

STONY BROOK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
SENATE MEETING
Dec. 12, 2017

Agenda

1. Approval of November senate minutes

David: I have an objection to make regarding the minutes. The Budget Committee recommended to reallocate all the money from the speaker series to productions event, is not all, its 20%.

Luigi: I will make the clarifications on the November minutes. Thank you for reading the minutes.

Luigi: Can somebody support and second the motion?

Senators approve it.

2. Approval of December meeting agenda

Luigi: Can somebody support and second the motion?

Senators approve it.

3. Stonybrook Childcare

Luigi: They did not come again to a senate meeting. I apologized on their behalf. Again.

4. Lyl Tomlinson - Introducing Science Policy Course

Lyl: I am a postdoc and a program coordinator of the graduate school. Now, its a good time to talk about science policy. Such as, the congressmen wanting to tax many aspects of science and not contribute money. Science policy divides into 2 major sections; policy for science (EPA), and science for policy (NIH, NSF).

It's a good career opportunity. The jobs start up with a good pay. The scientists end up working in the government. Research and science communication are great skills to have in this field. Also, leadership is a good skill to have for this field. Graduate school is offering this course for graduate students; GRD 520: Science Policy. Its a 6 week course, it meets once a week. Please, let all the students in your department to please know about this course.

Any questions? No, we are good? Ok thank you.

Luigi: Thank you so much Lyl.

Senators clap.

5. Senator David Purificato (Vote on change to Election Bylaws)

Luigi: We do have quorum

David: Regarding the change in the constitution I presented last week?

32 in favor.

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

Luigi: Amendment passes. There is quorum. 32 is majority.

6. Treasurer's report

Karen: Hello everyone. To be very brief, in our report today. I am going to explain and then answer questions. I am going to present where the budget is regarding allocations. Graduate students in SBU along with President Stanley have sent our repudiation and rejection towards the new tax bill intended to pass by the GOP. We have left like 100\$ left for the department allocation. The BC committee approved 2 speaker series and 2 social cultural events.

Departments: Hispanics Literature & Languages, Art History and History.

Information is on the slides.

Let's vote on the approval or rejection of these funding requests?

Jinelle: Let's wait until Luigi officially counts the voting by the senate.

Karen: Our financial bylaws are ambiguous on allocation of Fall and Spring GSO funding.

Luigi: Ok, lets count the votes.

Senator: Are departments that did not apply for money for the Fall, are going to have money for the Spring?

Karen: Yes. There is money left for the Spring and those departments can still apply to.

Luigi: Senate approves? Votes?

Senate votes: Yes.

7. Vice President's report

Jinelle: We don't know if the changes towards higher education are going to pass; they are in the house bill but not in the senate bill. News 12 came and interview me and Karen regarding the changes.

Jinelle: The photo contest is extended. We have only received 2 submissions. So, we extended the deadline. The School of Professional Development worked in collaboration with the GSO. The deadline is extended to March 1st. The information is on the website, and people can submit up to 2 photos per person. The photos regarding their research.

Jinelle: The Boston Trip is on April 21st. David has already started booking this events. 2 buses will bring 110 people. The ticket price is going to be \$30 for the whole trip and includes breakfast and either lunch or dinner (2 meals). Leaving SBU at 5am and returning at 11pm. If you want to complete a tour of Boston, or just go to Boston for the whole day, please let us know in the Survey that we will sent. Either option is fine. Please, let us know so we can reserve tickets for the event.

Jinelle: Thanksgiving event, approximately 230 people attended the event. There was a lot of good food and many people attended the event. Many senators attended the event. This is the first time the GSO was willing to do a Thanksgiving Dinner event.

Jinelle: We were not allow to have alcohol in the event. But, we did have alcohol in the next event of December, which was the Holiday party. This event had a really good turnout, many students and senators came.

Jinelle: We will have a 3 minute thesis. Applications to that event will start on January. They do many workshops with the Alda Center for Communicating Science.

Jinelle: Finally, I want to have an event including all senators. Its all senator event. I hope all of you attend. I have possible locations (Hilton, Port Jefferson, and Velvet Lounge) and dates (December 14th, Thursday December 15th, December 20th and December 21st). So, we will vote on them. The Social Concerns Events Committee has organized and planned this event. Everyone is invited, and everyone is welcome to bring 1 guest (that is not a student).

Luigi: Ok, so we will conduct 2 voting sessions, 1 for the date, and 1 for the place.

Jinelle: Is anybody going to be here next Friday? Should I include the 22nd date for the event?

Senate: No.

Luigi: Can we do it today?

Jinelle: No.

Luigi: Ok, lets go date by date and hopefully we will get a majority.

Jinelle: How about.....?

