



GSO SENATE MINUTES OF MEETING
DECEMBER 16TH 2020

Opening:

The meeting is called to order by the Speaker of the Senate Helena van Nieuwenhuizen at 5:35 PM EST.

Presentation by Guest Speakers:

- a. Jen Green, Director for Fellowships Advising and Professional Development
- b. Elizabeth Bojsza from Alan Alda Center

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: All right. So yeah, we'll send up any follow up that you have and if you have any questions to the senators. I mean, for Elizabeth or Jen, you have their email addresses so okay right so let's try to steam through this here. So I think we should start first with the officers. And I also totally forgot to do the, you know, formal beginning of meeting APPROVAL OF MINUTES. So, I mean, the meeting has begun already, but I do want to approve the minutes from the last senate meeting so do I have a second.

All right, great. Thank you. Okay, so let's scroll through so I know, Zared, you had something you wanted to talk about. I know that here there is a slide from the state policy action chair because I already.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes

Zared Shawver: I did not get my slides in on time.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay, that's totally fine. You can just, you can just talk. But let's start with the state PAC, Vamiq.

Vamiq Mohammed Mustahsan Alright so hello, everyone. My name is Vamiq and I have been hired as a state policy action chair. In the past few weeks, I attended the grad council meeting. So I'll give a few brief highlights of the meetings. So the major things that were discussed was in the next year 2021 and 22 there'll be a 50% reduction in recruitment of PhD candidates.

Throughout the university and that is, mostly to support the 42% of the PhD students who are not able to graduate this year. Who need either one or more semesters to graduate and the TA hiring will remain the same. So what they expect to happen is that the graduate students who are not able to graduate. They would somehow take up these positions and be funded for that particular part of their course. Another thing that they introduced was the President's Fellowship program. It's like another funding opportunity, especially for PhD students to help them with their research, say if because of COVID-19 their research was impacted financially, they could apply to this program they have not released the details of this program, yet it will probably come next January, and I will update you on that when we come to it.

Also another update as the Provost Lecture Series is now online. You can Google it and find it on YouTube. So the past two lectures that happened they are online. This was done two weeks ago, so it's a recent development and also Spring 2021 will not have a spring break, what they will have instead is a lightweight week. I don't know what that is. But, you know, hopefully we get that week. Also, the university has not decided yet if the spring semester is going to be online or hybrid. It's going to depend on what vaccine response is going to be like, and how the COVID-19 outbreak is going to look like. So more updates to come on that, in the future.

The university is transitioning from Google to Microsoft. And this is expected to happen sometime in a year or two. The thing is they have not given many details on that. So I'm still following up with the university as to when this is going to happen. Did it already happen? What kind of facilities will we use from Google? what kinds of facilities, we have to transition to Microsoft? So the reasoning they gave for this was basically they wanted one system throughout the university. The hospital right now uses Microsoft because of HIPAA compliance and security and they want to basically have the whole university use the same thing. I've got conflicting feedback from other people that I've spoken to regarding this but yeah, so I need more feedback to follow up on so yeah that there's more to come on in the following weeks. Also, the state policy efforts from my side with Michael Arens, they will continue in January. Right now they are up in the air because of COVID. The State itself has not decided what to do and what to concentrate on and they are looking at how the vaccine response is going to be, if there are going to be any side effects or how many people are going to be vaccinated and how outbreak will look like in January. So once that is more visible they will be able to make a more concrete plan as to what we have to do when it comes to funding and other policies imports from the state that's all I have.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay, thank you Vamiq and thank you for keeping it short. I appreciate that very much so in interest of time. If you have any questions or any feedback for Vamiq, please send them an email to him. You know, so we've talked a little bit about the things that he has brought up in the executive committee meetings, but we really want to hear input, also

from Senators how it'll impact you and the people in your department. So if you do have any feedback please let them know.

Zared Shawver: Yeah. So thanks, and I just put my email in the chat as well Yeah. I don't have any updates from meetings with any important people in the university, but essentially my work has been, you know, learning listening. And in thinking in crafting mostly with respect to what we can do with the federal level to advocate for the efforts of grad students. And my biggest concern right now is that we need to put together a committee of a committee of students to assist in these advocacy efforts, because you know Vamiq and I are pretty limited in our time efforts and availability. So we need, we need some people to share the load, to do some writing, to do some especially people who know things about social media because I am quite not good at that. That's a big point from the federal relations VP, with whom I met so my biggest point in my report is please consider joining the Policy Action Committee.. But once we have a little more commitment we can look more firm, I get the ball rolling on that and get some projects underway.. So with respect to some projects I've been working on. They're mostly related to policies here on the university, so gathering a little bit of information on student mental health and mental health availability to students. As well as childbirth accommodation policies and how to better support students, parents as a roll over from my work. We want to get some kind of like at least one campaign that doesn't need to be huge on one campaign rolling per month, trying to make some kind of splash to folks in Washington. Ideally, to get more money for things like increased funding for international students or for research funding, right. Like that's that's directly something Jen's report that we brought to me something that

