That could that could be the. Yeah, so this is the payroll. Do we have any comments on this anymore. Here we go to the next night.

So this year. This year the meetings budget for the Senate, we have cut in drastically. We will, we have been advised by the fiscal agent FSA that we should not have buffet because of the COVID situation. And that we should instead purchase food only from grocery stores that is packaged and sealed and, you know, we have to have some mechanism of giving it. Yeah, so we will have a senate meeting only in the spring. I don't think we will have senate meetings this fall, So, that is why it says spring 2021 now will only have like zoom meetings. But I mean that policy can be changed in, in which case you have to take miscellaneous expenses thousand dollars and put it into that leadership level is also tentative, I'm not sure if you know the SUNY assembly or the legislative action weeks will happen in person but that is only up to. Yeah, it should be spring 2021 I apologize for that. Leadership travel, it just tentatively their committee expenses is generally for all the Budget Committee and The DTA committee. Max membership is like campus vine is the software we are using to process reimbursements we are very unsatisfied with it but we are going to keep the license alive for one more year because we haven't implemented the replacement yet. So this year we will focus on DSO Application. Okay, next Policy Action Committee 1500 that the policy action chair utilizes. No, there should be something

### **Michael Lenmark**

That's all that's here in my slides.

### **Anand Aiyer**

Oh good, go to the first slide. Or maybe I have updated it

## **Michael Lenmark**

Let me, let me refresh my browser. Maybe it's

## **Anand Aiyer**

Yeah, could you could you go up to. Yeah. Yeah program. Right so program funding this year. We basically have cut student clubs organization general cultural event speaker series in half of this is because we the fiscal agent has advised us not to allow restaurant spending. So most of the food will be you know, like, I don't know, like you had to go to stop and shop and buy stuff. Miscellaneous grants \$1,000. Department allocations \$10,000 we have increased the professional development fund resource other apps on 250 hundred and 50 each. For the professional development fund the Budget Committee recommends that Professional society and union memberships be covered. Interview Preparation tools and job conferences, and then we'll also reach out to the Diversity Office to get some additional funds to support Some of this distinguished travel award is 20 K and then there is some money from this year. The workshop travel internship travel. We, we don't want to encourage until the situation becomes better if internship travel. I think generally is like rotations, so maybe they can't get out of it. So, that that is still 5000. The fitness and cultural and sporting we have got to 5000 each With the assumption that we will fund only from for next semester and not for this semester, even though I think I'm hearing that from September I think gyms will open in New York State. Right. You guys know about Productions, but it has been cut from 70,000 to \$30,000. This is the Vice President is in charge of this spending and so they can choose to spend this You know, I think for diversity events or you know outreach and things like that Yeah, we have 3500 for the new web application for tracking reimbursements. They have a budget, but they can also use the cultural, social, Speaker Series budget. We have a new covert relief fund \$75,000 and Spencer Austin will talk to us. Okay. And then we have the mailing list which the speaker, Speaker of the House is in charge for the last line. So orientation that I think the Vice President is in charge of are doing a hybrid events on campus campus life awards is our annual award show for the legal clinic we have increased the budget because we want to have multiple lawyers. Currently I think Jonathan, a graduate student in philosophy is handling our legal clinic tax clinic we have increased because of high demand. W SBU 90.1 FM is the student radio. We should have. We did not fully utilize their services last year Stony Brook, child care. We are currently contributing \$18,000 but I believe that it would like to raise this whole the floor a demand for additional \$15,000 support because they have been badly hit because COVID. Okay then PhD works. Last, last year we gave we have increased this because this promotes professional development for other Non academic parts. The OLLI is basically they're collaborating with us and GWISE to provide graduate students opportunities to speak and get remuneration from giving workshops Yeah. And Yeah, that covers it. So the next slide basically I hand over to John Spencer and one guy to talk about Senator roles officer roles in the graduate students.

## **John Klecker**

Again, um, yeah, I can talk about this. So I don't know when when exactly in this meeting, we would vote to adopt this but I'm in our budget meeting, we discussed the fact that the stony brook GSO Constitution does not actually have any bylaws. It's all constitution like pure constitution amendments and so I wrote some language to try to establish a bylaws section and how we would go about passing or resending by laws and then the only thing that I put in there is roles for the senators and so if people just want to discuss these things today and I shared the doc in the email.

Like the listserv. And it's open for comments so you can leave comments and I can work on it. We don't have to pass anything today because obviously, it's very late timing, but I was hoping it'd be not not very controversial. So we can at least maybe establish our bylaws section in our Constitution.

For those of you that don't know bylaws are basically like like rules of how to run them you know like how we run the organization that are less formal than the Constitution. And so it's a lower bar to pass bylaws, and they can be rescinded or amended so you can operate a meeting, but you know and like remove certain bylaws for the meeting specifically. So it basically gives us more tools in which to operate parliamentary procedure and I was using the GSO Constitution from Binghamton and the way that they did it. There was like all of the leadership responsibilities for all of the positions are outlined in the bylaws. So rather than having a constitutional amendment to change the duties of the vice president or the president or someone we could do it as a bylaw process, which would require like less lead time on the language. And a majority vote instead of a two thirds vote and a few other things. So if I've got a actually Michael if you can make me a host. I'm just going to share the language that I haven't read through it and then If people have comments or suggestions for the senator roles. I think that's what I'm mostly looking for. So if you think there's things that should be included or things that should be excluded. I'm happy to move things around. I just kind of brainstorm stuff for an afternoon.

