



**SENATE MEETING**  
**Feb. 13, 2018**  
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**Minutes**

1. Approval of December senate minutes
  - Approved
2. Approval of February meeting agenda
  - Approved
3. 3MT Competition (Alfreda James)
  - Alfreda James: I would like to invite you to the competition since it will enhance your communication skills. There will be financial awards given by the Alumni Association. Last year event's was a success.
  - Competitors will get trained by the Alda Center of Communicating Science.
  - We are also looking for volunteers for that day.
4. Stony Brook Childcare (Debra Scarfogliero, Susan Fioto):

**Debra Scarfogliero**

- We are one of the 5 accredited centers on Long Island
- We are one of the few centers that are still running and operating
- We are very lucky to have this service at SBU
- We have 26 spots for graduate students. There are many opportunities for many graduate students to finish their degrees at health care.

**Karen Mendelsohn:**

- We came a long way since we started many years ago. We transitioned into a non-profit
- My daughter went to SBU child care
- It's all run by volunteers and its designed for you to students
- It is really something that it's really precious to have this on campus. We hope you can share the news with all your fellow colleagues and students.

**Questions:**

- Mariola: Could you please give us a number of how many graduate students you have?

- Debra: We had 24 students last year, the previous year we had 21
- If someone has a family income that its run differently
- Mendelsohn: We a waiting list for students. Everyone is welcome to come and visit
- Karen Wishnia: Ramiro and I went to visit the center last year, and we accommodated our budget so we don't have the same problem we had last year of funding childcare
- Senator: The foundation that my daughter received at child care was excellent and I am very happy with the center
- The children are eligible at 8 weeks. We want to share all that with you
- Roger: If both the parents are graduate students, child care is free
- Debra: No
- Mendelsohn: It is very subsidized
- Debra: We always advised students to not pick up their children early from work, come at 6 to get the children and use all the time to study
- Alfreda: I endorsed Child Care, my children went there and its amazing.

#### 5. DoIT (Patricia Aceves):

- We would like to share with you how we spent your money, we understand last year there was a lot of problems in the discussion since there was a lot of sentiment there
- We would like to understand from you how you would want us to spend your money and clarify things of the budget.
- David: Can we choose how much we can print? I printed 30 pages last year
- Patricia: Ok
- Abraham: I print in my lab, I do not need to pay this printing fee
- Luigi: We have had the same discussion over the last 3 years. Some students do not have luxury to print in their own labs, think of "we are subsidizing" for other graduate students that do not have the luxury".
- David: Can I suggest to not helping other people?
- Patricia: Printing is very subsidized.
- David: Does it roll over?
- Patricia: It does not
- Senator: A portion of the fees that it is not utilized by graduate students is the technology fee, so I suggest that there would be discounts on softwares to help graduate students
- Patricia: Thank you
- Senator: Why the color printing is not part of the printing money?

- Patricia: I cannot recall all the reasons but I will look it up. We may just to have put it in the system
- Abraham: We are employees, not students. What other employees are charges for this?
- Patricia: Are you taking credits?
- Abraham: I am not taking classes
- Patricia: Credits?
- Abraham: We are enrolled, but we are primary employees
- Patricia: I am going to look it up
- Alfreda James: Our office pays for additional technology support
- Abraham: Do you pay personally?
- Alfreda: Our office does
- Abraham: But you do not, I pay the fees personally. I pay it personally, out of my pocket
- Alfreda: Ok, thank you
- Roger: Any additional questions we will discuss later.
- Patricia: Thank you, I will set up a meeting

#### 6. Confirmation of Talbot Andrews as VP

- Roger: Jinelle resigned, Ramiro nominated Talbot.
- Senator: Why was the senate not nominated?
- Luigi: It was a last minute emergency.
- Ramiro: I followed the constitution
- Roger: Same situation happened last year with Vahideh and Tiffany.
- David: I am going to make a motion for in the future, the President informs the senate earlier
- Karen: I agree with the 10 window of letting us know, but in terms of the constitution we are ok.
- Luigi: We had a 5 day window. I apologize on behalf of the EC
- David: My concern is the future. This is a loophole in the constitution. There should be a change in the constitution.
- Roger: Questions for Talbot?
- Senator: What is your favorite color?
- Talbot: Green
- Mariola: So....so, I understand the last VP quit, and now it happened again, should we do something about the budget and the payments of these positions?
- Bertan: It is a serious problem this was not addressed before, regarding that the last 3 VPs have quit
- Talbot: I promise not to quit

- Roger: We will vote with Talbot out

Talbot leaves the room.