We need to focus on increased funding for graduate student education right so the whole lot of federal education dollars goes to undergrad education, but not as much to graduate education. So that's, that's one of my big priorities. And the Biden incoming by demonstration has given some sexy faces to the idea of student debt forgiveness. So that is certainly something that we can be advocating for and pushing for. So the more you know these issues affect us all, and the more people who are interested in being creative and helping to get some messaging out and helping to reach those folks who can make differences in Washington will be helpful and if that's a little daunting to you, there is still some spots available for what's called the advocacy core from the Federal relations office, I'm not exactly sure the details of this, but if advocacy is your bag reach out to me. I mean there there's their spots for some training and some resources available. How to specify specifically how to engage in advocacy in this virtual setting. I think that's a major component of the course, not the first year but that's a focus now because that's relevant now. So if you have any interest in bolstering those chops then reach out to me and I can put you in touch with Lauren Brookmeyer, the VP of relations. And I think that that is all I've got.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay. Thank you, Zared. So if anyone wants to get involved with the Policy Action Committee. Reach out to either Zared or Vamiq at either state policy at sbugso. So, or federal policy at sbugso. So I'm going to move along in the interest of time, are there any other officers that have reports, besides the executive committee.

Anand Aiyer: Yes, I think international students advocate. We need to congratulate on the big news.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, so that's Gagan. Right. So, all right, go right ahead Gagan

Gagan Somashekar: Hello everyone I'm going to be the international student advocate this year. So when good news is that we were able to raise around \$10,000 for next cycle of COVID-19 Relief fund from Citrix Julia basically wrote the proposal in a very short time and that was very helpful and yeah, that is over and hopefully we are trying to raise more funds for the next cycle so that we can independently fund ourselves instead of using the GSO's funds but yeah wait for an update later and other than that coming into the COVID-19 Relief Fund, Christine will be providing an update, I would just like to thank Christine and the committee for working really hard. It is a lot and I think it was also taking up a lot of Christine's work because of which we were able to get all of it done at the same time. So I would like to thank all of them and then coming to another update.

We are starting a graduate mentorship program for the incoming graduate students. I sent out an email today to all the senators I kindly request you to fill up the form. We will be sending out another email with links to collect potential mentors and mentees. So it would be helpful if you could fill out the form. So far I only have three responses. So yeah, please fill out the form Thank you.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Thank you. Sorry about that. Right. So I figured we'd go backwards. Usually the Treasurer's Report is the longest. So we can start with him. RJ? All right, while RJ is coming back to wherever he went. I'll give my update quickly so this month we actually had a special immigration legal clinic, which was quite a success, we had like 12 or 13 people sign up for that. And so that's something that we'd like to continue in the future because I think that's something that, you know, student grad students have a lot of questions about and something that our regular legal clinician Jonathan is not an expert in. So if you have any feedback if you use the service yourself, please let me know what you thought of it and any improvements we could make. We're also working on, you know, a petition within the Academic Affairs Committee. You know, there's a lot of software that's being removed at the, you know, from the image at the administrative level. So, for example, things like the Adobe suite. Is no longer available to students. They're getting rid of Mathematica. They've gotten rid of some software that the biologists use called Prism. And so, you know there's lots of things that were usually freely available to us, which are slowly getting cut down for example also are switching from Google to Microsoft is probably like a purely financial decision. So we have a petition going to try and cut back on the reduction of the software. So that's something I sent to the senators earlier today. So please, if you could fill that out and also share with the students in your department, we'd like some feedback on it if something like this has impacted you personally if there's any other software that's getting rid of that we're not aware of. So we also have now again renewed our contract with Sprintax. So we're going to be offering these codes to the graduate students. So we've actually bought twice as many codes as we did last year so 1000 instead of 500 since the demand

was higher than we could meet last year. And I'll also be working soon to get the tax clinic started since tax season is upon us. Other than that, I have no updates.