## **Michael Lenmark**

Okay, I've made you a co host. Is that enough

## **John Klecker**

Uh, yeah. Great. Thank you. So currently, the way it's written in the Constitution. It has a section called amendments to the GSB bylaws, but it confuses the term constitution and bylaws. So they're actually like two different things. So, it removes this section that says we amend the bylaws, with the support of two thirds of Members present and instead it. It adds the section down here in green, so Sorry, I can't see the chat now so I'm just going to read through a quick and then I'll answer questions. So the bylaws will contain detailed procedures to conduct the business of the GSO in an orderly manner With the bylaws in contradiction with the constitution. The constitution overrides the bylaw specific bylaws maybe past amended suspended or rescinded by a majority vote of the GSO Senate in a meeting. Language, which will be passed amended suspended or rescinded must be submitted to the rules and constitution committee and the Senate and writing at least five calendar days prior to the meeting.

If the rules and constitution committee unanimously voted against language which is

proposed to be passed amended suspended or rescinded. A super majority of two thirds of the Senate is needed to accept it. So, this I put this in here to give some power to the rules and constitution committee. In the case where someone submit something that all of them disagree with. Then there's just a higher bar to clear in the Senate for us to adopt it Should the senate fail to approve Language It may be put to a vote of the membership with a petition signed by 200 GSO members. This is similar to the language that we have for a constitutional amendment. Proposed by law shall be put to a vote during a membership wine election so that we have once a year, or we could convene a special election for a specific issue. Um yeah ratification and then I this I change this to says ratification of the proposed Amendment requires a majority vote of the membership on In our previous constitution. This might be true right now. So to adopt a constitutional amendment if we want to do it by referendum, we need a two thirds popular vote, which To me sounded insane rather than a majority vote. So I changed it to majority if people have very strong feelings that we need to pass things with a supermajority Mean, feel free to speak up, but I strongly disagree with that, um, then yeah, so every time the bylaws are changed. Basically, we just x out the old language and add the new language. So that is kind of a living document and there's dates when they've been amended. Then these are the duties that I have for the senators and This was just a rough draft. So if people want to add things or remove things I'm open to it. But this was kind of on Along the same lines of, you know, since we're suggesting we should be paying senators, we should standardize the work that's required of them so that we have something to hold people accountable for when they are or are not doing work. So attendance. Yeah, tend to every GSO senate meeting you can't skip two consecutive meetings. If you're unable to attend submit notification in writing or email to the secretary 24 hours before the meeting so duties within the Senate vote. And serve meet with and serve on a standing committee meetings of standing committees must take place at least once a month with a meeting agenda and notes of actions taken Submitted to the secretary 72 hours prior to the monthly GSO meeting. So this is the portion where I want you know kind of a working History of what committees are doing each month. And so that, you know, this should hopefully push people to hold meetings set an agenda have action items work on them. And take notes and then standing committees would be required to present an update on their work in the senate meeting once per semester supposed to be like a rotating schedule where, you know, like some, some, you know, Each committee would present what they've been working on. I said, with the exclusion of the budget committee because they meet every Like week before the monthly meeting to adopt funding, we can also add additional you know committees to this list that are not required to present if they meet very regularly. Because the goal is not to simply add you know more to the list of people that are already busy. It's just to spread the workload and then yeah, I'm proud of our senators are expected to forward all correspondence from the GSO two departments when directed. So that's just using the listserv efficiently to communicate. With all the graduate students and then Primary senators are expected to present that departmental orientations on the role and function of the GSO. This is something that I discussed with a not a little bit and I think This would be a good practice to put in place. So most departments hold orientations for new students and I think it would be good.

If GSO senators got in the habit of presenting at these orientations or hosting some sort of department level event on their own or you highlight the funding opportunities that the GSO house for students and ways that they can get involved, just to increase participation. And then primary senators would be expected to hold one office hour per month to hear an address concerns of departmental GSR members. So this is just a way to standardize like taking feedback from people in your department. So both. That's what I have so far. Look at the chat. Um, does anybody have any questions or comments on this stuff.

How did these bylaws differentiate between primary and alternate senators. So I thought about assigning work to alternate senators, but I know that, like in some departments like in chemistry. I was an alternate senator last year and I was at like almost every meeting, but I know some alternate senators don't. You know, don't do as much. And so I didn't know how people felt about that. I think also the current amendment that we have to the budget is to only pay primary senators, so I only wanted to standardize the workload for the primary senators. And yes, these senator duties are under the assumption that senators will be paid \$1,000 a year for their work, I think, is what was proposed someone please correct me if I'm wrong.

**Anand Aiyer**

Oh, that is good. This is part of the budget.

**John Klecker**

A good idea to allow senators to chair. Most committees. Yeah, that's a good. That's a good idea. I think I think some senators can share certain committees. But I don't know how we go about that process of selecting who chairs what committee but I agree that would absolutely be a good idea because then we're delegating the work a little bit more, you know, more

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

With the exception of the rules and constitution, which is chaired by the Speaker and the Elections Committee, which is typically chaired by the Secretary. I'm pretty sure and the Budget Committee, which is chaired by the treasurer. All other committees can be chaired by by Senators.

**John Klecker**

Oh yeah okay so amend section one two, If someone just wants to propose the comment in the actual Google Doc, I'm happy to updated to reflect the primary alternate distinction Oversight what would it be

**Francesca Polo**

Would it be a good idea, like I'm so just, in terms of the wording, you know. Are you right they cannot skip two consecutive meetings, um, they can and they face some type of consequence. So when you when you be better to write senators are expected to attend all meetings and somehow right what the consequences.



**John Klecker**

So maybe like if you're in good standing, you get paid. Right.

**Spencer Austin**

Isn't this already a rule.

