

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, I was thinking the same cool. Alright, let's get started. Before we start, I'd like to ask if everyone could edit their names to include what department they're representing um, you know, just take a second.

And thank you everybody for coming. This is my first time as a speaker so please bear with me. I think I have a pretty good grasp on things. But like I said, first time I'm so I'd like to call the October 2020 GSO senate meeting to order. So the first thing on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda. So I'd like to move to adopt the agenda do have a second

Physics, Michael Giles

Second,

Thank you.

All right.

Ah, now I'd like to move to approve the minutes from the previous senate meeting. So the secretary should have shared these with you. Do I have a second

Okay.

All right, if there are no objections to the minutes from the last senate meeting, then we'll move forward into the executive committee reports.

So before we get started, Allison asks how you change your name, so you should be able, you know, to hover over your own face or your own box. Then click the three dots and there's an option to rename

Was that helpful?

Okay.

All right, well then let's get started. So first up, we'll have Anand presenting the president's report on, take it away.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** First of all, I'd like to welcome everybody. This is a very interesting year for us. So we're starting a little late, but I'd like to welcome all our first time senators and hopefully in the next senate meeting we will have more departments joining us. So welcome, everybody please use this platform to give us your constituents advocacy and leadership in this really troubling time.

First of all, I want to set the agenda for the GSO for this year. So our goals as GSO, our primary goal is no more graduate student fees and we are going to work with all student groups and university stakeholders to negotiate for strategic wins, like the waiver on technology fees for G5 students like we got last year. We're going to graduate lobby for graduate students support at federal and state

levels. Something that previous governments haven't focused on we're going to focus on this year is affordable Graduate Student Housing and

As far as GSO is concerned, we are going to try to give you better access to all our services and give you digital reimbursements as fast as possible so me and RJ and others were working on that. Immediate priorities in the next one month is the COVID-19 relief funds for all graduate students. If you haven't applied or if you know somebody who should apply for it, please ask them, I think tomorrow is the deadline.

We saw a tremendous response. So we've had to extend the deadline.

Something that we are trying to get done is full time status with registration of one credit for GE five students. We are trying to get a fee waiver for international PhD students who are not in the country and unable to do our TA GA RA. We are supporting the USG initiative for PNC for coursework. Together with a graduate school we're working on this mental health comprehensive mental health survey and initiatives to promote better mental health. Along with the Vice President we're working on our forums for internships, jobs. You know, like a marketplace for Housing advertisements, which currently GSO doesn't have. We have like other Facebook groups.

Can we go to the next slide?

Announcements November 15 is the last day to pay fees without late charges. We'd recommend not paying your fees until the last day supporting the COGA fee strike we will discuss more about that.

New COVID testing is now available at GLS HDV for on campus residents and we are pushing for a third location at Chapin commons. This year grad school applications GRE has been waived. So if you know any talented undergraduates who are looking to apply to grad school, please ask them to apply to Stony Brook.

Flu shots: We want to get as many flu shots as possible. If senators feel there is demand we can get something done at the SAC. Right now we organized the 400 students at Chapin apartments Covid 19 really fun application tomorrow, and we want people to apply to PhD works for exploring alternate career paths.

So that is November I forget what day November 12 or 13th or something like that new hires. So I want to welcome our new hires. Christine is assistant to the treasurer, Garrett Brown is the new production manager, Gagan Somashekhar is the new international student advocate and Nicole Zisa, who was the social media and communications specialist will continue for one more year we have extended her contract.

We signed MOUs with childcare services representative will come next senate meeting with the WUSB radio, the student radio. We have a very good MOU and we're looking for people who are willing to be trained as broadcasters and we're willing to host shows on the radio, and we'll try to get jazz nights and other programming on the radio, it serves 10,000 people in the North Shore and Connecticut areas. So we'd like all our announcements and things like that to be on the radio. Um, yeah. So we'd like to get representatives to external bodies voted by the Senate. Currently on the Graduate Council, it's the policy action chair, who will be hired we're currently interviewing and Carlos, who is representing right now. I'm representing in place of the policy action chair. But once the policy action chair is appointed, they will be attending the Graduate Council meetings. I'm serving on the Executive Council of the University Senate. The Stony Brook Council as a non voting member this year and the FSA board of directors of this year. James Vassalo was serving as a board of directors for the last four years.

And Bill Thomas will be representing us at the arts and sciences curriculum committee on the University Senate. So I'd like to propose a motion to allow me and Carlos, and Bill and the pack to represent the GSO on these committees.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you. On the motion. Is there a second? All right. Thank you. Shall I go on?

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** So I think we can vote or will vote at the end. Okay.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** So let's leave the vote for the end

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Okay, so I'll just give you an update we had like I attended like a ton of meetings. The last three weeks. So we met the SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras.

Took her walking for a tour of the COVID 19 testing facilities. Told him about the graduate fees issue and we will be following up with a one on one with the Executive Council and Jim. We met Rick Gatteau and Dean Wertheimer and we told them about the three issues fees waiver for international students, one credit for full time and the mental health initiatives, so Eric has taken our word forward

to the president and the provost, so we have a meeting with them later this week. So we look forward to something positive.

With Eric we spoke about increased support for PhD works program, which is like a professional development and we interviewed candidates for the graduate student advocate and this year we are going to have the GSA as a GSO employee working as a liaison between the graduate school and other GSO

We found out that Dallas Bauman retired as the head of campus residences after 38 years and Susan Fioto, who is handling campus residences finance is also moving on. So we were told that there could be a 10% increase in housing costs. So we plan to talk to Catherine Mary, who is the new interim chief at Campus residences and try to ask for, like, some kind of rationalization of the campus housing rents. Then we spoke in the Senate Executive with President McInnis. President McInnis basically talked about her priority of increasing revenue and starting new certification programs. So we plan to try to get more graduate students.

You know opportunities to be part of as TAs and GAs on these certification programs and share in the revenue generation. Senate executive, we met the Interim Provost Sotiropoulos, he agreed with us that the graduate student sees is untenable and that we cannot continue to attract high quality students if we could, if we keep charging fees and the fees, keep going up. So he said that he is willing to work with us and advocate with the President on our behalf. We also asked him about how he plans to spend the academic excellence sees which last year when we spoke to Bernstein who was the provost at the time. He said that the academic excellence fees was being used to pay for the 20,000 minimum TA. So to increase the floor to minimum 20,000 so this year. We, we don't know how they're going to spend it. So we'd like to know more. So in our next meeting. He promised that he will tell us at the Stony Brook Council, we were told about the new financial sustainability Task Force. There are seven task forces. So we've spoken with Rosemarie, who's the deputy to President McInnis who is in charge of planning how these sustainability task forces will be designed and to get graduate student representation on each of the task forces. So I'm meeting her next week for that. Can we go. Next slide. Oh, yeah. So, um, I attended the FSA board meeting. So there we learned, like a couple of good ideas. So, one is that FSA invest a part of its income. So they have an investment committee, so maybe an investment committee would be a good idea for years. So I leave that to the Senate to decide I volunteered for the audit committee to get a better ideas FSA's finances and then I advocated for more ethnic grocery stores.

Or a grocery store that sells ethnic items like Indian and Chinese snacks on campus we met Alfreda James and Crystal Diaz and so they have professional development funds this year and we already have a very successful professional development funds program. So we spoke about combining the two.

Met Lauren Brookemeyer who is the government relations and we spoke about support against the DHS statement. I forwarded some of that to you guys today.

And then she said that we should have monthly lobbying efforts. So when we hire the policy action chair the policy action chair will be focused on monthly lobbying efforts at the federal level. We took part in the Assistant Chief of Police interviews. And we made it a point that the GSO Black Lives Matter statement was shared with the candidates. And we were able to interview the two finalists, along with the Vice President Judi Brown-Clarke. We met the Bursar Eric Anderson to confirm that November 15 is the deadline for no fees. We followed up on GSELF loans because there was some money due to us, which we have not been paid. And we will continue to follow up on that. We confirm that this year we the exact amount of graduate student activity fees that we will be collecting and all the extra money we're going to use for graduate student benefit.

We met the USG executive, we will be collaborating on advocacy, mentorship programs and joint events. So this meet this week we have upcoming meeting with Interim Provost Sotiropoulos

President McInnis and Michael Arens, who is the Government Relations at the state level. So if you have any points for us to discuss, please send me an email at [President@sbugso.org](mailto:President@sbugso.org), could we go to the next slide.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right. Thank you Anand. I'd like to open up the floor to any questions just while everything is fresh in your mind. If you have any questions for Anand, please put your name in the chat box and I will call on people, one by one.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** I think 200 K and

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, I see hands now. Sure. All right, Chuankai from genetics.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):**Yes. Can you, um, can you tell us more about what's the one credit issue for a full time student? I'm not sure what that is.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Right, so right now for G5 students, they have to register for nine credits to maintain full, full time status. When the graduate school can say that one credit is enough for maintaining full time status. So nine credits is like \$9,000 or something. Well, one credit is around thousand dollars. So if you are a G5 student and if the Graduate School says that one credit is sufficient to maintain full time status, then all you have to do is register for one credit

And if in case you lose funding. You know, you just had to find like a job on campus or with the GS or something like that and you can pay the thousand dollars and you can finish your PhD, you're not forced to drop out.

And the University of Albany has this program. So this is just something that we feel would benefit students.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** I see. That's great.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Thank you.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you. Chunkai all right. Um. Next is Carlos from mechanical engineering. Carlos you're muted, I believe.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Carlos from mechanical engineering

**Mech Eng-Carlos Saldarriaga:** Okay. And is the GRE waiver for all the departments for prospective students in all departments or which was

**Anand:** At the Graduate council that is what they said right?

**Mech Eng-Carlos Saldarriaga:** Yes, but it was not sure. Like, specifically, but I can double check that.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, next up is Carlos from geosciences

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** Hi. So in terms of the November due date. I was told that we will not incur charge until December 15 they clearly stayed in the fee exemption. So, is it clear that we won't encourage hard until December 15

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** December 15 is when they will see if you have paid and they will charge. The first a late fee.

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** Okay, thank you.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** But as far as the bursar is concerned, November 15 is the last day for the courtesy for no fees.

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** Okay, thank you.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** I'm sorry.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, next up is Noele from molecular and cellular cellular biology, I believe.

**Noele Certain Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** Cellular pharmacology, but it's okay. It's long, it's a long title. I was just gonna put MCP.

Hey. So the question I had for Anand is about what you talked with Alfredo about one of the things that had come out last year was that we are now getting charged for this year the career center fee, which is like \$12 and 50 cents or something like that, and supposedly the Career Center is supposed to be helping graduate students, but I find that almost

Many of my students in my department don't even know about it. So was that talked about and what are the future plans for using that \$12 and 50 cents to actually help graduate students.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Right, so they want to do two things. One is they want to provide lifetime career support. So they're trying to build a database of all the students in various programs and where they got employed. So they want to attack that. And the second thing is they want to encourage any kind of underserved groups on campus and help them with professional development

funds. So if you are aware of underserved groups on campus, please let us know so we can then forward that as a list. We told them basically that we do professional development fund better because we are established and we've been doing it for so many years. So if we just give them a list and they approve it. And they give us the funds, then we can process it through our so that is what we were talking about.

