



**STONY BROOK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
SENATE MEETING**

Nov. 14, 2017

Agenda

1. Approval of October senate minutes

- Approved.

2. Approval of November meeting agenda

- Approved.

3. Grad Advocate and Ombudsman

Nicholas Schiff, Graduate Student Advocate:

- I will explain you who I am, and what I can do for you.
- I was part of SBU for the last 6 years as a full-time employee in the IT department.
- I am a graduate student in the political science department
- I am in charge of the Graduate Emergency Loan Program, to help graduate students in emergencies with medical costs
- There are many issues that the graduate population faces, and I will be very happy to help and guide students.
- I will pass my business cards that has my email, and please feel free to contact me anytime you have a question
- Even if I would not be able to help, I will be happy to re-direct students in the right direction.

Ombudsman, Donna Buehler:

- I will be working with the Hospital and other areas on campus to oversee students

- We listen with open mind and help to develop problem strategies
- An Ombudsman is a person that serves as a designated neutral within a specific organization and provides conflict resolution and problem-solving services to members of the organization
- An Ombudsman keeps confidentiality with all reports, but its not a compliance nor title 9 office. These individuals will be redirected
- Informality, neutrality, and independence are the other 3 key factors our office provides
- We are advocates of fairness, not of SBU Medicine, nor SBU.
- We serve students, faculty, staff, visitors, parents and alumni. Also, supervisors and department chairs
- I don't make executive decisions, but I am can serve as an advisory for administration in order to advocate for student's issues
- Among the issues; conflicts of interest, communication, discrimination, equality of treatment, harassment, ethical dilemmas, and health & safety issues.
- I will pass information of my email, locations, and the mission statement of our office.

Roger: I strongly recommend everyone that attend the workshops

4. Senator David Purificato (Changes to Election Bylaws; Boston Trip)

- David Purificato: We had a dispute last semester whereas if "write-in" candidates must attend the GSO Senate meetings (2 of them) to be eligible for candidacy. Thus, the committee of Rules & Constitution, would like to make the change to "all candidates, even write-in candidates must attend the Senate meetings", this will allow no more future problems and issues with interpretation.
- Roger: We will send the resolution by next week.

5. Treasurer's report

- **Karen Wishnia:**

- I am passing sheets of papers stating our budget current status. Very quickly, the main announcement is that the GESU put us "out of contract" for the summer, but we are now back on track. The funds for travel to conferences, will be retroactively used to benefit students. We have all the applications at the GSO office.
- Regarding the renaming of SBU school of medicine, the resolution was passed to the Board of Trustees.
- The GSO stated the opposition. Local LI newspapers were publishing articles against it. The rumors are scary.
- Regarding the GSO budget, fitness and recreation are almost out of funding. There is still money left in the other lines like club funding and speaker series for departments
- Senator 34: When did the contract expired?
- Karen: Last summer, but now that its approved again, it will go through the next 3 years
- The Budget Committee met last night and we approved 4 events; 1 speaker series and 3 social events.
- Roger: Do I get a motion to approved?
- Senate: Approved
- Karen: Last year, the budget committee met and discussed the possibility of using the speaker series event to repair the deficits left by the mis projection. We drafted a resolution.
- Talbot Andrews: I will present the resolution. The GSO is facing a 33 thousand dollar deficit, which its a conservative estimate. Its at least 33 thousand dollars, plus a 10 thousand (loan we must re-paid from last year). Thus, we are facing a

43K budget deficit. The budget committee (BC) is recommending to end the speaker series event of GSO for this year, so we could use the funds of this event to fix the deficits. That way, other lines of funding that help students will suffer since money must be extracted from them to make up for the budget loss. The exact BC proposal is that the GSO must cut 43K in spending, thus, the BC recommends that the speaker event gets suspended for the 2017-2018 year. **The BC recommends that 20% of the money left from the suspension of this event, to be re-allocated to the productions/events budget line.**

- Senator 44: What happens with the external funding for this event.
- Talbot: We don't count with any source of external funding as of now.
- Luigi: I don't trust external funding for this event, due to all the current budget cuts of SBU. Also, the provost office did not give the 10K the office promised us at the beginning of the year. Thus, having that precedent, we must be very conservative with the budget. We cannot take risks.
- Karen: Since 2 years ago, it was the GSO 35th anniversary, we were provided a lot of external funding, however, the University was not facing the budget crisis it is facing now.
- Mareola: The budget reallocation should be used for things we don't currently fund, such as job talks for the students.
- Ramiro: We should think how to reallocate once we have the exact figures from the Spring.
- Roger: I propose a motion to vote on this resolution. Please, everyone use the cards they were given by Luigi at the beginning. Luigi will count the votes.
- Luigi: I will count them
- Roger: Agree with the resolution:
- Senate: 42 out of 45 voted yes.
- Roger: Abstain?
- Senate: 0 votes
- Roger: Oppose?