**Anand Aiyer**

Would good standing already defined. We don't have to define it here.

**Spencer Austin**

Isn't the rule that if you're not in good standing. If you don't attend two meetings a semester, your department loses funding.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

Yes, so the the appropriate term is the department becomes inactive, not in not in good standing. The term is active or inactive.

**John Klecker**

I would just say they become inactive

**Anand Aiyer**

Yeah, Krista, I want to say that we are only discussing this, but in the contract when an international student signs it, we will not put the hours, it will only be a stipend. For a particular week or number of 52 weeks so it does not affect the visa status requirements.

**John Klecker**

Um, and then Sarah, to answer your question, who holds senators responsible. So the idea for this is if committees are not submitting their meeting agenda and their notes to the secretary, the members of that you know that it would probably be the duty of the Secretary to inform I guess they could inform the entire Senate or they could inform the see that you know this committee did not submit their agenda for the month and we could follow up with them and, you know, take, take recourse there. I'm the same way if if standing committees fail to present their work at least once during the semester. And then, you know, we would have to, we would hold them accountable as a group. So I don't know. We could, if someone wants to propose a specific recourse where if a committee doesn't submit something or if a if a certain senator doesn't fulfill their duties, you know, under these specific conditions and then this thing happens I'm perfectly fine with you know, proposing language like that. I just don't have anything off the top of my head right now so it just establishes, you know, a quick criteria list.

**John Klecker**

Yeah, and I think that's a good idea. I just I think everybody can propose comments on this document. So if you want to just propose something in here. Then I'll try and add

stuff in and we can you know like finalize this and to meet our meeting in a month or so. Okay.

**Francesca Polo**

Just a quick comment to I think I read somewhere. I think it would have been number two and the last page. Something about attending a meeting every month. Some of the committees. So one in particular that made me very frequently during one month or during two months or during those three months versus throughout the year. So would it be okay to consider the number of meetings or something like that. Yeah, instead of one per month or something.

**John Klecker**

Yeah, I'm open to that. I think if your, if your committee is meeting regularly enough that you're fulfilling the function that it has for GSO, then I think that's just fine. So yeah, okay.

**Michael Lenmark**

Awesome, thank you john. Is there anything else anyone has with us.

**John Klecker**

I guess what I'll say, then, is maybe let's not, I don't want to vote on this language because it seems like there's things people want to add to it, which is which is fine. Can we at least vote on approving this addition to our Constitution to be section 8.0 to establish and amendments to GSO bylaws, and this would be a through, and then it would say bylaws of the Graduate organization and then everything from here and under, we will continue to work on.

**Michael Lenmark**

So so john has brought a motion to the floor to approve that that section by was to have a second from Francesca please type, yes, no, or abstain in the chat panel webinar you support adopting this these bylaws. Okay.

**Michael Lenmark**

All right, unanimous approval, thank you john and then we can take all the rest of it for another meeting. Alright. So anything else John before we move on.

**John Klecker**

Though, that's it. Thanks. Awesome.

**Michael Lenmark**

If you could please and your screen. Thank you. I will go back to mine. Right, so now is Chuankai Chen on officer roles.

**Chuankai Chen**

Yes, Can you hear me, Michael.

**Michael Lenmark**

Yes, I can hear you.

**Chuankai Chen**

Hi, everyone This is Senator chance of the genetics program. I am also a member of the Budget Committee. I'm here basically proposing a GSO employment summary required for all GSO employees. I think it's reasonable and necessary to ask for this kind of GSO employment report from all the people that are getting paid by GSO basically what the report may look like is Do you want to pull out. Yes, please. So basically, The idea of this report is to tell people why you did, and also your suggestions. Importantly, to the futures officers to help them transition and so that they don't have to start from scratch. And importantly, any other suggestion or comment just to ensure that the GSO is operated with transparency and I think one more thing is, in order for this. Motion or by law to to be implemented. I think the policy action chair should be in charge, meaning that the policy action chair should collect those reports by all those GSO employees and I think it's a good idea to Pass this motion as a bylaw to Will that so far, what I have to say, I can take questions.

**Michael Lenmark**

Anyone have any questions on this proposed amendment. So, uh, actually, I'm not. So which document is amending actually I'm not super certain

**Chuankai Chen**

This is should this should be a new by law. I think I don't

**Michael Lenmark**

So go under, under bylaws. Okay.

**Chuankai Chen**

Yes, Bylaw number two.

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay, so like it would be attached to what we just created with john

**Chuankai Chen**

Yes. Okay.

**Michael Lenmark**

So are there any questions about creating this? Okay. It doesn't look like there any questions. So on this Chuankai brought this up to the floor to somebody. Second, In the chat. Okay, second please type, yes, no, or abstain in the chat.

So, uh, two abstentions, but otherwise unanimous support. So, it passes and what I'll be added as a bylaw. Thank you. One guy. Um, and now, last but not least, Spencer Austin on the grad student really fun.

## **Spencer Austin**

Hi everybody. So, um, what first of all let me know if you can hear me okay. I have a sketchy internet connection in the Catskills right now. So hopefully things worked out okay so I'm going to send you a link to the actual wording for this graduate student Relief Fund. It's a Google document that you can all view and then I'll talk you through it so we can all be on the same page. So what we're proposing is the creation of a temporary relief fund, at the very least, it would last for this semester. But it could potentially last into the spring semester you have a budget of \$75,000 for Fall semester

The idea would be that we would pay out reimbursements for students who have suffered hardship financial hardship due to the coven pandemic. We want this fun to be able to help students pay for groceries or to help pay part of the rent, something like that. There will be a max of \$500 per, per pay out, but I'll get into a little more information about that in a minute. So everybody who is a graduate student at Stony brook who's paid their activity fees and is active would be eligible.