- David: I still want to re-iterate what I said, I totally support Talbot but we should have known this before
- Senator: It would have been nice to know
- Luigi: Anybody else wants to be VP?

No one answers.

- Ramiro: I am worried because I want 2 people to run on each position
- David: Talbot is waiting
- Luigi: Let's vote
- Senate: 35 vote in favor
- No votes on "No" or "abstain"
- Roger: We confirm Talbot as the new VP.

Talbot walks back in and receives applause.

## 7. GSO Elections 2018 (Sen. David Purificato)

- David: I am going to tell you the day, April 10 will be the elections (tentative)
- Bertan: That means the candidates should come to the meetings on March and April
- David: We will be sending an email regarding the elections and the specific dates
- Roger: Every year we have a budget, and I guess that at the end of our year we can allocate some money to some commissions
- David: The 10<sup>th</sup> it's the Townhall, where the candidates can present their platforms and opinions.
- Roger: Thank you David

## 8. President's report

- Topics I want to mention:
- Professor detained in Cameroon: He was happily released and its currently now teaching in Princeton
- Payments: We are still looking for the reimbursements
- Elections: We need to address the root of the problems, we would need to attract participants, so I would like you to take into account that we probably need to increase

the EC number and the stipends. The VP position takes a lot of time. We need to have some alternatives.

- Productions director: We have James in the GSO office and he was hired. We trust James and think he is a great fit for the position
- We would like to have a transition meeting with the new EC
- We are going to hire a new Media manager at the end of the week
- There are Tax and Legal Clinics coming.
- Questions?
- Senate: No.

- Speaker's report:

- Roger: I am in charge of those things, although I have not seen my name in the office door, we need to talk about that. We gave 8 awards and there will be posts soon in the office when we hire our media person.
- I wish we could have find more applicants for the DTA
- There will be additional tax clinic workshops for Chinese and Indian students.
- Abraham: Are you going to send emails?
- Roger: Yes.
- Roger: We hired a new person, Jonathan, he is a graduate student. I will email regarding the legal clinic schedule.
- Roger: I apologize for the food; there was not a lot of vegan options.

## 9. Vice President's report

Talbot:

- The first event was great, over 400 students came. James did a really good job
- Upcoming events: This Friday will be Chinese new year
- Senator: Lunar new year is not exclusively of Chinese students
- Talbot: I apologize
- Luigi: What other countries are?
- Senator: Japan, South Korea, China
- Senator: Not Japan
- Talbot: I will send an email for the next meeting of the Social Concerns Committee.

## 10. Treasurer's report

- In terms of the funding proposal: We have actually have a lot of money left. Many people have not applied yet, but we have it, so it's a good thing to say.
  - In terms of what the budget committee approved, we approved 4 social/cultural events and 5 speaker series events.
  - Health and Rehabilitation Sciences submitted 3 budget proposals for 3 speaker series events.
  - The 4 social/cultural events are open to all the public. One of the events is happening this Friday
  - Luigi: This Friday, please come to the Lunar Year event and go back and forth with the African Punk event
  - Bertan: Why we do not have a 50 thousand surplus, if the speaker event was cancelled?
  - Karen: Well, we started the year with a 40 thousand deficit. But now, we have money to use to other funds, such as child care.
  - Karen: Now I will let Andrew to speak
- Andrew:
- Please sign the Union cards. Big Supreme Court of Justice case coming
  - I would like your support since we are representing all GSEU members
  - We need a strong negotiating team
  - The state of the RA union is complicated. The SBU foundation is private, so I cannot represent the RA students. If you have RA union problems, send them to me and forward them to me and Karen.
  - Luigi: We also have Chikako in charge of the RA union
  - Andrew: If we mobilize, they cannot beat us. It all depends on what the Supreme Court of Justice rules.
- Questions:
- David: How do we know who has joined the Union and who has not?
  - Karen: I have records of them
  - Abraham: Can we get the cards to give us to our constituents?
  - Karen: Yes, absolutely. Better get them to sign now before it's too late.
  - Why people would resist signing these cards?
  - Andrew: People think that signing equals paying something. Thus, there is an anxiety of it
  - Luigi: Last year, we had the pink ballots and I was told by my colleagues that it was not useful to sing it.