Robert Wuagneux: I'm gonna make this as quick and painless as possible here. Alright so joining for a quick tour of the budget here. There's not much that's changed. I have highlighted a few things. Again, I want to extend ,you know, some happy moments here for this \$10,000 that we got from Citrix that's going to have to be added. I've been working with FSA to actually get that in our budget. The money has not yet been actually accepted, processed and posted to the account, but it will be in at that point we'll put it, of course, in the income section. So not much has changed honestly whatsoever. The Professional Development Fund has not really had much going on with it. We're waiting for, you know, a couple applications to get through. Nothing's been actually touched at all except for the COVID-19 Relief fund, which will touch on that a little bit later, but really they're the big thing to remember. Here is that we're going to have a huge surplus next semester and I look forward to being responsible with that and letting our surplus kind of guide our decisions in that way and looking to the future. So not much to report on that and other than we're doing very well with the budget and we got 10,000 bucks from Citrix which yall already know. So, in the interest of time, I'm going to carry on here. Whoops. All right. Christine and I met with Adrian Ortega, who is our FSA intermediary or representative. We talked about a couple of things and, most important of which is really just figuring out how to be most responsible and getting the applications passed through as expeditiously as we can, which is just simply to say, you know, Adrian told us everything that we need to do, which we pretty much already knew this, but gave us some things that we could do to help him to be able to process the applications. We have passed like \$12,000 through that we've awarded, but we still have \$32,000 sitting with FSA waiting for checks to be cut just the way it is. But we have to figure out a way to make that work better on their end. It has nothing to do with us. It literally is just on them. Okay, so we need to hire a new office manager. We're going to be having a little bit of a transition here over the December holidays so You know, all of this is in the effort to make next semester work as smoothly as possible. You know, we have put a call out. So if you know anyone that has, you know, excellent organizational and also like computer skills and is really organized, etc. You know, refer them, please. We need a wonderful replacement for Matt, who's done great so far.

Let's see, so I'm also, you know, I've been working closely with Caitlyn to do the unclaimed pending checks. That's still a process. There's a lot of those, you know, this is just to catch up for what will be going on over the break. Also the School of Social Work wants to be included in the GSO. So for next semester so I'll be working with them to draft up an MOU. So we'll be looking forward to that next semester as well. I have been meeting outside of my treasure responsibilities with the Career Center Arts, Humanities representative Jimmy Levine to get a kind of a panel to talk about jobs going on next

semester for humanities students for jobs outside or careers outside of academia, stay tuned for that. It will be a highly advertised event.

So now that I'm also working on that outside of the treasurer's role, it's important to me to try to put something together for those folks in the humanities, because I don't think we have a lot to really speak for there in that area. And then looking forward once again to the hackathon event that we're going to have to replace Campus Vine. This is another thing that's looking forward to the holiday. Something that will be doing while we're on break is going to be organizing and figuring out the details and how to have this event, how to hold this event, um, how to structure this event, how to pay the winner of this and all of these things will have to be worked out. But the bottom line is that the software that we use right now to pass applications through is really just not sufficient, and it doesn't look like that's going to change anytime in the near future to address our needs. So we are going to hold an event to kind of crowd source from our own Computer Science department, you know, try to get some programs that are better suited to be able to handle our needs. So that is another thing that will be doing over break. Actually, now get to what is probably the most important bit of our time together in this one specific meeting, and that is to review the two documents that I want us to look at and vote on to be included in the forms instructions page, but once this happens, we will also initiate the process to write this language into the ICP. So, um, you know, once we pass this out or not, contingent on this vote, we will be able to begin drafting a language to incorporate into the ICP which we will present for voting in the next senate meeting and we will also, contingent upon this vote, go ahead and advertise and post these lines, specifically this new line down here which is a COVID -19 professional development fund. You're all aware of this we will look at the language together. But the graduate research travel reimbursement has updated language on it. That's a little bit more inclusive and There's just a lot of things for us to look at and approve there. But again, I anticipate any serious issues and again contingent upon this vote, we will be able to post these changes to the website and we'll be able to begin drafting and accepting applications. So without any more explanation. Let's first look at the graduate research travel updates here. We don't have, you know, any of the language highlighted in red that we've added but know that this has essentially been completely reworked. I will take some time going through this so that everyone can have the opportunity to read it a few things here before you all dive in. So a lot of attention has been paid to this first little bit of paragraph here because the initial line is, you know, to offer eligible doctoral students in the arts and sciences reimbursement for travel for things outside of the university but this new Cold Spring Harbor stuff is actually within the university. So, you know, we had to break things up and change things up in different ways. So anyhow, I will quit talking and let you all read..