There is a, I've had the language in here for the timeframe for applications and review and pay out essentially you would starting September 1 people would have the opportunity to submit applications. Those would be reviewed September 16 through 30th and then the payouts would start to be made reimbursements would start to be made in October and a similar format would be used in the spring.

The application process you will be in a secure Google form you do provide a written statement explaining Why you need the money why you need emergency funds, how that how your need is related to the pandemic. Why you're not able to get funds from somewhere else. If you've gotten funds from say like cares act funding or if you've gotten other emergency funds from Stony Brook, or from SUNY Or from another source, you'd have to disclose that you'd have to include it in the document that you submit to us. And then in addition to that you would send submit documentation. Like bills like a bill, you know, whatever. If you need to pay a bill you would submit, like a copy of the bill and you would obviously cross out and remove any information that's private or sensitive, but you provide whatever information you could you could do us to document your need. And then Like I said, you would remove all of your private information like your social security number, anything from that. This information would be reviewed by a private by a secret community like it like the committee that reviews are that the Secretary Chairs I can't remember that GSO award We do annually. And we have a couple secret, you know, are closed committees. I think is probably a more accurate term. But this committee would be co chaired by by the graduate student advocate and the international student advocate or Whoever to people, the grad the graduate students in it wants to a point, we just figured that those two people made the most sense. But that would be co chaired the CO chairs would be known, obviously, but then there will be five other Members who would be senators. Alternate or primary senators who would also be members, they would not be Not you, wouldn't we would know who those people are only the chairs would know that idea being that we wouldn't want those people to be pressured and we wouldn't... we'd also want to keep the process confidential as much as possible so we wouldn't want any pressure applied to those

individuals. And we also wouldn't want any information released so that kind of would help that process along.

We've set a process in place in this document for how that committee would be established. Essentially, it would need to be established by the 31st. But, you know, until that committee is established the budget committee would perform its functions. And essentially, the only function it would have until the 31st is to create the Google Doc or the Google form that you would need to submit an application for reimbursement. That's pretty much the only thing we need to do now and we want to have that done in time so that people can just be people can submit as soon as possible when we are ready to go in on September 1 That would be reviewed by the committee, they'd have to take certain things into account that would be a needs based process. It's not a first come first serve process. So you have to take things into account, like if they have TA or GA or RA funding. Know the nature of the funding request, whether they receive funds from us in the past past, we did include language in this proposal, saying that in cases of extreme, extreme hardship an applicant could receive a grant of over \$500 which is the normal cap. If two thirds of the special committee approved that and the Budget Committee also approved. But we also say it also says that their people could potentially apply for more than one round of funding, more than once, but they would receive lower priority and they could only apply in a later round of funding if all our, our funds were not exhausted during the first round.

The payout process, it would essentially work like reimbursements for rap and in terms of oversight, the special committee members coaches, the coaches would have to be they'd have to report back to the Senate every single month. To explain how things are going and the GSO leadership would also be responsible for trying to raise funds solicit donations from faculty from the administration from other sources. I know Stony Brook was able to raise several million dollars for its emergency fund by soliciting the donations of rich Alumni so some kind of procedure like that and to solicit donations to make sure that this fund would be sustainable for next semester we know, it will be sustainable for this semester. And we think it will be sustainable for next semester where the money's there. It can be sustainable, but Just to give us as much To make sure as possible that we would try to solicit donations and, you know, if we did have more funding, potentially, we could help even more people. So this is the proposal that's on the table right now. A \$75,000 Budget for this Program for the fall with the potential on the Senate's approval in it would have to be done in the at the end of the year to extend it into the spring if necessary.

### **Michael Lenmark**

Okay. Thank you. Spencer. So will be voting on this through our vote on the overall budget, but before we do that, does anybody have any questions specifically on this program.

### **Francesca Polo**

I have a few questions. Francesca and society. First one, when you mentioned that Students, you know, might get funding in the first round the second round might, you

know, they might get lower priority, they would get lower priority. What is around. Is it one semester is it several per semester.

### **Spencer Austin**

So, the idea is, and you can if you go up into the let me find the It's the it's under time frame for application review and pay out. So the rounds. When I say round, I mean, this period of september first through 15th when we're accepting applications for reimbursement then if we don't get all of our money used up that's that's what that that is round one. If we don't have it all of our funds are not used up.

All \$75,000 don't get gobbled up by people applying and by the committee accepting applications, then if there's anything left over. The committee will create a second round, kind of a, you know, a special round with obviously a lot less capacity because the budget will be much lower. And that. So that would be the second round. Yes, there is money left over, and that for that second round. Then they have people, someone who got it in the first round could in theory, apply for it again, but they would have lower priority than first time applicants, just to make sure that we don't you know that we help as many people as possible. Okay.

### **Francesca Polo**

So I'm just trying to create like a scenario to visualize this. So let's say you have a number, the select number you have 1000 applications come in and you have several whatever you deem is appropriate for reviewers. What I would think would be do you think it would be important to have a criteria for what is approved. What is an approved and I'm so, so you do have, for example, what is an approved as the alcohol and and maybe tickets or, you know, fines or something like that parking fines.

But I think it's really important. Like if you have, if you're weighing so many factors that you should have like a waiting know what those are, but also have a weighting factor because my only concern is, let's say you have 1000 applications come in. If none of them are if you don't know what's not acceptable, and nobody has any alcohol and nobody has any parking tickets that I would seem like everybody would get accepted, you know, assuming this falls within the 75,000 so the criteria for how one qualifies to get funding becomes really important because their students who would like to get funding, but they don't they don't necessarily see themselves in that description and so they might not be as quick to apply as the people who will apply to anything. Do you know what I'm trying to say so.