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** What they want to do. Yeah, it's so wait, you're not giving them money.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):**We're not giving them money.

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** Okay, because one of the things I feel like I have an issue with is that you know, we're already giving them money and I want them to actually do something about it because if they do go to events. And I know all for ADA and I know that she tries to reach out to graduate students and she has some workshops, she does. But there are a lot of missed opportunities there are plenty of people that can help with industry jobs, Which I didn't know about until I you know talk to Mariana so I just feel like they really need to promote themselves more if we're going to be paying your money through our fees for them, like, one of the things, the reason that they said they had charged fees was because of this program that they have. It's a some type of like almost like indeed.com

But it's really not geared towards graduate students.

Why are we paying for you to have this program when it's not necessarily benefitting graduate students. And these are just points that I feel like when you have a next meeting with them that you should bring up, you know, and I would love to attend. If you want me to talk more about the things that I know are available but graduate students don't know about them.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):**That's fair. I think they're meeting on Thursday I love share the meeting plan, but

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** Yeah definitely let me know. I don't mind attending and voicing my opinion. All right. Thank you.



**Anand (President) (He/Him):** And if anyone else has any opinion on this please send me like a half page write up and I'll share it with Alfredo.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you Noele. And finally we have Joanne from genetics.

**Joanne Saldanha\_Genetics:** Um, hi. I just had a question about the PDF So because you mentioned merging. Does that mean that the application process also changes or are we as GSO handling that whole process still?

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** I'm still confused about it..... nothing has been decided yet. As far as we're concerned, it is not in our interest to change our PDFs, or to give any of our PDF funds to anybody else. But we are interested in other people giving us money because we have, like, you know, we get....We have more people who apply to PDFs than we have funds. So any kind of any money is welcome, and we don't want to give up control of our process.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, we have one more question from William in ecology.

**Ecology - William Thomas:** So do you feel like by accepting funds from them for the PDF that it'll kind of give this appearance that they are helping us in some sort of way, when in reality we are paying them the money to then get back to us like they're going to be like this is your fees at work, we're supporting your PDF and it's like, well, we used to just support PDF on our own. It's just going to be a reason for them to keep increasing that fee originally was supposed to be. I think \$12 a semester. And it's actually \$22 a semester so double what they had originally proposed was last year. That's just my thought on accepting them to give us....

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** That's a very valid point. So the things that they say that they want to do for us. I feel we can do better. So we can build a database of graduate students, we can reach out to all the graduate students and we can who have graduated from the PhD and masters program. And we can hit them for money because we are going to talk to the Stony Brook foundation and have a GSO account there so that you know like next time there is a day of

giving GSO is one of the options. So if we can demonstrate that we do better and maybe we can make the case that you know this fund this fee is not useful.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you everybody. If there are no more questions. Let's move on to the Vice President.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Vote for committee representation.....

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept)**

Oh, sure. I was going to save it all for the end but we can do it now. All right, then I'd like to move to vote to approve the representatives to outside councils. Do I have a second

All right, thank you. Allison.

If everybody could please vote. Yay or nay in the chat box and we can tally this up.

Alright, it looks overwhelming number of yays. A few abstains I have not seen any nays, so therefore this motion has passed. Thank you, everybody.

Now let's move on to the vice presidents report, Sean.Yep

**Sean M (GSO VP):**Hi. Hey, everyone. Can you hear me? I'm so this is the first time I guess I'm meeting everyone. So hi, I'm Sean I'm a PhD student in the material science and chemical engineering program and I am the Vice President for the GSO. So let me begin. Yeah. So one of the things I do as a VP will be chairing the equity and diversity committee we have an idea for a survey that's going to help us serve graduates better next time going to talk about is like at the beginning of this month or at the end of last month, we had the SUNY SA the student affairs elections and they had we as the we as your representatives to part in that. And word on the president, vice president and other Members, the SAs also calling for senators. So I think some of you have seen emails and Yeah, thank you Tristan and so some of some of you may may choose to serve on those Yep. So then the next thing is, yeah.

One of the most important thing they did so far has been hiring a new production assistant. We've gone to interviews and we have found someone we think is good.

And we're looking forward to working with Garrett and setting up events for graduate students, especially in this more pandemic focused way.

Not in person, all over zoom.

Em. And if you have ideas for events that you would like us to hold of ideas, especially considering, you know, the fact that COVID's ensuring that we can't really have in person stuff and I personally believe that we shouldn't unnecessarily risk each other's lives in in such times if you've got ideas for events. If you've got ideas for things you should do, please don't hesitate to tell them to me and the production manager and we can have a discussion about maybe having some events. And the next word is again one of the reasons. Some of you may know I'm de su was very important to me to bring the hardship of graduate fees to the present of university. I'm pretty proud of, we're going to be seeing them and meeting all the members of higher admin and I know that it's always been hard for them to understand what our problems are and sometimes they may disagree. So I'm looking at different ways of maybe either finding common ground, or at least being able to bargain for better positions, some of which Anand has touched on in his speech. Other things being that we're looking at the fact that the admin just sees this differently. And maybe there are going to be ways that we can show them our perspectives. So this has been achieved through the few testimonials that are currently being shared. And I want to make sure that admin knows this and doesn't try absolve our issue. Okay, so that's one thing.

Another thing. So some of you may know that when I joined this position. One of the things I wanted to do was make us connect a little better. A lot of us have been stuck away from home some for stuck in another country. Some of us are stuck in other countries completely. And it's going to be difficult to set up communities difficult to move to a new school is difficult to try and find new friends and I was thinking that maybe we'd make it a little easier. Let's look for some kind of electronic or at least some phone electronic communication that is not an email and isn't an endless chain of Hi, how are you? So I thought, let's look at a couple of different ways in which we can communicate and after looking at a bunch of alternatives and including slack.

I suggest discord, why discord work? because discord is cheaper and has an unlimited number of users. So it lets us scale as far as we can and with while we normally have a population of almost 8000 students. And you know, I certainly hope that everyone wants to join in. It ensures that no matter how big we scale when we don't actually have to pay discord more. And the second thing is that discord allows for chat it allows for voice chat for videos and allows for multiple voice chat or allows for multiple channels which I plan to have

Allowing us to enjoy to share our research work, hangout, plan casual Hangouts online that is and I thought that it would be a good thing for us to begin with. I'm now looking at such a certain venues, or in a setting something up like this. Something that's very important to me is to make sure that it ends up being a good space a productive space and caring space. So I'm going to make sure we have both the code of conduct and that we have and we hire mods to make sure that the rules and codes of conduct are enforced.

Yeah, so that's gonna be my biggest initiative for this time because it's going to be take a while for me to set up all this and I certainly welcome suggestions on people who you feel need to be mods and and also I have some suggestions on what should the rules of such as such a space be

The next thing is, yeah, so that's my major initiative on next thing would be the the student diversity and leadership conference is something that's gonna be happening. Excellent. So we've been asked to help out a little bit on us given given a speech for and everyone can and I will be forwarding the flyers, or they've given us to everyone. They made it mandatory for undergrads, but if you if people from the grad school, want to see. Take a look, it's all being broadcast financed on Stony Brook life.

And yeah, I mean, you get to see on the showing his skills off because I heard that he had a really good session at the recording studio. The students were very happy with that.

Then yeah, OK. So the next thing. One of the things I would do as a VP is to register GSO as a club and one of the things that the admin always wants is a list of who we are, what we're doing. Most importantly, who the offices are t's unfortunate but our speaker only gets called, I think the event coordinator. Unfortunately for whatever unfortunate reason that they have decided, that's the name that they have to give her Another thing we do is write our annual report. Now, there wasn't one available from last year which was a bit of a problem. But thankfully with with the help of Anand I wrote it all out and they've accepted. On the other hand, they have mentioned that they want us to add a specific note about not hazing in our Constitution.

And they have the language which they specify for all certain clubs and they wanted to be added to our Constitution, I believe this can be brought upon later.

And yeah, so the next thing, one of the, one of the nice things about having those meetings was to hear about just how enthusiastic Eric Wetheimer was about supporting us regarding the DHS today. It was a thing near and dear to my heart because, again, I'm an international if you don't know and it was heartening to

hear that they that he was very much in favor of the school giving a quick and sharp reply, unfortunately. A certain someone wasn't available at the time and quite literally the school's contacted Washington but despite that, within literally just a couple of days, just to like to, I think, was two or three days after we had this meeting the school sign on to a letter with six other schools condemning the new DHS ruling I'm quite happy that they have at least done that and I'm glad that they have done it. And yeah, that kind of concludes what I have to talk about right now.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right. Thank you, Sean.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** I'd like if anyone has any questions.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes, exactly. I'd like to open the floor to questions for anyone past one. All right, I'm Allison from geosciences

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** I was just wondering what sort of the initial our baseline cost for the discord thing is

**Sean M (GSO VP):** It is completely free. But if you pay a little bit extra and bottom and pay for the server costs you get access to slightly larger files and 10 ATP for video and that's

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** How do you have that like number on you or you don't, it's fine.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** I think

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Yeah, I think it's about \$5 a month.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, next is gone from ncb Uh huh.

**Ga-Ram Hwang (MCB, Alternate):** Hi, yes. I had a quick question about that. I just want to make sure about the security of this part. I mean, is this for the entire

graduate student body? Because I'm concerned that if you put out a server that anyone can join as long as they know our server channel.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Yeah, so the thing is for some yeah so

That's one of the reasons I wanted mods and that's one reason why I want to control who gets in. This is not going to be a general Oh, we're going to share this with everyone know there has to be approval process. If you've seen that there's one of the things about setting up offices, making sure you sign up with a certain account or like having you agree to certain rules and regulations before you're allowed in. And that's I want mods. And the other thing about slack is free with basic features. Yes, but it's only free for the upperwards of 10,000 messages only. And slack doesn't offer the ability for us to create admins or mods, which is slack has the advantage that I could lock it to a specific domain that I could allow on stonybrook.edu people to sign up and that's great. And I like that, honestly, and I wouldn't mind but the fact that it doesn't come it doesn't have the integration for video and audio and it has per user costs, especially as it goes larger and I felt that that was enough of a reason to pick discord.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, next we have Yeorgia from the math department.

**Math--Yeorgia Kafkoulis:** Yeah, sorry. Just to clarify the discord server that hasn't been created yet. And we are planning on opening this up to the entire graduate community, not just like GSO senators like everyone can that wants to and is allowed to can like enter the server?

**Sean M (GSO VP):** That is the idea I wanted to be a safe place for graduate students. Yes. Okay. Thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right. If there are no further questions. Thank you, Sean. And we'll go ahead to the speakers report.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** I'll be your secretary this year. So what I've been doing since I took office, most of my time has been taken up shifting everything from the old GS office, which was the SAC second floor room 227 to the new GSO office, which is located in SAC 145 that is basically the commuters lounge.