- Senate: 0 votes.
- Luigi: 3 people did not voted.
- Roger: the BC resolution of speaker series suspension is approved.
- Luigi: Please, do not take the cards away with you. We want to do this voting system every meeting.

6. Vice President's report

- **Jinelle Wint:**
- We want to create a LinkedIn account. We have all other social media. All of our announcements are on the website. We want to develop an Instagram and a Twitter account as well.
- On our website, we have the calendar of all of our events. If you click on that option, you will get the calendar download on your phone.
- There is a photo contest held, the theme is "innovation". The information is on our website. You can submit 2 photos, the prize is a \$100 Wolfie wallet.
- There were more than 577 people that completed the survey.
- I added the total responses of the hard copy surveys I handed it last meeting.
- Broadway play and the Boston trip were the best options.
- I started planning both of these events as well.
- David: I have a whole trip planned already, but I will appreciate your feedback so we can all do what everyone wants to do. It will be nice I can have a committee to finalize the exact plan. Please email directly David, or me. If you want to be part of the committee.
- The Broadway play and the Boston trip will be most likely next semester.
- Bertus: What about the ski trip?
- Jinelle: I am looking for volunteers to help me plan that event as well. So please email me.
- Jinelle: Around 200 people showed up for the Latin Night event. There were food for 350 people. The DJ was good.

- Diwali was a great event as well, many people showed up. 107 people attended, which is the room capacity.
- The Halloween Custom Party was excellent as well. The food was great. Not many people dressed up.
- Game night is this week. We will continue to use the tickets system
- Both holiday party and the Thanksgiving event are sold out, the day I put them in.

7. President's report:

- **Ramiro Malaga Ortega**
- Over the last month, we have had many meetings with a long list of administrators:
 - President Stanley
 - Judy
 - Dean Taber
 - Dean Lehman (meeting in progress), and many more
- We have taken actions towards the Tax Cuts and Job Acts strategies: emails and phone calls organization.
- We had meetings regarding the late payment in the BME departments, and the insurance problems related with them. Many thanks to Mareola, Molly, and Cookie. They were very helpful in those meetings.
- I presented the situation in the CAS Senate meeting.
- We explored the possibility of having back the UCafe and we communicated this to all administrators
- Our Tax Cuts and Job Acts Strategy will consist on sharing the information (of the bills of the house and the senate) to all of our constituents, and to schedule a series of continuous (all day) phone calls tomorrow Wednesday.
- Karen: TA/GA and RAs will be affected differently, also between in-state and out of state tuition students.
- Luigi: Most of the graduate students are international, 47% of them, thus, these bills will hurt the entire graduate community.

8. Secretary's Report

- **Luigi Pesce Ibarra.**
- We have been thinking the money reallocated can be used for the DTA funding line.
- We have strongly advocated to all of the administrators all of your concerns. Thanks for your emails.
- We have thought an international legal clinic, that helps international students, could also be a new strategy
- We need students for the RA union committee

9. Policy Action Committee report

- Camilo Rubbini
- I have attended the weekly meetings of many committees; University Senate EC, CAPRA, PAC, BC, CAS, and the Undergraduate Council
- Plans for this year are: (1) Spring movie series on Immigration and Income Inequality, (2) training for students to properly engage in electoral action and grassroots organization, and (3) document on the values and roles for graduate student leaders in shared governance.

10. New Business

- Resolutions by Bryan Carroll: "Due to a conflict of interest, Senator Carroll was not able to present on his resolutions and asked for them to be withdrawn from consideration. I was offered a position/job at the President's Office, of President Stanley. Thus, I must withdraw the 2 resolutions.
- Speakers report: Roger Ke:
- The DTA deadline was yesterday, 29 applicants was received. We have 10K for this line.
- The tax clinic has a budget line of 8K.
- I propose to hire another lawyer, since Phil Solages its not currently doing his job professionally.

11. Adjourn

- Senate adjourned.