Senate votes:

Dec 14th: 14 senators

Dec 15th: 9 senators

Dec 20: 22 senators for the 20th

Dec 21: 6 senators

Dec 22: 4 senators

Luigi: December 20th has the most people.

Jinelle: Ok, we will have it on the 20th, it had the most people. Where would you guys want to have it?

Mareola: Can we have the small room in the Hilton?

Jinelle: If we can get the room, sure, yes we can.

Luigi: Of the people that will come on December 20th, the 22 people, vote?

Senator 15: Are we voting on our preference or if we show up?

Senate: Laughs

Jinelle: If we show up.

Mareola: Yes, people, vote if you will show up.

Jinelle: Well, let's vote on the timing first? Should we do 6 to 8? Happy hour at Hilton ends at 7pm

Senator 30: What bar in Port Jefferson?

Luigi: So, this vote is more like a suggestion, or symbolic advisory to Jinelle. Lets just vote.

Raise your cards. Who will show up? Of the 20 people that will attend December 20th? You can vote more than once.

Hilton?

Senate: 13

Senator 40: There are 25 cents chicken wings given during happy hour on a bar on Port Jefferson.

Luigi: Maybe, there are very small chicken wings.

Jinelle: We will look at the places.

Luigi: Let's vote on Port Jefferson bars.

Port Jefferson?

Senate: 13.

Jinelle: I just remembered we cannot have that really nice place at Velvet Lounge, because it's winter so it's cold. I was thinking of the summer.

Luigi: Let's vote on Velvet Lounge?

Senate: 7.

Jinelle: Thanks. That gives me a very good idea of how to move forward.

Senator 24: About the tickets? Many people have had concerns about why there are so little tickets given for specific events?

Jinelle: We have worked taking into account the room capacities. Different rooms have different capacities. We have had issues in the past with too many people coming to the events without booking the tickets, and other events, there were not enough people coming so a lot of food was taken to the trash.

Senator 38: There is a RSVP that can be used.

Jinelle: Many people RSVP but not attend. If I do RSVP, over 600 people will sign up, but they will not come.

8. Secretary's Report

Luigi: I will be brief. Who is an RA (Research Assistant)?

Senate: 4 people raise hands.

Luigi: Can any of you join to the RA Union committee? No one has.

Senator Chikako: I will join.

Luigi: Thank you, I am so happy.

Senator 17: What does the Union for RAs does?

Karen: There is no RA Union, so its very unstructured. However, the TA/GA Union has taken over some of the competencies of the RA Union.

Luigi: Thanks Chikako, talk to me after the end of the night.

Luigi: Next week, from Venezuela, I will email the committee chairs of every committee. So we know; actions, goals for next semester, and if you want to present to the Senate?

Luigi: As the chair of the Housing Committee, I will let you know about this situation. The people that live in West, wanted to move to Chapin Apartments since they are paying more than double the amount of the rent in West. These international students do not receive any federal nor grant money from the US government. Thus, they paid everything out of pocket and most of them are Master Students. I sent a letter to Matt Welham regarding this situation and advocating on behalf of the students.

9. Policy Action Committee report

Camilo: Regarding the students that were discontinued from the PhD program of the SHTM, they have agreed with 3 things:

- Renew for 2 years one of the faculty professors
- Renew for 2 months one of the faculty professors
- Have the students to keep the lab (RRAMP) in which they study and take classes.

Camillo: We are part of the search committee and will be working, to find, the renewal of the VP for finance. Since Megna is leaving the position. Finally, we are also part of the search committee for the new Dean of Students/VP for Academic Affairs

Camilo: We have advocated in the CAS Senate and show our progression. We will collaborate to have a center for student governance, and this proposal will be evaluated by the CAS Senate and for many institutions within the University. If you want to be part of this review process, please, let me know.

Camillo: Finally, I have received information and complaints from many faculty within different departments that they are required to teach more of what they have used to.

The reasons are justified most of the times, but in some cases, many faculty think its being a punishment.

Camilo: At the SUNY Level, there is a new proposal/initiative to create a combined program of postdoc positions leading to tenure faculty within the SUNY system. I think it is a really good proposal since its a way to promote SUNY hirings within the SUNY system, and to keep SUNY talented scientists in it. I think it's something that adds a lot of value to our degrees. That way, they can identify scholars that have an outstanding research and service commitment towards the SUNY system.

10. New Business

Luigi: Anybody has an old business that want to make new?

Senate: 0 responses.

Luigi: Anyone else has a new business?

Senator 20: There is a professor that has being hostage in Cameroon.

Luigi: Yes, thanks for the information. The GSO will be happy to write a statement and send it to the administration.

11. Adjourn

Luigi: Ok, may I have a motion to leave? Can someone second that motion?

Senate: Yes.

Luigi: Thank you all for your help, have a great night, it was a nice semester so thank you all for coming and have a wonderful tomorrow.