We've also been given a storage space which is in the club alley. So there were a lot of files, a lot of cabinets, so I moved those. Some of them I moved, personally, and then I took help from The people at Sac, so. Okay, so now we have a new office and hopefully it will be in working condition soon.

So I also conducted the international student advocate interviews for the initial few candidates and final recommendations were interviewed by all the entire EC then I've been doing inventory of all the things which the GSO has which is quite a lot because now since we also emptied the storage room.

So I've been working on that. So, as Anand mentioned we have signed MOU with the WUSB radio. So they have been using the GSO audio visual equipment.

And another interesting project which I am overlooking is the grad lounge furnishing. So grad Lounge is basically the commuter lounge space, the space outside the office. So I have been working with and plan to work with Howard who works in the Office of Student Life. So if any of you have any ideas of how we should furnish it or what all we should do then please reach out to me. I would love to work with you on that.

Also, yeah. So regarding the senator certification process I go a lot of emails from many of the new senators. So there is the usual processes that you do have to sort of conduct some sort of departmental level election if more than one person expresses their interest to be a primary senator. Right now, we don't have a cap on the number of alternate senators. If you are a new senator, then make sure that you have, you know, at the department level had some sort of election and your department has emailed all the graduate student. You have the students who have expressed their interest to be a GSO Senator.

Make sure there's no conflict in that. So regarding the committee list. A lot of you have filled the committee list. So we have finalized some committees, I am not sure whether we have to approve them in the senate meeting?

Whether you have to approve the members?

Do you have to approve the committee's and the Members here or?

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** I'm not sure. So we have approved already the members and outside committees may be honest

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Yeah, so we should  
Whatever committees are full, we can bring them up for approval. Yeah.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):**

Okay, so I don't have the slides right now. Maybe after the treasurer finishes their report, we can go back to approving the committee. So right now we have I think the academic affairs, budget, the diversity, and inclusion and the social concerns committee. The maximum CAP has been met.

The GSELF and the COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund is the the secret committees, so I will be reaching out to the respective EC members to give me the list of the people who have applied for those committees just for my records. And yes, so we reached out to the bursar and we have the list of all the departments and programs which pay the graduate student activity fee. So our plan now is to somehow get in touch with the Departmental authorities of the departments who don't have any senator representation and see if they can send out an email to their students and see if any of the students are interested in representing their department as a Senator. So, so that is something which I'll be doing after this. So yeah, so does anyone have any questions?

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes, William from the ecology department.

**Ecology - William Thomas:** Just a quick question. So you said that you got from the versus office, the departments that pay a graduate student activity. Are there any departments that have grad students that like don't pay this that are somehow exempt?

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** I don't know, they just give us a list. I think I'll have to contact them again and ask them,

**Ecology - William Thomas:** Super was just curious if  
For some reason, some people

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yeah yeah sorry this is RJ there are it's I actually have the number right here. Hold on, man. Alright, so there are sorry to interject. So we have 7830 students charged out of approximately 8100 um. Basically the dental and medical schools do not pay everyone else I've been told, Anand and I were both at this meeting, so we can concur that approx for this semester, approximately, I don't know 766 students will not pay because they're part of the dental or medical school. The other 7830 students have been charged



**Ecology - William Thomas:** Any particular reason why dental medical don't pay to saving graduate students.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** They pay their own fee to their own GSO

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** They pay \$100 we pay \$45 and they want to have their own student government. We are in talks with them. In case they want to join the GSO. But, but that is like a whole other conversation.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, thanks. Any other questions I saw one hand go up, but it is gone now. So alright, if nothing else, thank you to do. And we'll move on to the Treasurer's Report.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Oh, happy birthday.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Happy birthday, Aditya. That's actually at the end of my report, I have confetti that's supposed to, um, anyhow, so

I'm RJ and I am the treasurer. For those of you that I have not had the pleasure yet of meeting I look forward to meeting them in person, but then you know, how's it going, I am a fourth year PhD student in the Music Department my particular area is music history. In theory, and I studied. Well, you asked me if you're staying want to study on alright so I may need to have screen sharing capability to share the budget with everyone once we get there. I'm just going to go ahead and ask now on so, you know, if, for those that have it that aren't that don't know me and haven't watched like my little campaign video and all that. My number one mission here this year is to get a to get student fees gone and we're all working hard on that, that you see as the EC. Um and to get as much money back to you all as I can. So those are my two main missions and to get your money or reimbursements back to you as expeditious as is possible and we'll cover a little bit about that in this report. Okay, um. Next slide please.

Okay, so this is a basic rundown. I'm going to share a screen with y'all but but first I'm going to walk us through. So the income from the graduate student activity fee is projected to be \$664,659 that is a combined from fall and spring that number is essentially half that doubled and that is heard the conversation that a non and I had generated from the meeting that Anand, and I had with Eric Anderson, who, again, is the Bursar so we'll go through that a little bit. When we want to show you the actual, um, we have a couple of new expenditures that

we're not forecasted for this year, which is to say that they were not included in the projected budget that was presented in the August meeting those expenses at the moment. Total of \$6,224 and the breakdown is workers comp, which is thousand 2, 624 plus ADP payroll processing, um, that just basically goes to for payroll processing, it's pretty self evident and then the ability which I'm still awaiting a response for how much that is. So, you know, this value of 6224 is going to be a greater than that, but I'm, I, like I said, I'm just waiting to get on that. So at this point I'm going to share my screen with y'all. If you have that privilege.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** So I believe you should be able to share your screen. I'll stop sharing.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Oh, right on. Okay.

Let's see, it still says host disabled attendees screen sharing worst case scenario I can...

There it is. Okay, wonderful.

Okay, so, um, here we go. Y'all can see my notes down here. Let's find that real quick. Just give me a second.

So what I'm going to share with y'all. I'll go ahead and introduce this while I'm pulling it up.

What I'm going to do is basically share with everybody, every single meeting the actual budget, the working budget, as is the working document that we have with FSA I think that this is going to provide the maximum amount of transparency.

You'll see what I'm seeing.

We can, you know, if you have questions, you can bring them up all of that good. I think that this is the most comprehensive way to share. And also, as I said, the most transparent way so..... Adrian Ortega, you see there is gonna is kind of the representative of the FSA that I deal with okay so....How this is going to be broken down here category you have income and then to the right of the values here you have the notes or justification, if there is any sort of explanation that needs to be provided for the expense .... So here I've provided you know this is the breakdown of our income that's that. So, so far we have total has been 3003 2329 50 that's been billed received, which is what has actually been paid is only 235 330 93 so you know we're waiting for this money to come in, it should be there, of course, and so that value of 664 659 and I said at the beginning of my presentation generated from doubling what the projected fall income is ok so I'm here under the expenses, you'll see the cruise comp somehow that

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Um, so what you'll see here the notes justification any new expenses. I've thrown a new out onto the side you know that that's new, the ATP processing again that's new. Um, and so now you know I want to how we're going to pay for this because we have to vote to move money around initially, uh, well, let's say that The effort of concision here on the budget committee and I discussed the best way to kind of find or locate these funds.

And the decision that we came to as a group, is that

We would take 1800 dollars from recreational fitness processing, we would take 1800 from cultural and sporting

And that would pay for ATP processing now no application have been submitted for fitness or cultural and sporting and that's for good reason, which is one reason that we decided this would be the appropriate line to be pulling because out of all of these other program funding.

Lines, you know, these could very well be used. Okay, so that's the justification that will vote on it a little bit later as you can see by the note here vote 1800 for ADP processing. OK. So again, there's your

There's your breakdown out to pay for the, um, to pay for the workers comp what I have done and what we will have to vote on of course I'm is

I've taken \$604 for miscellaneous expenses. This is what I propose 604 for miscellaneous expenses which I feel like is the appropriate line to take

It's kind of unaccounted for extra money. I didn't want to drain that account because I think it's always good to have you know some a little bit of money for for emergency purposes.

And then committee expenses which it's my understanding that these are typically used for things like paying for lunch, for instance, for the budget committee when we're meeting in person.

Just general committee expenses, since we're not going to be incurring a bunch of those. This semester or as many as we normally would. I thought it would be appropriate to take money there to pay for workers comp. So essentially what's happening here and how I'm also seeing this is that we are paying for our own

Workers comp using the money from internal GSO functions. I tried to make that sort of like an internal thing where we weren't pulling from program, but I couldn't find 30 \$600 from you know, from just the internal GSO functions or anywhere else, which is why we we went down to program funding. So that's that. I'm now let's see the remaining balances. I've put out to the side. So everything else is full essentially a

Meaning you know these are all there in the budget I we have professional development funds coming in vacations coming in. I'll get to that in the next slide, but as of yesterday, you know, we still had 140 \$8,000 left. No, we have no depletion or know the any of this. So far so

Obviously this, I hope that these will be much less next senate meeting because that means we've been able to process.

All the applications that have come our way. But at the moment, um, we haven't spent a lot of money from on program funding of course changes when highlight that as applications roll in.

Alrighty. Let's

Let's go back here see

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** I can continue sharing the screen. Alright, so you can totally yeah

RJ (Treasurer, Music Department): That would be great. Thanks, Helen.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Can you see it?

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yeah, totally. Next slide please.

Alright so funding applications went live last Monday.

A week from today numbers at a glance as of yesterday we had last night at about 730 we had 265 PDF application submitted 66 rap application submitted, I expect these numbers to be rising, you know, continuously for the rest of the semester, or at least I hope they do have posted as always. Um, so we have a new process for submitting applications.

I was going to screen share to show you this, but I don't think it's necessary, but I want to highlight that, um, you know, a large part of my and Matt and also Caitlin cardetti it my

Own the slideshow that I added earlier but for some reason Caitlin's left off of this, it's my fault. I must have added you too.

Late I'm have been really working hard together to these applications going live, which is to say updating all the wording I'm turning them, Matt, did a great job, turning everything into a Google Doc.

And you know we've all been kind of working hand in hand to make sure that there are no errors and that all of this is going to work as smoothly as it possibly can once again in the larger

To get your reimbursement applications process as expeditiously as possible. So, um, I, I urge you to share this new process with your constituents, on which is to say I'm all you gotta do is tell them to go to the forums instructions page and instead of sending all of their applications to a or the treasure is Assistant There is literally a Google Doc form link under every single application link.

Engine on the page. So they need to submit everything through that Google Doc that's allowing us to kind of correlate everything in one

You know, one document and able to really have a quick reference and again in the effort to process these applications as expeditiously as possible.

I'm so pleased here that it'll, it'll take some I think noise out of the system, um,

So please again share that I'm, I'm, actually. I also want to propose that we expand or change the wording of the professional development fund description to include mediating technology such as microphones and headphones.