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: So while everyone's reading Zared had a question. RJ he asks why just doctoral students

Robert Wuagneux: Why just doctoral students?

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: I'm guessing he's a, you know, asking about Masters students

Robert Wuagneux: Yeah, this is just how it was written. Let's do that then

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay. Question, then. So, by the way, I mean, just in the interest of time, the way that I wanted to format discussion, you know, from this meeting and going forward on anything that we need to vote on is, the proposal is given, which is what's being done now. We're all reading it and then technical questions come next. So a question like Zared's, why is the wording like this or how much something costs like questions that are, you know, have answers. They're not opinions. They have answers and facts. And then after that, like a discussion period. But then, rather than everybody you know kind of saying the same thing to cut down on time. I thought we could start the discussion with a "con" statement. So if someone has, you know, is against this proposal, they would explain why. If someone is for this proposal, they'll go next. And so we can start con pro con pro con. And then, you know, I think a lot of the time the discussion is sort of always pro and then it kind of, you know, everyone's just like repeating what everyone has said so far. Okay. So I'll start with a period of technical questions. So if anyone has questions about wording, or about, you know, the actual meat of the document what it is doing please raise your hand. And so, Caitlyn, do you have a technical question? Yes. Okay, great.

Caitlyn Cardetti: Um, I guess it's more of a comment. Can we add like a link to what the actual Stony Brook policy on the gas mileage reimbursement is because it's just a little vague like it says we're following their standards, but I don't. I have no idea what that is.

Robert Wuagneux: Yeah, so that's actually further down here when we get into stuff. But there's no, like, I guess there is no link. All right, let's see here.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay then RJ he's also answering questions in the chat, which is fine because the chat gets saved. So I guess we can have like a parallel question session. Okay, so there's one question in the chat, which isn't answered. So that's from Nick Marcella he asks, what does Arts and Sciences mean, does that mean the college? and can we cut that wording out?

Robert Wuagneux: What does Arts and Sciences mean? That's just wording that was there that we didn't change because it wasn't part of the proposal that we were asked to write in, so if we want to pass that we can, if we want to we want to say that's the thing we want to do. We totally can.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, where exactly. It's not working. I'm not seeing it. Right here in the first sentence. Okay.

Robert Wuagneux: Sciences, we can just say.....

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Eligible graduate students....

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah. Because eligible implies that they are paying the activity fee. So maybe be very explicit about what eligible means and I think that should be a good enough blanket statement.

Robert Wuagneux: Right. So again, yeah that's right here. Where's that yeah fees paying members and having Senator representation. So that's your eligibility right there. And what's your name, you know, means. OK.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: OK, so there's been a motion to cut that wording. Is there a second

Chuankai Chen: Second,

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Thank you. Okay, so I don't think we need to vote on that. I think that's, that's fine. If you think you disagree with it. Then come out you know later in the con statements. Okay Chuankai do you have a technical question?

Chuankai Chen: Yes, if you. I just have a small question about the or you know suggestion about the form. If you go to page three of the form, you know, some, some of my first year students, they commute between Cold Spring Harbor and the University. You know, at least two or three times a week. So does that mean they need to fill out each of those trips you know if they need to. Is it better to have some blank spaces in the form so that you don't want to process 40 or 50 reimbursement applications, right, just want to, if one application is enough.

Robert Wuagneux: Indeed, yeah. So I think that it would be a good idea. I like what Anand has said here about having a consolidated sheet because then we're really asking the question, you know, is this something a student would apply for once at the end of the semester where they tally up everything they've done and then reapply, which to me seems like the best way to do it. Otherwise, we're going to be sitting here, which I can go ahead and say, this will not be how it goes down. Where we're just going to have someone submit every time they, you know, do it. So there's like 30 submissions per student. By mid semester that seems like a not good way to go

about it. So I do like this idea where maybe there's a one time, you know, once you apply. I think you get like a once per semester thing that's not written in but it has dawned on me that this is going to be difficult to do if we're sitting here and accepting one application per student 30 times a semester that's not going to happen.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah I mean I would say maybe nothing specific in the document itself, but just where we post it. You can request that people just submit this one time.

Robert Wuagneux: Sure, I mean, this is the application itself. So, it would have to be stipulated here. Otherwise, it's not going to be able to get included at all because.....

Chuankai Chen: Yes, but also the form itself. What I'm saying is the form itself should be adjusted a little bit.