### **Noele Certain**

I could take this question because I worked out so Spencer had started this, but I have drafted up examples of what people cannot apply for and what they can apply for. So again, they can't use this towards student fees. Anand had spoken to, I guess, the fiscal agent that technically this is a student activity fee. So, this cannot go towards tuition or student reimbursements it also cannot go to expenses prior to May 2020. So I do have a list. It's credit card expenses student loans, um, again, we're working on the language of that. But we, the thing is that we want to get done is to get this approved. And then move forward again making the Google Form. We're going to send this out so people

are okay with any the, I guess stipulation. If something or somebody shouldn't be able to apply for, you know, like Cable, because they need cable in their house, things like that, um,

### **Francesca Polo**

Okay. And then another question, the people who are reviewing them, will you make them blind so so sorry, not the reviewers line will you make the applications blind. I think that's important too, so that the reviewers don't see the names aren't biased in that regard.

### **Spencer Austin**

Definitely that's that we, it's absolutely essential and my greatest fear and my kind of like it's not necessarily worst case scenario because, I mean, we live in a terrible world where many terrible things happen, but a bad case scenario is if someone is on this committee and they feel like someone who's their friend is applying and they feel immense pressure to kind of try to help them because they know their friends knows that person on the committee has to we own, we can only accept applications from people offer this committee who will act in an unbiased way, but they also have to be able to act in that unbiased way because they are free of the pressure and burden of, you know, having to help their, you know, help, help the people in their department or help their friends. So they have to be like you say it has to be a blind process as much as possible when we're dealing with this kind of, you know, when we're dealing with a program where we were. When did this much money on the line. I think it, it's just a central

### **Francesca Polo**

Yeah. And then maybe maybe some higher level to remove that and strip that make it de identified maybe adding some you know, four digit alphanumeric for each you know unique person, but I think there are also some descriptors that might be useful. Like, for example, that could and you may have already accounted for this like a factor, such as, you know, if their international students they they incur some difficulties that you know some more difficulties than, say, Residents or something like that, you know, so those might be factors that you might want to the only, the only but yeah we have thought about

### **Noele Certain**

The descriptor between domestic and international, But as a domestic student, there are domestic students that do not have family. There are domestic students that have children and they also can come from difficult, difficult situation. So we should not... Okay, this is if we want us to create something that's specifically for international students, that would be great. But this is for all graduate students. Again, this is coming from all graduate students who pay student activity fees. So we want to make sure we reach everyone at the end of the day, you know,

**Francesca Polo**

I like that. Okay, good, good. I'm not an international student, by the way, but I was just thinking, you know, sometimes I hear you know about some of the things they incur. But you're right. There's also the folks who have who have children and everything that's going along with COVID and and also having children, it's going to be pretty difficult as well.

**Spencer Austin**

It's, it's something we definitely wrangled it was we tossed around these ideas for a really long time and try to figure out what was the best possible way to do it. And this is

**Francesca Polo**

What it sounds like you have and the way to do it sounds like you have is imagine how it can be abused. So put yourself in that mindset and then putting up those barriers for that are you know ability to detect for that. So, okay. Cool. Thanks.

**Michael Lenmark**

Alright, thank you everyone. I just want to note that is 630 and we still have some other things to do tonight. So are there any other... So actually, let's open this up to the full budget because if this so this program is incorporated into the full budget. So does anybody have further questions about the budget, please raise your hand. Because there's a lot going on.

Amy has asked in the chat. There was a there is a section where applicants expressing received money. Yes, yes, there is that was mentioned in the in the proposal, but does anybody else have any other questions about the overall budget before we take it to a book.

**John Klecker**

I have a, just a quick question.

**Michael Lenmark**

Yeah, go ahead.

**John Klecker**

Oh, so then would students who didn't receive that that \$800 cares act funding be prioritized over students who did receive that funding. This is for Spencer or Noele

**Francesca Polo**

A great point.

**John Klecker**

Because I think that should be the case. I think if students didn't receive that \$800 they

**Noele Certain**

That's the, that's the absolute point is that those funds didn't reach everyone right at the end of the day. But again, we don't want to be biased because there may be domestic



students that didn't get those funds so at the end of the day we want this to be open, but also we are taking an account that people could. And again, Spencer had put in there that some people may be on F1 and have you know a good tip stipend. So that's going to definitely be taken to account because it has to.

**John Klecker**

Okay. Well, as long as the total amount of funds that students have or have not received previously from the cares act you know it's taken into account that I think that's important.

**William Thomas**

Sorry, I can't figure out how to raise my hand.

**Michael Lenmark**

You're fine. Go ahead.

**William Thomas**

Bill Thomas from ecology. So just kind of, on that note too. Is there some sort of distinction between like Masters students and PhD students, you know, I feel like master students aren't receiving stipend, so how do you look at that, compared to like a PhD student who might be making somewhere between 20 and 20 plus thousand

**Noele Certain**

So again, in the application if they have, they have to show salary. So if they're TA, GA, you know, they're making 28,000. I don't know how much they're making. Um, and then if you're a master student, you may be working on the side and only making such and such. That's, that's going to be taken to consideration, right, because you have to show what your salary is and they're going to write. Oh, I'm a master student and such and such program. Again, we're going to be redacting names because that's important. But yeah, all of their financial background is going to be looked at.