As these are any professional endeavor. I think it's appropriate at this time to strongly consider that if if y'all have

Attention to the PDF wording it explicitly says something like, you know, no technologies or devices, basic, which is to say that you can't spend it on like a microphone or headphones or something like that. But I think it's absolutely

Obvious need to have decent quality microphone or headset and I'm also thinking, especially about my comrades and and folks in the Music Department

You know, we need to have a way to be able to play our music and have the fidelity there when you know we're plant performing online. We need to be able to Ourselves on a good microphone now because a lot of auditions are performed, you know, on recording now because because of the covert stuff so

And that's just based on my experience and music. I know I'm sure that every one of y'all has a reason for that is idiosyncratic to your own department will need so like, I think that it's in for us to do this. Um, okay. So know that that I think we should discuss that. And if we, you know, if we think that that's a good thing to do. I'm happy to work on that wording.

And I think one other last detail that I need to double check on before we really move forward with that if there's something that we decide to do is to look at the kind of deeper laws that are written into the stony brook clubs and organizations to make it

Like double check that I that we actually can give funds because that might be a ruling from a higher up document, but I don't think so. I have yet to find anything.

That stipulates, you know, in the, you know, larger SBU clubs and organizations constitution that you cannot spend

You know, give money for things less so. And if that is the case, you better believe I'm going to be trying to get that change. So, um, anyhow. That's an update their. Next slide please.

Alright, so this is the Budget Committee This year is an absolute dream team. I have everyone's name here listed you can contact you know any of these wonderful folks, if you have a question about club or funding club or organization funding, um, you know, they have you know all pretty much serve one year or more. Maryam is kind of freshman Committee member. She's awesome. She's learning quickly, um, I have every confidence that you you know she's ready to feel as well so um if y'all have them um you know I'm not your only resource you have an awesome, awesome budget committee that you can draw from as well that have their own ideas.

I want you all to know that we're also, it's really important to me that we are working together on the budget committee to come

I'm sorry, I lost my place here. I'm to, you know, we're all it's really important that we're all working together to all of these things happen because it's not one person's job as we all know. All right, next slide please and thank you all for serving on the budget committee.

Alright, so the stony brook fund is something that anon, And I had been working pretty

Hard and closely on this is ultimately the quest for an additional revenue stream and and also in supportive us moving away from having a primary income generated through the student activity.

Well, if we're going to an organization that is able to actively fund its members. We have to have an income right so

We are in conversation with Marion Reinhart who's the chief financial officer and add Testa. Who is the Associate Vice President for Advancement services.

Um, we've been in conversation with them but meeting this week to work out a way to accept donations as income and this could be from all sorts of, you know, diverse places but

Um, the two that are really off the top of come off the top of your head, most obviously our alumni and charitable organizations, but we want to be able to have an income or revenue, J.

Arm of the G. So, that way we can you know also be autonomous in our on our finances that way to

Slide please I'm Christine, are you with us, or shall I carry on.

**Christine (Treasurer's Assistant, Physiology & Biophysics):** Sorry, I'm just in the middle of an experiment right now. Sorry.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Oh, good. No worries whatsoever. Um, alright, so typically Christine would introduce the funding proposal. I'm going to carry on with that right now. So, um, we have to funding proposals, I don't want to bring to the floor for voting. The first is the cooker queer care Caribbean voices speaker series. Um, this is through the Latin-American Caribbean studies and Hispanic department, you have the description below. I will not be reading the whole description, but I will take ... We will take about 30 to 45 second to let you all read it. So that will alright, um, I see that William I see that you have your hand raised. I'll get to you in one second. As soon as I just run through this So the amount requested is 1100 dollars. There are a total of eight speakers over two dates or two as you see here, it's going to be a format that's kind of like a discussion format or form format, but the for The for guests before invited guests on each day are going to be presented with a number of questions and there's going to they're going to be discussing them sort of fleshing out ideas and and Details about this topic. Sorry, I'm just waiting chats here. All right. Yes. You had a question. William

**Ecology - William Thomas:** Yeah, just super quick. Our speaker series that we fund or those advertised on the GSB media page.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yes, that is one of the yes they are. They are once they're passed. Through the Budget Committee and then passed through the Senate. They then get approved for funding they get forwarded to Nicole and Nicole will post the flyer on the website was there another question.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes, there's one from Robert in sociology.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Hey, Robert house going which question.

**Robert Cserni (Sociology):** Hi, how are you doing?

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** I'm well, thank you.

**Robert Cserni (Sociology):** I'm glad to hear that. I was wondering if that's a zoom event. One they get 1100 dollars for.....

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yeah, so the 1100 dollars is going to be what does that \$550 for one event and 550 for the other, and that is to pay the four guests to guest speakers at each event. I believe it breaks down to like \$137 and 50 cents that's just off the top of my head I could be wrong about that but you know, a piece for for their, you know, time

**Robert Cserni (Sociology):** Okay, gotcha. Thanks.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** You're welcome. On the next slide we have the flyer If you'd like to zip. There we go. Thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, if there are no more questions. I think we should move to vote on this line of funding.

You know, still fresh. And everyone's had to have a second...

All right, thank you know well if everybody could please vote yay, nay, or abstain in the chat box.

Alright, if there are no more votes. This motion has passed.

Thank you, everybody.

All right, good.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yeah. Next slide please. So the second proposal that I have the two out of two actually is the Behavioral Ecology group speaker series is going to be held on Zoom and YouTube simultaneously. It is going to be every Wednesday from the from August 20 until the second of December and the amount requested is \$1,050. I'll give everybody a you know 35 five seconds to peruse this description. We got isn't it UC Santa isn't it UC Santa Barbara, the banana slugs? Nice any pulp fiction fans in the house, anyway?

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** That is UC Santa Cruz...



**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Oh yeah ..... Santa Cruz. That's right. Thank you. I was wanting it to be Santa Barbara so bad. I'm waiting without banana slugs in a conversation you ever get to do that.

I almost, almost went to Santa Cruz..... Okay if everyone's read this. I'll stop blabbering on. Um, the next slot will contain the flyer, if you could carry on to that. And this is flyer for the next event, of course, the one coming up in October 14, which I think is passed. Now, right. It's the 20th. Yeah. Cool. Okay. Um, if you know at this time, we could feel questions.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):**We have one question from Aniruddha from Physics.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:**Yes. Hi. Hi. Robert..... Hello. So I'm just curious. I'm new. I'm first time senator so last and last thing we approved had eight speakers and they were asking for 1100 dollars and this speaker series has seven speakers in there like a simple .... So, is there like a standard amount that you pay the speaker or is there like a or I'm just doesn't seem like it adds up.....

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** No, that's no, that's a good question. Um, As a matter of fact, so there there is no standard that is something that you come to the budget committee with, you know, included in your proposal and it's typically considered an honorarium and please correct me if I'm wrong, but if memory serves me correct it cannot be more than \$100 and other than that for a single individual. Other than that, you know, you can't go over the 1200 dollar cap. But that's it's 300 but I'm almost positive it's 300. Thank you. You're welcome.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** And there any more questions for RJ?

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** If you have any recommendations on that, please get in touch with RJ.... We'd be happy to make changes to them.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** But yeah and that's exactly I want to echo on there. Like if they're seeing that you all have or thoughts on, you know, expanding lines or, you know, it's kind of hard to imagine trying to give a speaker or in \$300 to speak from their underwear. You know, at the same time just being

honest. But at the same time, you know, in the future, this might be something that is important to really include in a discussion or other thoughts of course about expanding long or being more inclusive, um, for instance, you know, expanding the PDF to be able to buy headphones, microphones and things like that. But yeah, just wanted going on on that.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** They can drop into a budget committee meeting because I think it gives you an idea, because it's so difficult for them to decide for each department and stuff. So we kind of expect the people to make, making the proposal or doing you know their due diligence and not overpaying the speakers.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yeah yeah

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, if there are no more questions. Oh, Allison from geosciences

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her) :** Hey, um, how many, how many of these proposals do we have to go through? I was just wondering?

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** This is it. This is the second was two out of two

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** Okay, nevermind them.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right. If there are no other questions. Thank you Nick for your motion to approve the behavioral ecology funding line.

Thank you. Baxter for your second and we'll take this to a vote. Please put Yay, nay, or abstain. Thank you.

All right. There are no more votes. This motion has passed. Thank you, everybody, thank you RJ

And you're welcome.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** I suppose. So we have one more quick update from the treasures position. Um, so, oh, we need one more committee member on the COVID-19 Committee.

Email the treasurer assistant, Christine, she is indeed the head of that committee. I'm going to just give a couple of quick updates on that.

So all members of course our are, you know, confidential and anonymous. Um, so nothing, I say, you know, will expose any of that. So I'm going to be as careful as I can with giving this update. Um, so essentially we have reopened, as I'm sure many of you all have with these updated emails about extending the deadline extending a deadline extending the deadline and we do realize, and it was also indeed brought up in our budget committee meeting that it's a bit unfair to those that have that have applied at the very beginning to still be waiting to be approved at this point I'm so going to do is try to look at those who have applied first and then process those applications, but in order to even do that to anonymize all the data. And that's been a very, very, very big undertaking by the committee and, indeed, also the office managers, so you know what, that's the biggest thing that we're working on. And the biggest hurdle that we have to jump over in order to start processing these applications. So we are prioritizing we are working very hard on it. We hope that by next week we'll be able to start processing and we are

Currently really in the next day with making the decision on whether or not to bring in a graduate student higher to just simply help anonymize the data, basically a brief.

Part time position just to anonymize the data so we can get a faster turnaround on this, um, that is all of the updates that I have unless Christina's overhearing this and wants to add

**Christine (Treasurer's Assistant, Physiology & Biophysics):** Can you hear me.

**Christine (Treasurer's Assistant, Physiology & Biophysics):** You're interested in being on the committee just email me at this email just write like a short statement. Will probably be really busy looking at these applications in the next like two, three weeks, we want to try to get three days as quick as possible. So we can start giving out the money to fund. So yeah, just let me know.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Thank you, Christine. And indeed, please encourage your constituents to apply for this really, it's super important. We want to spend all this money so please do. Alright that's everything. I think it would be

appropriate to vote on the budget changes, but I will allow the speaker to make that decision, depending on the remaining business.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Sure. I agree.

So I think in the interest of time, I'd like everyone to vote on approving all the budget changes that once unless there are any objections to this.

If so, speak now.

And just to be clear what I mean by the budget changes is what RJ showed before, which is, you know, shuffling money from one place to the other in order to compensate for things that are not receiving as much money this semester.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yes, that is, and that is to pay for new expenses that we're not our previous budget. I see we're starting to vote. So I think we get the point. Sorry, all

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, if there are no more votes than this motion has passed, thank you RJ and I'd also like to propose a motion to change the wording and the professional development fund to include technologies.

Is there a second thank you to know. In that case, let's move to vote.

And I agree with you. What we can do also is, you know, approve a motion to change the wording and then RJ can propose what the change will be and we can vote on the net new wording during the next senate meeting.