Robert Wuagneux: Well, I think so. I think the way to do that is and I agree with you, Chuankai, I don't know if it needs to be adjusted as formally, maybe as you're thinking, I think what we could do is similar to what Anand suggested. I think what you probably also have in mind is really just asking students to draft. Similarly, how we do with the itemized receipts having the draft their own table like this that has all of those values in it that they have kept up with over the semester with all those receipts that then they, you know, submit once at the end of the semester, rather than a number of times throughout. So it's really up to the student to keep track of the receipts, tally these things, keep track of the dates, keep track of the time, keep track of the mileage, things like that. And then at the end of the semester they would submit this document, probably for review over Christmas break or over winter break. You know what I mean just the most realistic way of understanding the division of labor and how that will go down. Knowing what I know in this position now.

Chuankai Chen: How are we supposed to put dates? There's only one blank.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: You know so I think what I suggested towards this is to just attach when they submit something an additional sheet. I think that's right, that's the idea.

Robert Wuagneux: Structured now in the form of this, but just with, you know, more dates, like more actual lines for that. And you know how it is how you expand a form. So yeah, I think that's a totally appropriate and wise way to go about it. Yeah.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright, so I'll take two more questions, just in the interest of time. So Zared, you had a question.

Zared Shawver: Yeah, my question is pretty related to what we're talking about now in terms of streamlining the application and acceptance process. And this is kind of more of a general question that probably might not be completely appropriate for this setting, we might bring it up in the next EC meeting, but you know, we've heard from students in the past about the difficulties of always having some kind of like reimbursement strategy such that you up front, your money and then you have to wait, you know, depending on FSA any number of days, weeks, months to get your check back and can we change this, you know, if you know you have a some kind of agreement where you can be traveling to Cold Spring Harbor x times during the, during the semester to school year. Can we, we have these be funded in advance?

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: So I think this is something we should discuss at the EC meeting.

Robert Wuagneux: I want to tell you that's not possible, because it has to be reimbursement. But, we can discuss workarounds later. Yeah.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay, and last question is, Ga-Ram.

Ga-Ram Hwang (MCB, Alternate): Hi, yes. I had a quick question about the application checklist part of the form. And, like you, so everything looks kosher in regards to the verification of enrollment for people who are doing this for coursework and rotation students but I'm a little concerned about students who are doing thesis work dissertation research because by that point, we usually sign up for like those a semester long dissertation research course so it doesn't show up on our schedule or anything like that. So, I don't know if we should add another thing there just to help the students doing dissertation research like some sort of verification for them, like some other way to show it, whether it be like a letter from their advisor or something of that sort.

Robert Wuagneux: Yeah, so let's see here. As far as anything, you know, anything that has to be done has to be passed through the advisor. It has to be signed off and all that good stuff. So, you know, and this is all of this kind of is outside of my purview. I gotta say as a PhD student in music. This stuff is like, I don't know what even what y'all need to be honest. So I'm just kind of going off of what's been said, I don't know how these processes go down. I'm just trying to include the language as was presented at the senate meeting. So, you know, that's all I got for you. I'm sorry.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay, so before we move into voting. We can go into a period of discussion. So I thought we could do you know one con statement one pro statement and then one con statement. So anyone who is against this would probably vote NO if you'd like to explain why.

Anand Aiyer: Change the word from Dissertator to Applicant and keep it simple.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright, so is there any you know anybody who would vote no to approve this is that, would anyone like to give a statement on why that's kind of the idea of the con statement. If not, we can move into a you know a pro statement anyone who'd like to advocate to pass this you'd like to explain your reasoning.

Zared Shawver: I wouldn't, I don't know if I vote no. But I don't like the need or the inclusion of a dissertation description. Right. Like I feel like we have to write so much we do, I don't know, I just I just feel like it's another thing like oh crap like why do I have to do this again. And who's reading that and how's it being evaluated and if you're, you know, is RJ like comparing music PhDs to Physics either just seems like a shitload of work for who knows what kind of payoff.

Chuankai Chen: I agree with Zared, I think, of course, we want to keep this because we want to control the lines because this is the student's money, but at the same time, we want to make it as easy as possible for students who really need the funding.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, maybe instead of a description of dissertation research like a description of the reason why you need to travel.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah. Maybe you can say instead of 250 word max make it like hundred word max. Just so people know that it's like one sentence, you know,

Anand Aiyer: I mean, this is the same thing in RAP. Also, it's not as if people write giant essays people write one word saying, I had to go for conference and

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay. And so we have a complaint. We're nitpicking. I think I kind of agree here. Just in the interest of time. So, would anyone like to advocate for this there'll be their pro statement. You can also write in the chat if you'd like. This is your, your, your opportunity to lobby for this.