**William Thomas**

I guess will tuition be part of that financial background for master students where it's like, you know, they might be making 20,000 on their side job but they're also paying I don't know how much masters tuition is you know 20,000 on the side plus fees, where other people might not be paying that

**Noele Certain**

Yeah, I guess I see what you mean.

**William Thomas**

I'm just curious. I like this.

**Noele Certain**

Yeah, the only thing is that they can't. Nobody can put this money towards tuition fees at the end of the day, nobody can use it towards tuition and fees.

So it's more for you know this is not just for anybody. This is somebody that's actually going through a hardship, you may have lost your home during coven you may have you possibly had to move out of state, something like that. This is for people that really need it. This is not just somebody like, oh, I don't want to pay student fees and I don't have the money. This is a people that are directly affected by COVID 19 that can't get those additional jobs because they're basically not there.

**William Thomas**

So, so I guess what you're saying is that I think Francesca really was talking about some like criteria, but you guys feel that will be like very like self evident. You know who is in need and who is not on that it'll wait itself out kind of along the way.

**Noele Certain**

Yes, that's why we're really trying to work on the wording of it to make sure that people are not abusing it because I know things like that can happen.

**William Thomas**

Okay. I think it's a great idea.

**Francesca Polo**

Lastly, just a few comments, will this be, will the whole write up for that be available for the next meeting.

**Noele Certain**

Yes, definitely.

**Francesca Polo**

Okay, great.

**Michael Lenmark**

Um. Any other questions before we put this budget to a boat.

**Francesca Polo**

Oh, but we're not voting on this one, right, we'll do that the next meeting that the \$75,000...

**Michael Lenmark**

So, um, So this program is embedded in the budget that's at hand.

**Noele Certain**

Yes. Sorry. So this Anand had mentioned it before there was money previously from the other budget that got rolled over so this money is currently not allocated to anything. So the reason that we started this is because this money is literally in hand, it's not something that we're getting from how many students come and pay the activity fees, it's necessarily already in the bank account. And this is what we're trying to use the money towards.

So what we want to be approved is that we use this money for a relief fund at the end of the day.

**Francesca Polo**

And could we just see the criteria for it before.

**Noele Certain**

I can even put it in the chat. I can put it in the Google Doc or I can put in the chat. I have it highlighted.

**Francesca Polo**

No, I mean like, like, imagine if I was a reviewer I want like all the reviewers to be using the same criteria to

**Noele Certain**

Yes, everybody's going to be using the same criteria. It's they have to meet together. It can't. It's not like individuals, looking at applications.

**Anand Aiyer**

This is already being done for GSELF, we are going to do the same thing for the cell phones, only thing in GSELF to to pay back can three months here. You don't have to pay back in three months, but all the things you have raised so far it's already being done.

Currently, we don't have a graduate student advocate. So that's why we and that has a secret committee. This also has a secret cover, but it's a separate secret committee. That's the only difference and who is going to chair it different. But all these questions that you guys raise you know we get like the complete financial picture and we are able to easily. You know, weed out the you know the application that are not as pressing

**Mallesham Dasari**

Who's going to find the special committee.

**Spencer Austin**

The, the special committee will be composed of co chairs the graduate student advocate and the international student advocate or Two other people that the Senate appoints. It doesn't have to be those two people that those two people don't even want to do it, which we actually need to ask if both of them are present. Would be an important point to make.

**Mallesham Dasari**

The timelines like very soon, right, like when many some committee.

**Spencer Austin**

Committee would need to be formed by August 31 if the committee isn't formed by that time the graduate committee would just act and its role. As a committee until the committee is form. So there is a kind of a fail safe.

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay everyone, it is 640 we're going to have to push it on. Um, so what I need from y'all now is a motion on Just tell me what is it that you'll want to motion through because there has been some tension about some points of This budget. Do you want to approve the whole budget to approve the budget. With the exception of Senator pay

**Anand Aiyer**

point one of the points of tension. Nobody asked any questions about

**Michael Lenmark**

So there I just, there are some things in the chat, including private chats. To me, I'm on set on the center pay us because those guys aren't from we set yet that's been tabled and also Over this COVID funding program. So that's why I need. Okay, so I have a motion from Nicholas Marcella to approve the budget, with the exception of salaries for senators seconded, please vote yes, no, or abstain.

Okay.

**Michael Lenmark**

Alright so let me just count. Real quick 19 yeses, it's like three noes and three abstentions. So the motion passes. So the budget is passed, with the exception of Senator payroll that will need to be readdress probably once those bylaws are finalized. So I think y'all. Um, let's setting up with some great discussion on that. Let's go ahead and move on to Jose secretary report.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

So I'm going to make mine really quick. My amendment which I passed around to the whole senate maybe about a week ago. It's just a three step process where, you know, step one in within your own... sorry and this amendment is to change the process in which the secretary certifies senators to accommodate for the fact that we're not present on campus. And so to do this electronically. So the first step that you would do in your department is have some sort of election or some sort of designation that people agree upon. Michael, can you go to the next slide. And then you would bring that to your, to your department authority and this could be your graduate program coordinator director or your chair and then next step. Next slide. And then your department authority will fill in a Google form that I would have made ahead of time. Can you go to the next slide, Michael. So in this Google form will just have the basic things. The number of graduate students in your department. How many senators and this would create you know if they weren't sort of Certified two senators and you would get to prompts for name last name ID number. And then they have to check out statement that they acknowledged that the election or delegation process was done democratically and that they verify that.

That way, what I wanted to do with this is put the burden of of the verification process to individual departments and then just taking the word of the department authority that the process was done in a democratic way. So with that, I would like to know if there's a motion to approve the amendment that I sent out

**Michael Lenmark**

Motion from Spencer seconded from several people. Please type yes or no, or abstain in the chat.