Or once all right with this. Okay, if there's no more votes, then the motion for RJ to do this work has passed.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Okay, and then I'd like to just quickly come back to the secretary report. And so I'd like to propose a motion to vote on the committee's and their members. Are second

Alright so let me quickly share with you in the chat box. The link to the Committee member. So, Sorry, Allison. I missed you. All right.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** Hey, I was just wondering what we're going to do about it. Are we only going to be voting for the names that are already on here since there's some committees that are not full yet. And then I get a later date will vote on the rest of the names

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Yes, that is what we are going to do so right now. Many of the senators have applied for committees which are kept anonymous .... Right so I will be reaching out to the chairs of those committees and trying to get the names of senators who are in those committees. Please make sure to fill your name. If you have not for any of the committees or you have not sign up for any of the anonymous committees like GSELF, COVID-19, please make sure to do that. If you have not done so and if you don't do. So, say by the by Wednesday, I think I'll assign committees to you so you have to work in those communities and then the remaining committees will be approved in the next Senate.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** So, for example, will only be voting for the academic affairs, the budget. Yeah, and the Equity, Diversity Inclusion committees. Yeah. Yeah. And the social concerns. Yeah, okay.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah. So what I can do. Also we have here. One second .... Only including these full committees. So all right, you can all see this right So we have the Budget Committee. The Academic Affairs Committee Equity, Diversity and inclusion and social concerns. So I'll go maybe like 30 seconds on each slide look

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** I mean I think someone has a question on the chat.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Ah yes, Francesca...

**Francesca Polo, Tech. and Society:** Hi there. Um, I was so I was at myself like on the first day for for two of the committee's and there were other people there as well. And those are missing. I haven't been notified of that change.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** I don't know.

**Francesca Polo, Tech. and Society:** I was in elections and also the rules and constitution for a number of years now. They are just blank now....

**Philosophy -- Baxter Jephcott:** Those part of the anonymous committees.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):**No, no.

**Philosophy -- Baxter Jephcott:** No, no, it's my name was on one of those two. And it's not there now.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** When I look before the meeting all the names were there, I believe.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Yeah, so I don't know. Maybe, yeah, you can Enroll in that again and when they get full we will approve those later. Okay.

**Francesca Polo, Tech. and Society:** Yeah, they were both cleared.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Okay, so you can enter your name again and then when they get full we can

**Francesca Polo, Tech. and Society:** Okay, thanks

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, so looking for. Yeah. Also, these this spreadsheet is editable by everybody. So, to be honest, it may just be somebody accidentally clicked backspace or something so....

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Yeah, just make sure to enroll in one committee for now. Maybe after we assign one senator to each committee, we can. You can enroll in multiple committees.

**Francesca Polo, Tech. and Society:** I've been in I've been in both for two years for more than two years. So, but, and they both had empty gaps in those two so....

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Okay, I would say try to enroll into one if there's a if right right now, after I get the list of senators and after we assign senators to each committee, then you can get into that. So yeah.....

**Ecology - William Thomas:** If you look at the version from 132 today. It looks to be a more complete list. We could also just revert it back.

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** Yeah okay, that's fine.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Are there any questions. I saw, I saw a hand, but it really

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, it's not let me flip through this is the Academic Affairs Committee. And if anyone has any questions, you know, feel free to raise your hand for your name in the chat box. All right. Equity, Diversity and inclusion. And finally, the social concerns committee. Yes, Tristan.

**Tristan Catalano GEO:** And you go back to the equity diversity and inclusion. Yes.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Essentially

Aditya Patankar (Secretary): Yeah there. Yeah, so

**Tristan Catalano GEO:** Other names that are currently on there from the GSO

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** OK, so maybe those names are not there on the this. So these are the names from the committee list.

**Tristan Catalano GEO:** Okay. Um, I'll email you yeah sure with the those names. Okay, sure.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** So we're not the start

**Aditya Patankar (Secretary):** So we would, we will not work on the equity and diversity and inclusion.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, so the vote will be for the Budget Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee. And the social concerns committee. Alright so a motion to vote for the committee's and their members. Thank you Nick alright if everybody could please vote. Alright. Looks like we have overwhelming Law unanimous gays.

Oh, these three committees have been approved. So during the next meeting. Hopefully, you know, all senators will have sign up for their required one committee and we can approve the rest of the committee's once they've been filled up. Okay, so let's go back here. I'll give a quick report. So I sent out a call for applications for the distinguished travel award on September 29. Unfortunately, I have not yet received any applications. I'm not sure what typically, how quickly these arrive, but I am assuming because most you know conferences in person have been canceled for the upcoming year that this might be a reason why. But please remind your constituents to apply for this award. Again, since we're in a strange time you know exceptions will be made for virtual conferences. And you know, it's not just about how much money you get, but also it's a great thing to be able to put on your resume. So the deadline. I put in the email. I believe it's November 17th. Let me just double check for you. I was aiming for six weeks from the date of September 29

Just one second.

The deadline is 11:59pm on Monday, November 9. And so I if I don't receive any applications by then. I mean, I'll have to extend the application deadline. I'll probably do that. Anyways, just because I would like you know some fair competition to go on. Is the deadline for the semester for the year. Um, I don't understand your question. So the way the distinguished travel award works is we have two cycles. So one of the fall and one in the spring. We're currently in the fall cycle and the fall cycle covers any expenditures. Due to conferences from January 1 to June 31 and then the spring cycle would cover anything from July 1 to December 31 Does that answer your question.

Okay, great. Moving on, we are holding the October and legal clinic on Thursday with Jonathan. So we have one slot still available since we're doing 30 minutes slots. So please again. Encourage your constituents that if they need legal assistance they can reach out to me and I can schedule them with Jonathan

One thing though is we did get a lot of students emailing you know concerns about immigration law specifically because of the new ruling by the Department of Homeland Security to change the student visa laws. So unfortunately, Jonathan is not an expert in immigration law, but we were able to find a lawyer who who is. And so now we're negotiating with him. To hold an immigration specific legal clinic sometime in November. So he'll be holding also a seminar held by the visa and Immigration Services around the third week of November. So the plan was to hold the legal clinic after this seminar.



So that students can obtain information. And then if they have any questions, relative to their own situations, they can sign up with him and receive legal advice.

Finally, the USG. So since the executive committee had a meeting with USG. Recently they are looking for a senator who's registered to vote in Suffolk County, who would be willing to help them with an Instagram Live Event that they're holding so you know that together. And answer any questions that students may have regarding the voting process, you know, MAIL IN BALLOTS.

Were to vote when to vote by etc. So if you're interested in participating. This will be on October 24 on a Saturday shouldn't take too long. But if you're interested, please send me an email and I can put you in touch with us. Now, who is the one from USG organizing this. All right, that's all that I have in terms of updates. So now I'd like to move on down the agenda. So let's see. Alright.

So let's start with item 20. So this is something that on on mentioned earlier, um, and if you all see the agenda. What I've done is I've linked

The proposals or the language that would need to be added to the Constitution in terms of each proposal in each agenda item. So we were asked by the administration to add an anti hazing pledge to the GSB constitution.

I think this is this is fine. So you know if you'd like to see the language of this it's linked here. So I'd like to move

To vote on this addition to the Constitution. So I have a second Alright, thank you. Spencer, if you could, although Yay, nay, or apps. Warren is very excited about this. Alright, the teams. We have a unanimous agreement. Okay, so this is past. Thank you, everybody will be adding this language, the GMO constitution. Next we'll look at item of 10 be

So we'd like to adopt the GSO meaning a statement against the new international student visa regulations to stand in solidarity, be in solidarity with our international students, you know, and both Masters and PhD programs. So hopefully you've had a chance to look at this statement. Anybody has any questions about it, or would like to discuss, please raise your hand.

Yes. John so the anti hazing language. If you go to the senate meeting agenda, I can post this quickly in the chat box, everybody has it. So I've linked the anti hazing pledge in item 10 A of the agenda. You're welcome.

All right. Does anybody have any questions or discussion points about the adoption of the game and against the visa regulations. If not, I'd like to move to approve the statement I have a second thank you. Alright, if everybody could please vote Yes, Carlos from geosciences

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** All right, thank you again. I just wanted to reiterate, one of the things that are in the statement. There is a due date for commenting against this rule October 26 of this year. So I encourage all senators and their departments to reread this statement and share with their departments, because the clock is ticking and if it has any negative feedback, the DHS might actually have to reconsider. To actually enact those rules. So it's of the utmost importance that this is spread around and commented on as quickly as possible.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes, and Carlos, if you don't mind. You know, giving a summary of what the new DHS rules are just in case or any senators that don't know

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** Yes. So just a quick recap international students have this ability of extending their stay with a visa based on something known as duration of status meaning we're not limited directly as to when the visa expires, but when our university believes that it is time for us to graduate, meaning we we met all the academic requirements to either get a degree, etc, etc. This new rule would limit all visas to be exactly four years no more low no less with highly stringent restrictions on extensions and the list that's considered a state sponsor of terrorism by the federal government.

When would provide strict limits to individuals hailing from these countries to two years. So as many of you know it's very it's not common for an international student to end their studies in a four year timeline. Graduate students usually do not finish their degrees, especially PhD students, in four years. They require more time. So basically what this rule is saying is hopefully you can finish your degree as soon as possible. But if we. But if you don't, then we don't grant to an extent extension will. We're really sorry. And thank you for participating. So the other thing is, students are going to be highly policed by the DHS with at least one or two monthly phone calls where they're going to be questioning how our academic progress is developing. So we're going to have to face added pressures by the DHS, which I don't think is valid, especially because the DHS doesn't know how to track academic progress correctly. They're not an academic institution. They don't know each academic institution's rules so I think this rule is highly detrimental not only for current international students, prospective

students and I really encourage anybody to that is a domestic person to vote or to negatively comment against this. Thank you for your time.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes. Thank you, Carlos so if you go to the link that I had put in the agenda on there. You can find a link to the DHS website where you can add comments voicing your opinion on this new regulation like Carlos, said the deadline is October 26. So please, you know, add comments yourself. Encourage your friends to do so. Because international students are a huge part of our graduate student community. And I think we should all stand with them against this regulation.

Alright. So RJ had asked me for some time to speak.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** Yes, just a quick 10 seconds here. So for those of you that are had reservations about the expansion of the wording, or what to include in PDF is appropriate to fund, I really think it's important that you send me mail that says what your reservations are because I think I like I want to know so that I can most effectively like include that and and make sure their concerns are addressed in the wording that I propose. So, just please if you had reservations about that send them like communicate that to me so that we can come to the best, you know, literally the best place that we can be with that. So thank you. That's it.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you. Alright, so let's move on to item 10 see. So this was brought up by Senator Chuankai. So he proposed changes to the reimbursement criteria for the Cold Spring Harbor Brookhaven National Lab funding line. So if everybody, you know, had a chance to take a look at this proposal. And chunk. If you'd like to speak on this yourself.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Yes, thank you. Thank you. Um, basically, what I want to tell everyone is that the current criteria are not very clear. On one thing that is students to that commute between Cold Spring Harbor or Brookhaven National Labs and Stony Brook campus are those students rotation students or Are those those students, the students who have, you know, chosen their labs there. So this point has not been cleared. So we have two options or three options, essentially. First one is we can restrict the grant to students who need to commute between campuses for rotations and courses. So these in this situation

the grant will target the first and second year students, mostly, and the second option is we open the grant to all students who will need to go to Stony Brook, or I mean, sorry. This is a Cold Spring Harbor and being now that will include, you know, third year fourth year and fifth year students and so on. And obviously because of the pandemic, no one will really come to Stony Brook campus if they work at Cold Spring Harbor. So the third option is to it's basically a hybrid version that is to adopt the first version during this year and next year we'll switch back to the second option. Which will open the grant for all students.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you John time. Um, alright, so we have some questions. We'll start with Nick from material science and chemical engineering

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** Can you hear me?