Chuankai Chen: You know, I just think that it's a very good funding line. I won't benefit from this line is I'm you know I don't work at Cold Spring Harbor. But when I was a first year student. I didn't have a car and I remember sometimes I just finished my experiment late and had to use the train. And I remember one day that it was snowing like today, and I had to wait at the bus station. And I don't think there was service, but I ended up using an Uber and had to give extra tips, otherwise the drivers wouldn't come.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright, so then just in fairness, does anyone have a con, you can feel free to put in the chat if not I'd like to move to a vote. Any con statements? All right. Thank

you Nick. We have a second. If anyone everyone could please vote yes or no to approve the wording for this reimbursement. All right, it's looking good. I think we have overwhelming "Yes". Looks unanimous. Alright, so let's move on RJ to your next point.

Robert Wuagneux: Got it. In closing we will make these couple of edits here that you all see in the comments on the right and we will circulate that before, you know, we'll make it happen. All right, let's move on. Oh, and also, going from this will start working on the ICP language as well.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: The next um you have one more thing to vote on right.

Robert Wuagneux: That's right. And it's pulled up right here. I assume you all can still see the screen. This should be a quick ride. Okay.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Excuse me. Alright, so while people are reading. If you'd like to, you know, give some stats on the COVID-19 Relief Fund. I see you have your next two slides. Just to kind of do things in parallel.

Robert Wuagneux: Uh, yes I do if I do that, though, I won't be able to change my screen. Meaning, like with my screen sharing and all that stuff. Alright, I'm going to carry on in about 10 seconds.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright, so we have one technical question from Joanne. So can students apply. She asks, can students apply for the PDF and the COVID-19 PDF or is it just limited to one.

Robert Wuagneux: This will not be limited to one know you can apply for both

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, so the COVID-19 Relief Fund, as far as I understood is kind of trying to help you in terms of technology and setting you up with the things that you need to work effectively from home while professional development fund is, you know, in general, things that will help you succeed academically.

Robert Wuagneux: That's right. And depending on how this line goes, we can put more than 10,000 in there, of course, but you know I didn't want to be you know unbalanced that I wanted to give it a small endowment in the beginning, rather than just load it up. So depending on how it goes. But everyone you know can use this. This is not exclusive. This is 100% open to everybody. I think we could all we all have something we can benefit by using this or we can all benefit from this

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright, so now that everyone's had a chance to browse. So I think that, you know, yeah. The important part is kind of the inclusion exclusion criteria. Yep. Um,

Robert Wuagneux: The rest of this is just basically PDF. But these two pages where the big you know money maker, so to speak, so.....

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: All right. Does anyone have any technical questions? So Nick Marcella has one, he asks, do these items belong to GSO so I think there are you asking if they're purchased. Do they belong to the student or to GSO? Is that correct? Okay. Yeah.

Robert Wuagneux: So no these items do not belong to GSO, this is, you know, a line that's meant to reimburse you for needs. Based essentially equipment or technology needs. You know, as far as the external hard drive is concerned, if that's something that is specific to your research needs that COVID-19 has brought about. And you can express that in writing. I don't see why not. You know it. This is kind of one of those things where it's something that is brought on by the current situation.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah and there's quite a bit of flexibility because this last line, you know, technologies have the discretion of the treasurer. So as long as you're able to make a good argument as to why you need it. I think it

Robert Wuagneux: Yeah, exactly!

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: All right, do we have any more questions. If not, are there any con statements. You feel free to type it into the chat as well.

Robert Wuagneux: As folks are thinking, you know, this is obviously we put a lot of thought into this.... Not making it just a way that people can like everyone gets free headphones. Now, like that's obviously not the spirit of this line and not how the language is crafted so we did take special care to make sure of that. You know, it's really prescriptive in that way. Anyhow, I just wanted to add that thought as we were on the topic.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: All right. Yeah, I think that if there's no con statements that means that everyone is in agreement. So we can skip the pro statements. Alright, so I'd like to motion to vote to approve the language. All right, thank you. Caitlin. Okay,

please vote yes or no in the chat. Alright, it looks like we have mostly unanimous "Yes". All right, so it's been approved. Thank you, everybody.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: RJ. Do you have any more updates.

Robert Wuagneux: Can we have one little one quick treasurer's assistant or CRF update? I can go ahead and stop sharing right now.

