

STONY BROOK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
SENATE MEETING
Oct. 10, 2017

1. Approval of September senate minutes

Senate: Approved

2. Approval of October meeting agenda

Senate: Approved

3. GSEU Union

- Andrew Dobbyn.
- Roger: We are going to pass now the opportunity to Andrew to speak
- Andrew: I might not look familiar for you, but I will be the Business Agent for GESU, so I will be the President or Chair of the Graduate Union, and I will be your supervisor
- I have the Long Island personality to be able to do an excellent job
- We just passed a contract last year, that will increase our wages and health insurances
- We are working right now on 2 main issues; campaigning against fees and organizing a movement against the budget cuts
- We want to promote our insatisfaction towards strategic budgets; committees on Universities that want to cut as many programs as possible.
- Please, feel free to email me whenever you want or for more information
- Please, take a look at the notepad in your tables that serves to capture your information
- The other document in your table is a graduate group committees budget sheet

4. Vote to approve changes to Constitution (Insert “citizenship status,” after “national origin”)

Senate: Approved.

5. President’s report

Ramiro:

- Just to briefly explain that the GSO EC has a meeting with Dean Taber tomorrow.
- We are currently working on the agenda.
- We are continuing to advocate for the problems and concerns of graduate students on campus.
- Thank you all for coming today, I am very excited and happy that the senate of the GSO is growing and continue to attract students of many departments.

6. Vice President's report:

- Jinelle Wint
- I am trying to obtain records and data, regarding what exact "trip" the graduate students would like to join; Boston, Ski, Happy hour, Broadway play, movie night, beach, film festival, etc.
- The ticket registration system are a great way of organizing the events. That way, we know how many students are coming and how much food to order. In addition, it makes GSO events to be free from undergraduate students.
- For the Chinese Film Festival, there were some emergency tickets left for those that appeared last minute
- Capacity is determined based on the room availability.
- Please inform students in your department that we are using reservation this academic year.
- So far, things are working out very well.
- We would like to feature one of you featured on the website. Every single week once senator can be featured on the website, and you can be talking about your hobbies and research in the video. It is a way of building community and to get to know more about one another. Senators are a great part of the GSO.
- The video lasts 15 minutes of you describing your research and hobbies, and talk about your department
- If senators are interested, please sign up the attendance sheet.
- School of Professional Development and Career Services are collaborating for the 3 minute thesis. This year, one of the winners will be selected by the senators.
- The top prize is \$100 of wolfie wallet
- Please inform the senators in your department.

David Purificato:

- Regarding the Boston trip presented by David Purificato, an email with a survey was going to be sent to the graduate senators so they can forward to all the graduate students in their departments.
- For the Boston Trip, one of the possible sites to visit is the Tea Party Museum
- We can also go to Boston Market
- We can all go and return together
- There will be time for us to do our own thing, the point is to do many things together
- This is the map of the possible sites to visit, one of those sites it's the "US Constitution".
- The students in the history department are very interested.
- This event is a "day trip" in which all the graduate students that register can go together.
- If people are interested, please answer the survey that the GSO will hand in right now, and via email.

- Luigi: In the Tea Party Museum, there is a town hall event, in which people can ask the characters questions regarding their “acting role”, which its really interesting.
 - Mariola: How much money we have for these trips?
 - Jinelle: We have money for at least 2 trips
 - Bertus: How much money would we have to pay to register?
 - Jinelle: It would be around \$20
 - Jinelle: We need the surveys back by the end of next week. Please deliver these surveys to the GSO office during office hours
 - Luigi: Can senators email you back the answers of the surveys?
 - Jinelle: I would rather have the surveys in hand
- Jinelle:
 - As the last part of my talk, I would like to speak about the speaker series event
 - Last year, the EC made a lot of mistakes in booking the speaker. They booked the speaker late and it was not appealing for graduate students
 - Also, the USG did not put down the money that they were supposed to, and said they would, which was around 30 thousand dollars.
 - As the speaker, I have spoke with some of you regarding who the speaker can be, and how much money in total we can put from our budget for this event.
 - From the budget that was projected for this year, it was projected that 75 thousand dollars could be used for this event
 - However, this 75K, would be counting the possible projected donations from many offices around campus
 - There were many options that could entertain the graduate population, however, most of those options are really expensive and they fall outside our budget.
 - Instead of the Arena, we can have the event at the Staller Center. Therefore, we would not have to pay that much for this event.
 - If we receive other contributions from fundraising, we could able to put more money for this event.
 - It would be nice to have this event because we could gather around 300 graduate students to come for this event.
 - The Arena comes with an extra cause that makes our budget insufficient to have the speaker event.
 - These are some of the options that we can have: (show the name in the slide)
 - Luigi: Does Neil Patrick Harris cost more than Michelle Obama?
 - Jinelle: Yes
 - Mariola: These speakers are possible if the Graduate School contributes with an actual big amount of money?
 - Luigi: The Graduate school does not have any money to put for this event. We have already asked.
 - Mariola: Can we get 40 Thousand dollars from the Graduate School?
 - Luigi: When offices on campus contribute to an event, they don't pay half the event. They only contribute only like 2 thousand dollars.