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yes, yes.

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** Alright, cool. Um, so I just want to point out that students who actually commute to be no, um, that I know of in the material science chemical engineering department. And definitely the chemistry department probably physics department and some other engineering departments don't actually have classes or courses at BNL. But I'm not sure if you can define what they're doing, which is going between the research group and the stony brook campus for, like, you know, teaching. Going to BNL For experiments. And so, and back and forth. I'm not sure if you can call that rotation. So that's why I sort of favored language option number two, where we just kind of open it up and I know a few years ago we amended this exact piece and we added all these other restrictions such as adding with the 50 cent per mile and also the 50% cap to sort of make it as fair as possible. As obviously like this group of students is a minority of, like, you know, the 7000 and so students  
So yeah, I just wanted to, you know, let you guys know that I support option number two to make it available to as many students who actually go to be in LA, at least as possible. So thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you Nick. Next we have Allison from the geosciences department.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** I essentially want to echo what Nick said most of the students in my department who are in geosciences who do work at BNL particular, don't ... There's no sort of courses or anything like that. It's just simply research activities, actually. Occasionally there is, of course, I don't know if it's i don't i don't know how that courses is working right now, but I also favor option two and in saying that it should be open to all students.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you. Allison on. Next we have John Klecker.

**John Klecker:** Um, I want to echo the same thing. I know there's a lot of students in chemistry that have labs on campus at Stony Brook, but they also have access to different beam lines of BNL and so on I have friends that are constantly going in between Stony Brook and BNL for their work. And so I think they should be able to get reimbursed for that mileage if they want to.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you. All right, Noele

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** I guess I'm the one that's sorry if I'm talking weird I guess I'm the one that's like the outlier. I had originally called out to my program director to ask for students names for people who were going to Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven National Lab and he had asked why? And I said, well, they do reimbursements for people who are rotating and for courses and for him. He said, That's good, right because we want the reason for this is to promote students to go and explore avenues off camp or off of Stony Brook University campus and go to Cold Spring Harbor and Brookhaven National Lab. However, anything outside of that can be considered your choice, right. I as a student live an hour away I have other students that live two or three hours away that commute to Stony Brook. And also we have to take into account that not every student that goes to be now or Stony Brook actually comes to Stony Brook campus. Um, that's another thing, because a lot of the students. I know they're doing their dissertation. Don't come to campus at all. They usually attend activities that are at Cold Spring Harbor. As for Brookhaven National Lab. I know a lot of students use equipment there. And they do use facilities, but at the end of the day, the PI is making you travel there, they should be the one

reimbursing you for travel that's coming out of your own pocket. So that's all I have to say, I'm just because I know people that live far and they would love that money to because they have to commute, an hour. I know people that commute from Brooklyn as well to come to Stony Brook. So that's just what I have to say for that. Thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you Noele. Yeah, Nick, go ahead.

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** Hey, I know so I do agree with what you just said. However, just because this line already existed, it kind of was like the motivation to sort of make it work. Since its already, you know it's there, right. So, in its current state. There's like \$10,000 that's essentially not used. So obviously, we can use you know that to you know maybe put into the internship travel fund. And so that fund actually doesn't have language that restricts you know people going on courses or rotations. Right. But we can also open it up, right, which is what I think I'll still support. And since it's like, you know, if we kept that like I think I think it's at 100 but even if it was capital hundred I think it's it's still a very like low amount, it's essentially like a small like subsidy, which, like if everyone was applying for travel money like going from home to SBU, for example, like you guys are usually going to, you know, eat that money up in you know when week right tons of people can use, you know, home to SBU travel money. Right. So anyway, I don't know it, since it already like exists, like if we don't do anything to, you know, change the language, in my opinion, I guess we might as well just delete the fund were merged with something else. But so there's that option to it right so..

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** I definitely I get. I get your point. But when I'm talking to my students in my department. And I know their own situations. Wouldn't it be fair. Then if we say you have a commute two hours from home, you can apply for this because we want to help you with your commute. That's the same thing, right.

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** Yeah, like I agree with it so I like the money is like, you know,

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** But the only reason it was extended because Chuankai actually pushed for it because it was reduced by Anand originally and because he thought nobody was going to be using it for commuting for courses and such. And then Chuankai said, actually, people from my program really do use this. So please, increase the budget, and it was increased

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Yeah, students to go there to do rotations.

**Noele Certain; Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology:** Yeah, absolutely. Yeah.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** I guess I'm

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you all for the lively debate by, I do think that we should go in order of hands. Raise. Um, so I'm going to go and call Tristan.

**Tristan Catalano GEO:** Yeah, I think a possible workaround to this that I see is they are either reimbursing the difference in mileage so what the difference in mileage is from home to Stony Brook at from home to BNL. You reimburse that amount or specifically set the cap at the mileage from Stony Brook to BNL and Stony Brook to Cold Spring Harbor as well.

And that's, that's where the cap figure comes from

Or, you know, that's where it should come from. I don't know if that's a reasonable way around that.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** ALL RIGHT, ALLISON

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):** I'm, I'm just gonna say that since perhaps there's not necessarily a consensus consensus on what what should be done with the line, perhaps we should send it to the budget committee to or the rules and constitutions. I'm not sure which to like discuss further and incorporate some of these suggestions.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** starts taking notes. Um, yes, Ani from the physics department.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** So, hi. Sorry, I just want to say that people from the physics department, definitely. Use this fund specifically to go to BNL a lot of international students who don't have cars use the fund as well. So I would propose to like expanding at least in the first few weeks that they include Lyft or Uber or whatever. So I would propose to expanding the wording to like include everybody who travels to BNL. Thank you.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** But Uber is significantly more expensive than

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** Gas mileage. Yeah. Yeah. But the people who have used it a people in the past that I know of people who have sort of spent the first week we're building and then you're getting right to whatever. So I think the order and the wording of the thing currently allows people to claim cost for Uber, etc.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, Ga-Ram.

**Ga-Ram Hwang (MCB, Alternate):** Oh yes, I just wanted clarification on who qualifies for this fund because at least for our members of the MCB program. Once we finish our rotations many of our students tend to move over to COLD Spring Harbor. Because they only come back for courses here, so instead they end up staying there for the rest of the research period. So I don't know if this is saying that they get you asked for reimbursement for their own daily travel to cause me harbor from their own house right which is right there.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you. So Allison... I see your motion. Um, I agree with you. I think that we should vote on this. Though I suppose then the options that we have are to either table this and bring it to the budget committee to discuss further the details, since it seems we do have a lot of different opinions on this or we can vote on either option one or two. Um Chuankai, did you want to say something.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Yes. Uh, I... Let me just put the link again. So I put a link in the chat box, which will survey or the situation to our students. So Senator as if your program or your department have students that are eligible for this fund, please go click the link and just register into information and we will



discuss with them. You see, I mean the Budget Committee, and we'll talk about this again during the next meeting. I guess that's the best for a

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah so I've added the survey link also to your proposal, so you know it can be found in as many places as possible. Um, so, then I'd like to move to table the discussion. And just to be clear, if you vote yay. Then we move to table. Sorry. Then we table. And if you vote nay and there are majority needs, then we'll move to vote on the two options, proposed by Chuankai currently. All right, I'll give it 30 more seconds if everybody could please vote yay, nay or abstain. Alright, thank you everybody. So the motion from Allison to table and send to the budget committee has passed, please. I encourage everybody who does have an opinion on this to reach out to RJ.

**RJ (Treasurer, Music Department):** So likely what we'll do, likely what will happen is the document that Chuankai sent out, you know, once they kind of populated with with responses and all that will invite one representative from that document to come speak to the budget committee and have a say, of course, more are welcome, but it would just in the effort of being efficient and not having to take an hour to discuss this one thing will likely do it that way. But I'll be in conversation with the budget committee on how to best move forward with this, but it to my first instinct is to say, let the document populate the representative among yourselves. It sounds like from kind might be the best one. But that's just me, but if they choose someone different and then come talk to us at the next budget committee meeting and propose just as a funding proposal or something like that and meaning in that same sort of fashion where you schedule something and you know that's enough for me.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Thank you RJ. And just to clarify, so there are two documents, we're talking about here. One of them is the actual proposal made by Chuankai within that proposal. There's also a link to a survey. Which you can fill out on behalf of the constituents in your department so that RJ and Chuankai can get a sense of how many people would be affected by changes in this line of funding. All right. If there are no other comments, questions, concerns, let's move on to the next item on the agenda, which is item 10 D. And so this is a motion to approve a GSO endorsement of SUNY statement against the White House executive order prohibiting training on

divisive concepts. So I have linked to the SUNY statement hopefully all of you have had a chance to at least glance it over. I will send quickly the link in the chat box. So you can all take a look. We're not voting blind here. So just for a quick overview. Pretty much the White House executive order is prohibiting trainings on what they call the vice of concepts. Yes, Robert. So I it was supposed to be like 530 to seven or 730 depending, you know, on how quickly discussions go. We're on the second to last, agenda item and next month. I will make more of an effort to limit the Executive Council reports to 10 minutes or less.

So normally we do try to end within two hours. So I'm very sorry that we're here a little bit longer. I'm enjoying myself. I hope everyone else's as well. Yes, we are enjoying robot conversation.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, so does anybody have anything they'd like to discuss regarding this statement if so, please raise your hand if not I move to propose to approve this statement from SUNY regarding this executive order. All right, thank you Ani. In that case, let's all vote, please.

Alright, thank you everybody. It seems that we have a unanimous yay here.

Well, yeah. I mean, when I read this executive order. It's really something.

Get out to vote guys. Okay. Then finally, we're on the last item of our agenda. Sorry. Second to last.

This is 10 e. So this was also brought up proposed by chunk chi, which is to create a GSO correspondent newsletter to basically streamline communications from the GSO to the graduate students. So chunk. If you'd like to go ahead and explain your proposal.