Right.

Looks like unanimous support.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

01:47:41

Beautiful. Thank you. And the next slide.

01:47:47

I mean, if you if you have one. I have a discussion, we can have a discussion about flu shots, but in the interest of time.

**Zared Shawver**

We just wrote just real quick. I'm just thinking about the paying senators and what you had said previously about earlier this summer about the certifying current senators.

Right. So if we do pass in the future to start paying senators are old senators going to be grandfathered in or they're going to be deemed to be recertification, how do we adapt to this amendment to that new pathway. Because the point was that we were not going to be voting for our own salaries and so we're getting ourselves into a pickle there.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

The caveat to that is that if a senator is returning then there for sure voting on their own salaries, if that makes any sense. And so right now we're going with the senators that were certified from last academic year. But after this Senate meeting. I'm going to create the Google form. So only the senators that told me that they were going to return would now be certified for the next year. And anyone who's newly elected or newly delegated would have to go through the certification process.

**Zared Shawver**

Yeah I just wanted to know that that was the case, I would have voted differently because if we're going to start paying people. I mean, one of the major points that Anand made was that we are not voting on our own salaries, which is the right thing to do. And I think that if maybe we should have some kind of I don't have to do this because we just voted on the thing. But I think we should have some kind of way to recertified after that salary gets passed.

**Alec Cali**

But okay, we didn't vote on our own salaries and if you are so concerned, you could not be certify yourself and not be a senator, can we move this along because I still have to present and we're going to be over time.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

To my understanding that part about Senator stipends did not pass the budget so...

**Francesca Polo**

It did not pass. Right.

**Michael Lenmark**

So that would need to be voted on at a future meeting.  
Great.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

Okay so Anastasia you ask the survey to let better departments know this change.  
Yes. Um, we could do that i can i can reach out to the graduate school to send an email to GPDs.

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay, thank you. Jose. In the interest of time, could we move along.

**Michael Lenmark**

So next up we have a request to endorse this is a wider on the on the student fees from the coalition. Oh, graduate allies, also known as COGA on this was brought to my attention by Amy Kahng from arts, Amy, do you have anything you'd like to see in this regard.

**Amy Kahng (she/her), Art History**

Yeah,. So, okay, let me just put in the chat. The letter. This was drafted by a group of graduate students. Like under the banner of code. I guess are strapped to them, then kind of vibe and then the the sign on Google Doc was also circulated maybe a couple weeks ago with the August 14 email and action and secure also is the Google form. You all had a chance to read over the letter, hopefully, but just briefly it touches on the burden of us on graduate students and how the financial burden the flex research and since before to like take on second job, which again takes away time from research and then touches on this. The increasing fees in real time. The intention of graduate students to process these fees. So this letter has received like nearly 500 signatures, but we also would like to have official organization sign on, including GSO and GPU and Sara and Cara. And so I'm proposing or motioning I guess for GSO to approve of this letter and have us sign on in an official capacity.

**Michael Lenmark**

Alright thank you Amy. Does anybody have any quick questions for me about this letter. Looks like not. so is there a motion. Do I have a Second from john and Christine please type, yes, no, or abstain in the chat. I will not you'd like to endorse this letter as the GSO.

Right. Just another second.

**Michael Lenmark**

All right. Looks like a unanimous support. So, so please go ahead and add the GSO as a as a cosine organization, Amy.

**Amy Kahng (she/her), Art History**

Thank you so much, everyone.

**Michael Lenmark**

All right. Awesome. Thank you. All right. Um, okay, where, where are my slides. It's fine. Um, I think. Next is Alec You have some updates for us about a elections.

**Alec Cali**

Yeah, this is going to be very quick no motions and then we can move on. Um, Everyone handed in their candidacy forums today at five. So we're just going to get working on that and have everyone certified by next Friday, and then we'll have the candidates announced by the September 9 meeting. We're reaching out to the administration to get all the candidates put up on solar and hopefully still be on track for the tentative election date starting on september 21st. If for whatever reason COVID has messed up the administrative side of things we might have to change that. But we'll figure that out by September 9 and that's the main update

**Michael Lenmark**

Okay. All right. Thank you, Alex. I'm just a quick correction that meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September eight.

**Alec Cali**

I thought I said, yes.

**Michael Lenmark**

You said the ninth. Does anybody have any quick questions for Alex about the officer election process.

**Anand Aiyer**

When does the Code of Conduct go into effect.

**Michael Lenmark**

I'm sorry. I'm sorry code of conduct?

**Francesca Polo**

There's already a code of conduct in effect.

**Anand Aiyer**

Yes. When does it go into effect.

**Francesca Polo**

There is one already in the

**Alec Cali**

Code of Conduct for what Anand

**Francesca Polo**

If you check the bylaws. The code of conduct, there is a code of conduct already for you.

**Anand Aiyer**

I know. Does it go into effect as soon as you submit the nomination process?

**Alec Cali**

01:55:26

It's already in effect

**Francesca Polo**

The behavior before you submit it and your behavior after should

**Alec Cali**

Yeah, you're already being watched

**Francesca Polo**

My god.

**Michael Lenmark**

All right. Okay. All right, thank you, Anand. The other questions for Alec

**John Klecker**

Yeah, the SUNY SA mandate that's governing these delayed election says they have to be held between September 8 and September 20. I'm just wondering why we're doing them on the 21st

**Alec Cali**

I was mainly because I did it. I'm not trusting Stony Brook to move very quickly, but like I've, we've been trying to get in contact with the administration for the last couple of days and they haven't responded. So, that's why I'm doing it then. But if they are able to set things up sooner than that. I'd be happy to push it up.