- Jinelle: That only worked with Neil Degrasse because he was also promoting his book
- Jinelle: I just wanted to show that it was possible to have a certain number of speakers; not Michelle Obama or Ellen Degeneres, but definitely somebody like Hasan Minhaj.
- Music Senator: Thanks for the great work you put on it, but any amount between 50 and 60 thousand dollars, I think there is too much money. I was not aware that we are selling tickets to the students.
- Ramiro: Last year, we spent over 80 thousand dollars
- Mariola: Last year was an outlier
- Luigi: There were only 3 events, we cannot call any of them an outlier
- Ramiro: If you divide 80 thousand dollars in 39 students, we paid more than 2 thousand dollars per student
- Ramiro: From the numbers we have, the graduate students have not well attended these events
- Luigi: For the Sanjay Gupta event, we spent over 2 thousand dollars for this event.
- Eric: The numbers of Sanjay Gupta do not reflect reality.
- Luigi: Why we waste so much time and efforts raising so much money for an event with a speaker/famous person that it's not even going to shake his/her hand with us?
- Senator: There seems to be spending a lot of money, but thank you Jinelle for your work.
- Senator from Music: There seems to be a majority in the department of music that the money from the GSO should be directed to help students like services (conferences and travel awards).
- Roger: Let's revisit this topic at the end of the meeting.
- Luigi: There is a way we can send polls to the students in each department, but remember, that in most cases people do not vote.

7. Treasurer's report

- Quick announcements:
- It is public news now, that the Stony Brook School of Medicine is changing its name to "Renaissance School of Medicine".
- Please raise your hand, who knows who Robert Mercer is?
- In good conscious, I voted against the change in name, however, I was the only in the Stony Brook Council who did so.
- However, the administration might not be pleased about it
- The Administration is claiming that the name to "Renaissance" is changing because of Jim Simons, but they are not saying that Robert Mercer is involved in Renaissance Technologies as well.
- There will be funding workshops in the GSO office at SAC 227 on Tuesday October 24th and Wednesday October 25
- Robert Mercer is linked with Renaissance Technologies, therefore, we feel is a scandal and is wrongdoing, that the medical school takes this name.
- Budget updates and BC approvals for the departments of (1) Latin American and Caribbean Studies, (2) Interdisciplinary History conference, (3) Political Science.

- Also, social events for the departments of Sociology, History, Math and Geosciences

8. Secretary's Report

- Please join a GSO committee
- 3 internal GSO committees
- Besides the committees in the GSO we also have University Wide committees
- Finally, we have CAS committees
- Mariola: Can you please send us the list
- I will absolutely email this to everyone this week
- Also, please choose a committee chair, this will allow us to have more responsibility, accountability, and communication with all the GSO EC board members

9. Policy Action Committee report

- The rationale for proposing the resolution I sent to everyone is that it will allow the GSO to stop spending until we are completely sure that we have the money for it
- Many of our primary sources of funding are uncertain at the moment
- Most of our proportion of our budget comes from external sources, not just the graduate fees
- We obtain graduate fees on a semester basis, depending on enrollment
- This resolution will allow us to not spend all the money in one speaker event until we know how much money we have
- Roger: To summarize, we want to avoid any contract signing until we know how much money from the student activity fees, we actually have
- Karen: 33 thousand dollars
- Roger: Anything over this amount, will not be allowed
- Senator Bertan: What event do we spend this amount?
- Camilo: The speaker series. We need to know how much money we will have in the Spring in order to book the event
- Roger: We do not have the GSO to end on a budget deficit, thus, we need to be very cautious this year.
- Luigi: Last year, we finished on a budget deficit
- Bryan: It sounded from the past meeting that there is an delay in receiving the information
- Renee: Can we amend the wording of the constitution?
- Ramiro: The resolution can be passed only by the house, no need to change in the constitution. The authorities this year are cutting across the board. Therefore, there is more sensitivity this year in terms of having these meetings.
- Senator: If the amount that we are obtaining is less than what they promised, then we should risk the GSO budget
- Luigi: We are trying to protect ourselves from suffering budget deficits.
- Rogers: Let's vote on the resolution.

[Senators vote]

[Luigi counted the votes]

- Luigi: We are missing .3 senators to have quorum
- Senators: We don't, we should let the alternate senators to vote
- Roger: Let's move the resolution to next meeting.
- Senator: I think we should not sign a contract with any speaker, until we know our budget. We should wait until November
- Ramiro: If someone approves the motion and we second the motion, then we can vote
- Mariola: We do have quorum to meet, but not 2 thirds of the senate to vote on the resolution
- Senator from Music: I propose any contract to be signed until next semester that we know the official budget
- Roger: Please vote, all in favor, all against, abstinence.
- Roger: I think the motion passes
- Luigi: Please come next meeting to vote on the change in budget of the speaker event.

10. New Business

-GSO statement on the merging of the Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students into one position only.

-EC meeting with Dean of Graduate School (any issues that senators want addressed)

11. Adjourn