**Chuankai Chen (Genetics):** Yes, I guess everyone can click the link. It's, it's very simple. We get a lot of emails and events promotions from GSR which is a great thing. But we want to compress those promotions and information emails to two emails, hopefully, every week. So what we want to do is a semi weekly immune email communication. If you click the link there is the correspondence, you can find some details. But, you know, basically, that's what we, that's what the, you know, university has been doing for all the students, I guess. We want a motion to approve two things. The first is to sign this thing to a bylaw. The language is here the EC is responsible for operating the correspondence. A semi weekly email communication channel and our communication during the coming year will

be the example for future students and, secondly, this communication channel will begin in two weeks. I guess we want to give the EC sufficient time to organize to get this done. That's my motion we can vote now.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, thank you Chuankai. Is there any discussion about this? I'll give everybody a second to read over the proposal, which is quite short. But more importantly, the second link, which is the bylaw language, which is basically outlining the proposed new structure of communication.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** What we will basically do is whatever you want to share with the fellow students, you can go to a Google Doc, which will be shared with all senators and EC members and you know every week. The EC will collect those information then sent out emails to senators who will then forward the correspondence.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Now, I'm not sure if I'm allowed to be, oh, let's start with Robert from sociology.

**Robert Cserni (Sociology):** Yeah. Um, so, um, as it is now the whole communication system basically the need to send out the emails to department students in itself is is you know a bit complicated. And now to move to two emails a week. Um, I think that unless there is a system data GSO can like directly connect with the grad students. And this is just, I think it's too much. Um, there needs to be a way for the GSO, in this case to send out these notifications directly to the degree to the grad students

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, so just to touch upon that I agree with you though. Recently, what happened is that the GSO is no longer allowed to send emails through you know whatever listserv UNIVERSITY USES and as a result, we kind of use the senators to disseminate information, but the executive committee is looking into types of email servers, things like this that we can use because we do have a list of all graduate students and their email addresses. So it is possible to find a way to send things directly to the graduate students just too. So that's something that can be worked on. Yes, Chuankai.....

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** If, as I mean, as I specify in the document if the information you want to share is time sensitive, you want to send the email directly if it's okay to wait three, four or four days you channel your information into, you know, the GSO correspondence

That's the same idea as you know what the university has been doing for us.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** So Chuankai would you mind explaining a little bit more the structure that you are proposing.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** What do you mean the structure?

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** So here where we have to say the PDF to a Google folder.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Oh that's well that's basically if you go to

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** And also the scoring

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** And while the scoring is just to compare why the way I'm proposing is may be better. You can go to the last page of the document, which is an example that I've done for my students for the week of September 29 so those are, that is the compilation and if you click the links you can you will go to the PDF Archives I say it for them that's and Google Chrome, adding that you can use easily

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, I just like to point you also to the chat box. Would you like to just share your idea?

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** So I think I agree with Chuankai, on, on one level. That maybe there is too much makeup data too many emails. So we can ask the social media manager to create you know, like a digest with, like, what are the events this week. What is happening, etc, etc, um, but I feel we need to discuss this further before we just pass it as as law and we'll focus on our direct student GSO to student communication will try to get that mail server ready so that senators don't have to send emails we do have we force the admin to give us access to email addresses for all graduates. So we have that.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Um, can I speak now. Yeah. Yes. Yeah. So I just wanted to suggest that, like if you want notifications correlated in a specific space. Then I do suggest that part of the reason I want to have a discord is we can have a notification channel and or finding channels is specifically for these kinds of information for people who do not feel comfortable reading through a bunch of emails. At the same time, as has been said before getting access to our emails has is still a priority for us. We have a list of them we that's one part of the reason why Alan has brought up the fact that we are looking at lists of services that do not automatically end up in trash. So I would either those would in his essence work on this. They would solve this notification issue on two levels at it a little easier for us to manage other than adding on third on top of all of these.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** I agree with you.

**Chuankai Chen(Genetics):** Yes, I just want to say that you see has you know much room to decide how to get this done. Specifically what I want to propose here is just, we want to establish this as soon as possible. So that you know the students won't complain and actually I don't think students will complain to get too many emails. They want to know, you know, as much information from GSO as possible. It's just that the way we communicate information is not is not the best way may not be the best way.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Yeah, I agree. Hey, we take your feedback, but I feel our instead voting on it this time. Maybe we can move it to the next senate meeting. And from now to then you can like, take a look at what we are able to implement by them. And if you feel that that leaves much to be desired.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, we have Joanne from genetics.

**Joanne Saldanha\_Genetics:** Oh yeah, I just wanted to respond to Sean's idea about discord. Um, so when he suggested it, it seems, it seems like a really good idea to to have like a place where graduate students can talk to each other about like grad school, in general, but when it comes to like official information. So like things about workshops and stuff. I feel like moving back to a discord server then forces people to have a discord and I thought that would be a more of an optional thing. Because I feel like forcing people to have a discord versus all your official

things on one email would be like, time consuming for people who want to take advantage of things like PDFs and stuff to find out where they got the information about such funds.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Um, I mean, is this point and say I at no point, I say that the discord was going to be our main notification system. I meant that for for one of the useful things about a discord in having a notification channel on certain people have access to and can post things in that. That's where we can put notifications that can be read one at a time. If you want a group of things, but in no way does that replace emails and database of all the water you're already doing.

**Joanne Saldanha\_Genetics:** Okay, thanks. Yeah, no, I thought you were, you were on. Yeah. Okay. Thanks.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** My vision is still a place for us to congregate. But that does not mean that that is our in Stony Brook certainly move to discard know. It's what is something I like it's something I want to share but I mandatory is absolutely against my any of my values.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right. Um, Ani from physics department.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** Yeah, thank you. Um, so, I think, more information is not bad information. So as long as we're actually still sending out like emails and then on top of that begin to implement the consolidated newsletter that Chuankai is proposing. I think it's both good so until, until we're able to have a more like elaborate a discussion about this. I moved to discuss this next time and continue sending emails to next.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, thank you Ani. So this motion has already been made and it's been seconded. So I'd like to move to a vote to table this discussion to next time. In the meantime, the executive committee will discuss and with Shanghai, to see what obvious we can implement everybody could PLEASE VOTE yay, nay, or abstain. Alright, I'll give it 30 more seconds.

Judgment of time is not the best. So I think, but it seems like no one else's voting. So in that case, the motion to table this has passed in the meantime Executive Committee will discuss this with Chuankai and what we can do to implement and streamline our communication and we'll discuss it again at the November senate meeting. Alright, so now we are on the final New issue of our agenda.

Which is a motion or a proposal to endorse for the GSO to endorse the fee strike. So I'm sure that most of you have heard of this pledge of a fee strike. So just to be clear on this proposal is not to force everybody to participate in this fee strike, but rather to have the GSO endorse the fee strike. So everybody I've sent the Google document of the proposal from Amy and John Clicker has seen the pledge. So I'll give you all a second to look over

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** John. Could you just talk about what are the negative effects like if the University takes action against any students. So I think that is the only main concern.

**John Klecker:** Yeah, so a month after the deadline for fees. Well, I guess we've already received word that the fee deadline is waived until November 15 so on December 15 they would start assessing late fees, and I believe the late fee is \$50 but that's the only issue that I know of. Right now, or that I can think of. So you might be assessed an extra \$50 but when you're paying \$2,300 a year. What's an extra \$50 so we already have over 500 students who have signed the pledge. And we've projected that we're withholding over half a million dollars from the university with this pledge, so I should say this pledge is organized by rank and file members. So that's, uh, yeah. So there is like broad, broad support for this. Um, it's very popular and I mean I think this is like a last resort option so people who are part of GSO for a long time of know there's we've tried everything to talk with administration about this in good faith and they just simply refuse to because they literally do not care about us. So this, you know, now we're trying to figure out what types of tools we can use to actually elicit responses. So, and this is one of them. So yeah, I can take questions.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Sorry about that. Everyone I had to use that. All right. First up, we have Nick from material science.

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** Hey so John the reason why I'm hesitant is I actually, I signed the pledge, but I'm just, I'm not sure. Personally, like how long I can go you know like and not pay a fee. Right? Like is there, like, are you expecting all these people to like, how far is it going to go. I guess like to what end is what I'm trying to say like, and if there, you know, and if we don't see it going to like you know all the way. Then I mean, should we be endorsing it like, is that going to be, you know, is it bad for the GSO. In the end, when we want to have a negotiating you know spot at the table right like eventually. So that's.....

**John Klecker:** I think, I mean, I would say that with, you know, our leverage right now is withholding payment of the fees and so if people pay their fees before December 15 you're we're losing our leverage in that position.

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** I just, if I could just add like um I know I guess in the pledge, or in the document. I think the goal was the abolishment of the fees and I just made, if I can make any suggestion I would say maybe what if we could pick one fee to simply not pay because you know we can type in that number when we pay you know on maybe our credit cards or whatever. So maybe if there was something simple. You know where we can just ship down you know one thing at a time, but I just like what are they gonna fire us like if we don't pay these fees. You know what I mean, like, how far can it go?

**John Klecker:** You can register for classes at the beginning of November, without having paid your fees. So you can register for the spring without a problem. And the hope is that I mean I can't. I can't with certainty speak for the people who are organizing this. But the hope is that in December when the administration realizes that a significant number of graduate students are withholding their fees, hopefully president. Again, this is more willing to have an open, you know, a good faith conversation with us about how serious this issue is and how it impacts our ability to contribute to the mission of the university. And so I would like to be optimistic that we can get some sort of fee remediation out of this, you know, yeah, like we're probably right. Like the you know the beginning bargaining position the opposition or the abolishment of all fees. Yeah, that's unlikely, but, I mean, we got to start somewhere and I'd rather start there and move, you know, like I'd rather start high and like work down then start at the



abolishment of one fee and then you know like cut it in half from there. So I think that any type of remediation, we get out of this is a win. So that's one way to look at it. Another thing is I mean this is a lose, lose situation for the university, if we withhold our fees and then they're charging us late fees in the pandemic. I mean, all of us, all of us are struggling to survive. And what is the university going to do to alleviate that situation charge us an extra fee like what the fuck is that so it's, I think, from a PR perspective, it's a lose, lose situation for. I mean, because you know materially it's lose situation PR cases to lose the other way, depending on whether had been decides to concede to demands, or to apply a, you know, late fees to all of us. So that's I think that's where we are with.....

**Nick (Materials Science and Chemical Engineering):** All right, thanks a lot John.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, Carlos from geoscience.

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** Yeah, it's not a question and actually one of the organizers. So I wanted to add a couple things that John said. One of the things that I wanted to say is we now involved undergrad students in terms of like they're just signing up in solidarity, so we're up to 600 signatories by today which is a big deal. It's a huge turnover. The other thing that I want to emphasize is that although our goal is for the abolishment of the fees. Right now we are in a position or situation where the ball is some administration's court and we after we did all of this, we're not waiting for them to respond. But we're already moving for the next set of things. For example, we are already building an information campaign where we have done an analysis. On all the member institutions of the American Association of Universities and in terms of net stipend and bass, bass net stipend and cost of living in Long Island versus all of these other 63 universities, we have the worst ratio. And so this is sort of information that we're going to start using not only on a local level with the institution but we're eventually going to release it to the press. Anand, we have not yet ready to release the information, but I can assure you that this is correct. We're about to publish a pamphlet that we're going to be distributing to the entire university, both in a paper method and also in a virtual method that will start informing new students

About the current situation and other developments. We're also starting to organize another protest in person protests car protests.