## 11. Secretary's Report

- PROSPER Act: Did you guys share the 3 emails I sent regarding this horrible bill?
- Raise your hands if you have work study/federal funding.
- Two congressmen want to cut money from graduate students.
- The bill will be voted this week so hopefully if you guys can advocate and call your congressman, this bill might not passed
- Chair of the committees: I emailed last week to the chair of the committees. Some students said "I emailed and got no answer, so, that was my contribution to the committees", so that is great but I think you could try a bit harder and send a follow up email and CC' me and Ramiro in it.
- Thank you very much.

## 12. Policy Action Committee report

Camilo Rubbini:

- The Provost office has mandated the University Senate to reduce its budget by 4 thousand which would inhibit them from functioning. Thus, it is extremely important. We raised this issue and we were told that the University is mandating cuts across the board. The Senate EC does not spend money on anything, only in a full time employer. We are going to work with the University Senate to write a resolution. We will discuss this with faculty and staff.
- CAPRA: We are analyzing the proposal of studying inequalities and social justice. It has many positive things, but it needs many clarifications of how the center is going to be function since it needs 65 thousand \$ a year to function properly. We raised questions and we are waiting for answers.
- The undergraduates are advocating for specific grades they received in classes to be erased when they retake the classes. Right now, the system has an "average system" in which it takes an average of both classes. I think it's a reasonable request; however, we would want to limit the number of classes students can take. We are not opposed to the "most recent grade" system. We think it's fair.
- Please let me know anything you guys would want me to advocate for you. I will continue to advocate for creation of institutes and cessation of programs suspension. But, I will be happy to advocate anything you guys think it's important.

## 13. New Business

- Molly: We had a meeting with the finance people regarding the "fee payment" extension that we requested and that they said it was possible. Technically, graduate students do not get the benefit that the undergraduate students do in terms of "number

of payments". We advocated for graduate students to receive this extension as well, but the administration just said that we cannot be granted this extension or payment options because to them "we are employees". However, we do have to pay fees because we are "students". Therefore, the Administrators always look for a rationale to hurt the rights and take away benefits of graduate students. They change us from students to employees whenever they find appropriate for money, but not backwards.

- Camilo: Send me that email and this is something we can advocate to the President for.
- Bertan: The fees problem is really worried.
- Ramiro: We have a meeting with Dean Taber next week
- Luigi: We had a meeting last year with the administrators of the offices we paid the fees. The meeting was very feisty. We could set up the meeting again next year.
- Mariola: They are not going to listen to us, it will be useless. Our best bet is the union
- Luigi: We can have the Union in that meeting with us
- Andrew (Union): The Union was supposed to be in all those meetings and negotiate. The problem is that the previous Union person was horrible.
- Luigi: A lot of the fees go to subsidize undergraduate students
- Roger: Disagree, undergraduate subsidize us
- Abraham: Yes and No.
- Roger: Payments of 50 dollars do not seem unreasonable. We need to know and have the numbers that the administration use. Maybe their budget is tight, but is it going to put the University at financial risk if they give us this benefit?
- Luigi: We do not know how much money it's on the President's office budget.
- Senator: Someone is making a lot of money in putting people in debt.

#### 14. Old Business

- Roger: Next Senate meeting is on the 20th, not during Spring Break
- Luigi: They changed Spring Break for us
- Roger: Yes. Now it is on March 13th.
- Luigi: Thank you.

#### 15. Adjourn

- Ok, meeting adjourned
- Senate: Motion Approved.