Robert Wuagneux: Chuankai, did you have a question? You raised your hand.

Chuankai Chen: Yes, I just have a quick question about, you know, I just want to bring everyone's attention to this job position office manager is he or she leaving

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yes, he's graduating

Chuankai Chen: I think, I mean, I don't know if it's objective, but I think, you know, the office managers simply deserve a higher salary, I think. Because for many times I think the office manager, as I understand, is responsible for, you know, processing the applications and for a lot of times that's the rate limiting step for the whole process. I don't know much more details about this, but I think Christine or RJ know much more than I do.

Robert Wuagneux: I think you're on it, Chuankai. I mean, the office manager is absolutely critical to the smooth running and good operation of GSO. I mean, there's no way around it. you know, ideally to be completely honest with everybody, ideally it would be a non graduate student, because in my experience. It's just too much work for graduate students and it's not fair. And what ends up happening is that the work just doesn't get done. And that's not on anyone's shoulders, other than, like, that's just the reality of the situation. And we need that person to be able to do the work. And if they don't have the time we can hire a non grad student, so just to expand everyone's awareness that that's the situation that we're in. We need someone that can work 20 more than 20 hours a week, and that can like just straight up. Be an office manager. That's what we need. So.....

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: I think we should discuss this in the executive committee meeting and, if necessary, we can you know maybe do like an emergency vote before we hire somebody new so that we're able to advertise this higher salary.

Chuankai Chen: Or, we can give the position extra benefits like tuition. For masters or undergrads, but that I think we need to talk to the administration.

Robert Wuagneux: That would be. Yeah, there's a lot to work out there and we can definitely carry that conversation

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, just in the interest of time, I want to keep going. Totally. I agree with you. Yeah.....

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay. So Christine Is this you, you're doing some CRF stats.

Christine Wang (TA, Physiology & Biophysics, she/her): So, man. Good on are the co chairs, though the really fun committee. So here are just some numbers for everyone to see. The committee has already reviewed all the applications like I don't know, a month ago or something like that. So we already sent all these to the office manager. So he's just uploading them. Most of them have been uploaded and approved so we're just mostly waiting on the FSA office right now to process the rest of us. So yeah about 128 have been approved a bunch of us didn't send us all the required documents. So, some of them didn't just didn't respond to our emails and then some of them. We only rejected three because they weren't related, research related or future expenses which we can't pay for

If you go to the next slide. Yeah, these are just some stats on the student distribution of departments, just so you guys know, I didn't write a percentage of because I don't actually know the numbers of students in every department. So just a quick update on that the budget committee will be meeting again probably next week or the following week to discuss the next cycle.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: All right. Thank you, Christine, and the next cycle should be opening up sometime in January. Once we've hired a new office manager. Okay, so let's try to finish by 7:30 so I'll give everyone who's left which is president, vice president and secretary five minutes. Anand, you can go right ahead.

Anand Aiyer: Oh hello. Hi. I was talking on mute. I want to thank everybody for sticking together. I'm getting like great emails from the senators. To those senators who haven't emailed please email me. Please tell me issues that you guys are facing. We are here to help you. I put in like 20-25 hours a week. And I'm just doing meetings. I'm trying to get things done. The \$10,000, I think Gagan and Julia really deserve a lot of credit. We could have raised a lot more, but it just we applied right on the dead deadline so we could raise only 10,000. If any of you are interested in helping us fundraise please let us know. I truly believe that GSO needs to be a strong, independent body. And we need to be financially independent. So, please help us do fundraising. We have demonstrated with I remember last year when I was treasurer of there were some senators who said that show me proof that you can raise money So here is the proof. The Gauntlet has been thrown. Please help us fundraise. We want to do long term investments for GSO financial independence. So we would love to hear ideas from

people who are aware of, you know, financial planning and things like that. Maybe a portion of our surplus, we can invest to get interest so that you know we can have some kind of funding. Yes. So, so that is fine. So every that is what solidarity is about. So people who are well off should help those who are not will not because we are all in it together. I don't think we should hate on each other, oh, this person gets more funding this person doesn't get fine. I think we're all in it together. We are trying. So that is the second part of students united we can never be defeated so let's work together. It's not about personally liking somebody or oh yeah that'd be great. If any of you know Jim Simons, sure. And I'm willing to write him a email to let him know that put us in the medallion fund, but I don't think they have solidarity for us, but I have solidarity for GSEU, GSEU has solidarity for us. So let's work together with what we have. So events.