Were moving around to to to make the university know what that we don't want to stop the colon campaign and the action campaign that happened on Thursday.

Is going to happen again. This third Thursday. We're going to start bombarding bombarding administration with with just emails telling them, hey, we need to know and you need to stop charging us these fees. So, this this this feature I committee is is really involved of getting abolishment of fees on but we're also going to eventually see how the administration reacts and whatever they offer. We're going to make it a democratic position where all parties involved on individuals involved and venture, you're going to vote. Hey, I want to stick with this or I want to keep going.

So the next thing I want to emphasize is yes, they can charge us peace, but there's a cab of \$200 meaning you can go another semester with fee charges and they can only charge you \$200 worth of late fees. So you basically can go the rest of the semester.

We're also developing some frequently asked questions material that we want to release at the end of the week for all the individuals international students and domestic students alike. So you have a bigger picture as to where we're going.

So the information is going to be basically fee days due dates due dates for enrollment and other stuff. We want the Burkhardt to openly admit basically three mount to say, oh yeah, we're not charging fees until the end of or until December 15 and so the goal. The, the clarification. I want to relate from all of us is the goal of this this strike is to put pressure on administration, because this is the we're up to our last straw and we're trying to see how far we can squeeze administration as individuals and as workers and yeah, that's all I wanted to share

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):**

All right. Thank you, Carlos Allison.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):**

I have a question. And so this is the first time that I've heard anything about December at all my, my understanding was that the fee stripe was only going until November 15 when they started adding the late fees already wanted clarification on that, I guess.

**John Klecker:**

Yeah. Oh, so the strike is like, we're not you know we're not paying our fees until we get some sort of bargaining. So like

If you are participate or if you're participating in the strike to the fullest capacity that you're able to, it would imply, you're not paying your fee until you receive some sort of confirmation from the GST you that we've reached a arm we've reached a place where we can like we're, you know, you should pay or like hopefully we get some sort of remediation. Someone said is the GST you not endorsing this fee strike.mThe, the fee strike is organized by rank and file members of the GSEU you inherently because we're all you know because we're grad student employees so

I'm sorry, what was your other question.

**Allison Zastrow (Geosciences, she/her):**

That was my only question. Thank you. Okay.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Done. What did the, what is the difference between organizing by the rank and file and organizing by the GSEU official

**John Klecker:** Um, it just means it's organized by people who are not in elected positions.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Yeah. So why are they elected positions not endorsing the strike

**John Klecker:** Well, I'm obvious. I mean, I'm obviously for the feast, right, because I'm talking about it here. It's just we're like, it's better to like have more people involved in the organizing process.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Know. Is there is there, like, I understand, like, even I am for the feast. Right. But what is the difference if officially the business agent and the Chief Steward of GSEU endorse and rank and file members What is the difference?

**John Klecker:** I'm not going to talk about that here.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Okay.We can talk about it up.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, Alex from linguistics. Alex? All right, we'll move back to him. Or her, excuse me, Joanne from genetics.

**Joanne Saldanha\_Genetics:** Uh, yeah. So I, I was talking to some people in the Union about possibly arranging a fund that we would be able to reimburse people who participated in the field strike.

To deal with the late fees if they do get hit by late fees. Um, so would we be able to, you know, organize such a fund in the GSO as well, or is that completely a union thing.

**John Klecker:** I think because technically it would be money that we raise going towards paying fees or late. I'm assuming late fees on fees fall in the same category, my understanding would be that the GSO couldn't organize, something like that. But somebody who knows more, feel free to correct me.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Yeah, that's gonna we cannot use the graduate activity fees to pay other kind of fees.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Alright, so I'll just ask Alex this question. Um, so they said they want to check if students have not paid for the fees are they still eligible for GSO benefits? And John says yes. Alright so next is Robert from sociology.

**Robert Cserni (Sociology):** Yeah, um, I just wanted to emphasize that I'm dealing information that John just shared with us is extremely important. And for example, this whole thing that you know

You probably will have to register around November before they put a hold on your account. If you are participating in this pledge and you want to not the fourth thing your fees.

This is critical crucial information that needs to be, you know, send out to students just like Alex's questions because I know that I have students who constantly emailed me you know about the COVID fund, because at some point it said, you need to you're eligible only if you pay the student activity.

The graduate student activity fees and stuff like that. And so there was a confusion. So how do I pay and what do I pay and how can I also not pay the because withhold the funding, but then to be eligible. So there's a lot of I know it's misinformation. But these crucial like items of information they need to be clarified and they need to be sent out to grad students

**Anand (President) (He/Him):**

Right. I think that is very valid if you don't pay the GSO activity fee. Eventually, you are not a GSR member. So if you're not a GSO member, you can be reimbursed with GSO funds. So, if it is poster on your account. We hope that you will pay eventually so you are eligible for the code fun, I think, while drafting it because we wanted to get the find out as fast as possible.

Maybe you know we could have drafted it better, but

So, I mean, if, if the GIC officially is not endorsing it and it is by rank and file members, maybe even we can say that it is by rank and file graduate students and leave it at that and there is no need to vote on this.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** So we have a question from honey. Well, two questions. So he asks, Does this compromise.

The GSO bargaining position, and how could this be bad for the GSO as an organization.

**John Klecker:** Um, The I saw the GSO doesn't mean doesn't bargain and brick at toe, you know, told us that they don't bargain with us in good faith on anything. So I don't think it compromises our position.

It might make a couple administrators upset with the GSO but who cares what is. I mean, it's not like we have a whole lot to hold on to right now anyway and in certain respects, um,

I going back to a nones point. So I think it's still worth the GSO I'm endorsing support for the strike because it

It sends a message as an as an authoritative group that represents graduate students that we're all united in this cause. So I would prefer that we that we vote on endorsing the motion.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):**

Yeah, when I don't want to vote for it at 8 PM just to get it out of the way I feel more discussion is needed.

But I encourage everyone to avoid paying the fees as long as necessary. And maybe we should have a committee in the DSO to investigate what the positives and the negatives are

**John Klecker:**

So if we table this until the next meeting, which is presumably going to be if it's in the third week of November, that will be after the the night

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept)**

I didn't want to bring that up. So normally we we have meetings on the second Tuesday.

And I would like to keep that this way. The only reason this meeting was moved one week is because the Budget Committee had to meet

So we will be having the next senate meeting on November 10 which will be before the deadline to pay fees.

So I agree with on on I think that, since this meeting has gone on for quite some time. We have many senators who have unfortunately left, and I'm not sure if it would be fair to have a vote on this endorsement without, you know, with, you know, 20% of the senators being gone

Yes, one second. We have Carlos.

Was a question or a comment. All right. Uh huh.

**Carlos Gary Bicas (Geoscience 2nd alternate):** I also want to emphasize that endorsement is not striking. The GSO is not delivered it's striking at least statement of solidarity, would be a big push yeah.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** Because, so we are with you that other DSO supports you, and we will write a statement of solidarity and we are encouraging all our rank and file members to participate and refrain from paying the fees as far as possible.

**John Klecker:** So, I'm good.... So I'm still going to motion for it because we have quorum and I've received a second so...

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Okay, so no action to vote. On the endorsement of so the GSO endorsement of the fee strike. We have

a second could EVERYBODY PLEASE VOTE YEA, nay, or abstain on this endorsement.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Yay. But accidentally said it to me.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Okay. Ani from physics department.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** Yeah, I'm not sure. So didn't Anand make a motion to table it. So why was the second motion carried before the first one. I'm not sure what happened here.

**John Klecker:** I don't think a non has legislative powers in the Senate.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** I see.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Yeah, and John's motion was made first.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** Um, so what does it mean to make a motion. Do you have to like, so I'm a little unclear your type it in the chat box, or do you have to say it orally, because I wasn't so I so I wasn't clear when the motion is being made and what happened and I honestly I not to prolong the discussion, but like I don't even understand like the ramifications for GSO and we're voting on something that I don't think I completely understand

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** Right. So, I mean, John's motion came first. It was on the agenda so we voted for that, like you said, Anand is on the executive committee so he does not have legislative power.

**Aniruddha Venkata, Physics:** I know I would like to just record my displeasure at how this happened. Thank you.

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):** All right, um, in that case it seems we have overwhelming support for GSO endorsement of the fee strike. So I think, then the executive committee will discuss and see, you know,

how we will endorse this statement. Does anybody have any comments, questions, concerns. Yes, go wrong.

**Ga-Ram Hwang (MCB, Alternate):** I just to make sure, because I mentioned it earlier in the beginning of the meeting. So do we want to not pay our fees until November 15 or until December 15 I'm a little confused by that.

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** If you don't pay until November 15 there is no late fee if you don't pay until December 15 it fifty dollar late fee. So that is up to you and you can john can advise you

**John Klecker:** Yeah, but that's all dependent upon if they decide to charge everyone who's not paying the \$50 late fee and if they refuse to bargain on this position in any way with GSO leadership or Jesse you leadership, so I would encourage everybody to participate as aggressively as you can arm that's I mean me personally as an individual. I'm planning on not paying my fees and tells you know we have some sort you know until we get some sort of value from this so

**Ga-Ram Hwang (MCB, Alternate):** Okay, thank you for the clarification. Yep.

**Sean M (GSO VP):** Um, I mean, I just one small thing which is if you email the bursa they will tell you exactly how what phase, you can mention, which you can pay and have specifically said graduate students are exempt from paying the first three late fees, which means that they will not be assessing late fees for the first three times, which is November 15th. That's why we've been saying November 15 because that's the language that they have given and then specifically that means that the first late fee will be assessed on December 15 which again, you should can just directly clarify with the bursar. And yeah, so that's my, that's my additional verification

**Anand (President) (He/Him):** So if you haven't paid by November 16 basically on December 15 they will charge you \$50

**John Klecker:** Also, I want to say there's a reason that none of this information was like readily made available from the university either right if the university really wanted to remediate our fees as much as possible, there would have been



some sort of strong messaging about how nobody needs to pay your fees until November 15

You know, like, take the time to save up money from your paychecks or whatnot, but they want you to pay your fees as soon as possible as well. So there's a reason they didn't disseminate that information efficiently to all of us. So

**Helena van Nieuwenhuizen (Speaker, Physics Dept):**All right, so we have Motion to adjourn many seconds. I agree. I'm sorry, the meaning has gone on beyond the time point

Though for next time, you know, we would normally block out two hours 530 to 730. And I think just, I suppose, because we have a new Executive Committee, there's been many things to discuss and talk about, so things have gone on a little bit longer. So we have Motion to adjourn. We have a second. All in favor. Well, was the motion to adjourn. **BUT ALL IN FAVOR PLEASE VOTE.**

Yes. Alright, thank you everybody for your time and your discussion, um, anyone who would like to stay and discuss, feel free to do so we'll stick around for a little while. Thank you, everybody. Again, and I look forward to seeing you next month.