**Francesca Polo**

So, I just want to make a few comments like, what do you mean by push up

**Alec Cali**



Like if we're if we're announcing the candidates on September 8. It's as simple as voting online right

**Alec Cali**

So we don't necessarily have to have it start on the 21st, we can have it start within the soon as a guidelines of by the 20th

**Francesca Polo**

Right.

**Alec Cali**

Right, so we can move it up a week.

**Francesca Polo**

Right. Move it earlier. Yeah.

**Alec Cali**

But yes, that's up to Stony Brook to actually respond to us.

**Francesca Polo**

Right, and I think they will like we're working on. Yet, and they're still we're still with time, like we didn't want to convey that there's a concern, we're just, we're still working within the timeframe that we have and we expect to to do that. And if we have any worries, we'll let you know. Yeah.

**Alec Cali**

I like to give myself plenty of time when dealing with the administration. So the 21st election is a few weeks after announcing the candidates.

**John Klecker**

OK, so my statement on this is if we're choosing to operate outside... These aren't like guidelines. This is like a resolution from the Chancellor on how we're supposed to conduct elections. So if we're choosing not to follow this set of guidelines in this meeting because we're not emailing administrators enough I'm honestly going to be very upset because when I was trying to follow the letter of the law on this stuff in the July meeting. So I hope that we can follow the rules here like we did that.

**Alec Cali**

I mean, I did propose this in the July meeting and no one commented on it. But again, we can push this up a week and it's not a big deal. This was a tentative election date. This is not the finalized election day.

**John Klecker**

Okay, cool. Yeah. Now I would I would like that. I don't really care when between the eighth and the 20th, just as long as we're, we're in line with everyone else.

**Alec Cali**

Yes, it's tentative based on the conditions of COVID and all of that stuff, so it's it's really not a finalized date.

**Mallesham Dasari**

Like, so no matter when we are going to do these elections in September, the official positions they start from senate meeting. Right. Is that, like, Is there, is there a limit on that.

**Francesca Polo**

There is. Hold on, I'm looking for it. I just recently saw that

**Mallesham Dasari**

I have this impression of September meeting.

**Francesca Polo**

October, something I think. Okay, I'm looking at the... I'm looking at the front page. Yeah, the elections have to be between the eighth and the 20th, but there's something about... Oh, I'm missing it.

**Mallesham Dasari**

September 20, 20 days they start from September 20

**Francesca Polo**

I apologize. It says, Okay, sorry. The thing I'm looking at is student government was rescheduled their elections from between September 8 September 20. But I thought there was also a date for... Oh a transition to... a transition of officers must occur, no later than September 20 so the transition happens by or before September 20. Yep, it's on page two of the SUNY SA memo that was sent out March 26th. That's a student election postpone it procedure. Second page so September 20 so the shift is already have to happen.

**Mallesham Dasari**

So basically, a view. I just suggest you guys to have some sort of plan. I don't know. This is not really I don't see that is happening before. So this is not going to happen, then what is your plan.

**Francesca Polo**

You have to work at it because we're following the SUNY SA guidelines. So you have to describe what your roles are

**Alec Cali**

So again, we are certifying everything by next week in line with having that we have several candidates who submitted for each position. Which is going to take us some time between that and our other go all of us are trying to go add and we were going to

present the stirring the next senate meeting, which is, I believe, about a week later, we could announce the candidates prior to that. We can announce them earlier. We don't have a very good mechanism of announcing these candidates Stony Brook wide yet. This will have to be done.

**Francesca Polo**

If we could do it via we could do it via zoom record it make that available that link post that somewhere. And then when we let university wide that link is also made available. Yeah.

**Jose Moscoso Nunez**

I'm sure we can request the graduate school to help us out with yeah communication.

**Alec Cali**

Yeah. Great. And then if we're trying to just move everything up. Like, it's everything is being done online. It's not very difficult. We could move every everything's begins on a Monday we can just move it up several Mondays.

**Mallesham Dasari**

This is not just that event.

**Alec Cali**

These are all tentative

**Mallesham Dasari**

Yeah. The reason I'm mentioning is is that you have a database, right, like for example. Yes. So, tentative. Yeah. You also need to have a tentative date for the first date of the starting gate of these officers right. So that we have sufficient time for this transition because this transition is a is important, right, we need to have this knowledge transfer.

**Francesca Polo**

So hear that now, right, we've known this since March 28 one has known this since March 26

**Alec Cali**

I believe we have with Qing, a transition committee. So I would suggest the transition committee, email me.

**Michael Lenmark**

Board advisor. Yeah.

**Alec Cali**

Board advisor.

**Michael Lenmark**

So it is now seven o'clock. So, um, thank you john for bringing this to our attention.

With the election to me has a couple of things to work out and then hopefully y'all can get back at us soon with an amended timeline once things are set up, um, So, uh, I think my last thing to mention elections is that these these elections are for President, Vice President, Secretary Treasurer, but the position of speaker will be elected during the next senate meeting. So if you're interested in running all you just have to do is spontaneously nominate yourself during that meeting. If you have any questions about it. I'd be happy to answer them via email. So with that being said, Any unfinished business? And, new business? Announcements?

Looks like none. So in that case, do I have a motion to adjourn. Tonight's meeting.

Yes, motion, And second, so thank you everyone. I hope no one has motion sickness from all our all of our voting tonight. Please stay safe out there. I look forward to seeing you all in the next school year which is next week. So everyone. Take care. Bye bye.