We are going to try to mentor talented undergrads and get them to come for graduate school. The dental school will have two senators. Join us and we are trying to get them to merge with us so that they can benefit from our programs. So campus residences is getting back hard against CARA and SARA for questioning Campus residences at every turn. So they're going to shut them down. So we are proposing having a Graduate Residence Hall Association, where every building is gets a representative so that we increase the number of representatives and so that we are not drowned out

So the number of graduate student residential assistants has become almost negligible. So we are fighting to allow graduate students to have a fair number of representatives in the residential assistance pool

The graduate career association is a great club. So I've invited the President to come to the Senate as an observer from the next senate onwards, and they will have a newsletter, where they will put in like advertisements for jobs internships. I know that GWISE does a great job advertising. So we're hoping to have a newsletter, where all the different kinds of internships postdoc opportunities, things like that can all come in one newsletter.

Yeah, and we need a DJ for our radio show so please you know, we'll give you the training. We have a great team. So please, even if you have never tried it out, please give it a shot. We have a new YouTube and potentially a tick tock channel. So we need talented creators so that we can engage the graduate student community. Thank you. Please write to me anytime I'm here for you 24/7. People know how obsessed I am with GSO so please write to me anytime. Thank you.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Alright. So Sean is out sick I'll quickly give his update. There we go. So, you know, he's been working on getting some online events going.

The Graduate Music Hour I think he means the grad Radio Hour and also there's going to be an online movie "ELF" on Friday and Saturday. So, and if you have any feedback on

things that have been done so far, or things you'd like to see in the future. Do you know, send, send him an email.

Anand Aiyer: Please reach out to Sean. He is trying his best. So everybody please reach out to Sean and give him ideas. He is not sure if we want to do events. So please, you know, if you want to believe and we want to see events, please email him. And give him ideas, give him topics you're interested in things like that.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay. So, last but not least, Aditya if you'd like to give the Secretary's report.

Aditya Patankar: Yeah, so I think most of the things regarding the mentorship program has been covered by a Gagan So we just want to mention that the mentorship program will also be international students like mentoring international students. Prospective international students who have decided to come to Stony Brook University mentoring them regarding various visa procedures application processes, getting your I20 and all those other documents. So if you are an international student and have gone through that process, then please reach out to either me or Gagan. We would love to hear your ideas so...

Then we met with the GWISE. To learn more about the excellent mentorship program where they pair undergrad mentees to graduate mentors. And yeah, I think Anand has already talked about CARA and SARA. And yeah, so I will be. I already emailed some of the departments which don't have Senator representation I shared the list with you during the last meeting, but I think we should. I think I'll be drafting a more comprehensive email detailing the advantages of being a GSo, Senator, for example, you need to have a GSO senator to get reimbursed using the PDF, Rap or the COVID 19 Relief FUND and as RJ mentioned in the last meeting, we need to advertise all this as much as we can. So I will be working with the EC to draft a more comprehensive email which would be then forward into all the departments. And then hopefully they get back to me in time. So, and also if you know anyone who's interested in becoming a senator, please tell them to directly email me so that there's no miscommunication in between so I can get them certified and then we can Begin the next process. So yeah, that's all. Thank you. Do you have any questions?

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: So I just wanted to check if anyone had their hand rates. So yes, chat. Okay, so, um, yeah. Congratulations on our shortest meeting ever is working well. I think the new format. So I'm not sure if we're going to have a meeting in January, just yet. Depends on if there are things to announce, typically we take January off because we are away, but I guess we're living in a different time. Okay, if there are any announcements from the executive committee. Yeah, I mean, usually it's like eight o'clock 830 salt. This was one quite well Chuankai did you have a question?

Chuankai Chen: Yes, I just want to RJ, can you please acknowledge the people who have been putting working drafting with two proposals.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Yeah, I think, you know, so far as I understand the Budget Committee worked hard to

Christine Wang (TA, Physiology & Biophysics, she/her): Yeah, RJ lost internet. Um, but yeah, it was mostly the Budget Committee and RJ, who wrote this.

Chuankai Chen: And Christine for the you know the COVID-19 relief fund committee. I know they are anonymous because we want to keep the process fair but I just want to let everyone know that the COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee. They're anonymous, but they have been putting a lot of work into this. I think we all owe them big.

Helena Van Nieuwenhuizen: Okay, yeah. All right, thank you for that Chuankai alright so if that is it, then, I'd like to move to adjourn the December senate meeting. All right, I have a second from William Thank you everyone. See you soon. Have a good night. Bye bye.