



**STONY BROOK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION
SENATE MEETING
Mar. 20, 2018**

Minutes

1. Approval of February senate minutes

- Approved.

2. Approval of March meeting agenda

- Approved.

3. Dexter Bailey

- We have 180 thousand graduates distributed around the world
- Of the 180 thousand, we have 110 graduates around Long Island and in the North Eastern region
- The Annual giving program has given over several years, they have worked with Vahideh and Jennifer trying to raise funding. We had the UCafe initiative
- At the Undergraduate level, we worked with the senior class. It is a much more organized program
- We tried to increase the alumni culture and community engagement. These are not things independently of fundraising.
- Today, there is a program that reaches all over the world and discusses along President Stanley topics related with world well being such as climate change.
- I worked to UC Berkeley and the Washington University, 2 schools that really spoke about the power of community engaging. The graduates of these Universities tell you what school they are from within the first 10 words they said when meet you.
- I am also very involved in the branding such as "Far Beyond".
- I am also involved in Government Relations with Judith Greimann
- A lot of people that donate to SBU are also main political donors

- The campaign for SBU, started at July 2011, we re-engineered the office and implemented the campaign at the same time. It was a 600 million campaign, and essentially 3 gifts made half of that campaign
- The campaign ends June 30th of 2018.
- 18 thousand are alums, its way better than in the past but we have still work to do.
- Alumni participation has increased from 3% to 18%
- Almost 400 million have already been deployed
- A lot of faculty start up funds have been used from there.
- The endowment is the permanent fund, we get back around 4.5%
- Large schools have multi billion dollar endowments, we only have a 200 million endowment
- Happy to answer questions:

Questions section:

- Mareola: We have a 35 million dollar deficit, they even eliminated the December Graduate Ceremony, what is your role in this?
- Dexter: My role is to attract donors. Donors are not excited to close budget gaps and budget crisis. Donors send money to very specific things that were recommended by us, and now we are suffering from those decisions because we cannot move money from one place to another one. We have put most of the money in the student funds, and the financial aid office decides what to do with that. I do not have a specific role in the elimination of the December commencement
- Mareola: How are your cultivating relationships?
- Dexter: I do not think we do the greatest job in scholarship receptions where philanthropists can attend. We have annual scholarship receptions. I worked behind the scenes with Matthew Whelan. There is a process where you are going to get invited for things and we try to add value to you. The programs we

do offer are anything related from things you want to know a little bit more about to current developed programs by SBU, we try to add value to the relationships with the alumni. We currently fund many undergraduate and online programs. We do not have many staff members not enough money to do things for the sake of doing them. Hope I get you a little bit of an answer to your question.

- Camilo: There was a newday report of an audit, by the OSC.
- Dexter: Thank you for asking that question, since I am very sensitive to the results of that audit. One of the main points was that they listed many outside contracts with the SB Foundation. OSC did not contacted the SB foundation directly. I sent the letter and said “we are willing to participate in the audit”, during 15 months, thousands of transactions were shared with them. We identified 37 inaccuracies of the draft they sent. I can go everything point by point. Of the thousands of transactions they audited, they identified 3 transactions. For one of them, it was a \$420 dinner receipt, we had a non-automatized receipt and that was a mistake. For the second, we funded retirement parties, such as the former Dean of Students, Jerrold Stein, and I found appropriate to pay for that since Dean Stein was here for 38 years. The third one, they found that we paid for a business ticket for a staff that went to Nairobi; I authorized that because this person was going to travel for 18 hours and immediately work when the worker arrived to Nairobi. The other thing they found a problem with, was my compensation. I got a lot of money to do what I do but my entire contract went through all the required process by the State, and the Foundation decided to help with my contract. People that read that newsday report are getting the wrong idea of it. You cannot select a best group of people that works at SB Foundation, we have 9 lawyers. It was a poorly and inaccurate language of the report. The other 2 problems they found were technically correct, but we have already updated our policy.
- Senator: Who do students should contact when they receive awards from the SB Foundation?

- Dexter: The way that accounts are set up in the foundation. It sounds like who ever was the account manager might have moved on, and now we do not know who that head account manager is. If the donor gives money, the worst situation that I can be in is to ran into the donor and be asked “how is the people I have donated that award”.
- Senator: What is the relationship between the Foundation and Renaissance Technologies and funding for fossil fuels?
- Dexter: We are investing in a fund, and that account manager gets to do decisions on a daily basis. The foundation itself chooses not to disclose regarding the specifics intentions of the head managers. In terms of Renaissance Technologies, we have a relationship since the 90s, around 300 million dollar, 38 million have been given by the Renaissance Technologies. It is one of the most successful funds we have. We see a lot of opportunities in the endowment and in real estate.
- Roger: We have time for 1 more question
- Senator: What about the things reported in the article, such as the 2 housing loans that the article reported that did not have to be paid back?
- Dexter: I think that is fair. This was done prior to my arrival. I would have done it differently. My previous position was comfortable, so that housing loan was to retained me. I did not move up coming from my previous job to SBU. Prior to my arrival, in less than 10 years there were 7 people that have some sort of combination of my title. As spoken with Stanley prior to coming to SBU, it was offered housing which encouraged me to attend. All of this is public, I do a a yearly Financial Disclosure Forms. It is the most intrusive thing since you have to report specific things such as if your wife is working.
- Roger: Thank you for your time
- Dexter: Thank you, hopefully, next time I come we have more fun things to talk about.

4. Lyl Tomlinson (Professional Development)

- Lyl: My name is Lyl Tomlinson, and I am from the office of Post-doc and graduate affairs. We have put many focus on the work of graduate students and help them encourage them to go into different areas. We have tried that many graduate programs encourage policies for specific tracks within career and business development. We are looking to fund students, either are PhD or masters, and fund them for doing and studying things that are outside of their programs. We can give up to \$700 to basically everyone (women and LGBTQ). We can fund for activities that occurred in the Fall or Spring this year and the one before. With international students there are some restrictions that apply. Many of the international students can be mainly be funded for travel. It must advance your career development started in Fall 2016. The main goal is that the students can network and hopefully, find a job from there. Deadline is May 14th, and if you want to apply, the deadline is May 14th. We will send emails through the Secretary. If you are interested, please let us know. It is really hard to find a job out there, so this can really help you guys to find a job.

- Bertan: How outside of the field must be?

- Lyl: Not necessarily, moving from Cancer to PhD to an immunology internship. But, if they are in Ecology and they want to take a paint class, then that would be great.

- Bertan: What about moving from Physics to Data Management?

- Lyl: Sure, that works.

- Luigi: How many people can apply to this award?

- Lyl: We will decide after we receive them

5. David Purificato (Boston Trip)

- We were thinking about doing in April 14th. Then, I had everything ready for that date, and then I thought "why not doing it in September instead", so, what do you guys think?

- Mareola: No

- David: Going to Boston where they are about to get 3 inches of snow.
- Senator: We cannot let the weather to affect everything
- David: 3 months ago I asked for volunteers and no one helped
- Senator: What do you want?
- David: I think it is going to be miserable if we walk in the city all day. It is a walking tour in the morning, then lunch, and then going to the “Tea Party” Museum.
- Roger: I went there around this time a year and it was ok. There are a lot of places we can go
- Mareola: You decide David
- David: I was trying to be democratic
- Luigi: We will let you choose the best decision
- David: I will postpone the trip for 1 more week. The end of April
- Senator: Most of the grad papers are going to be done
- David: Yes, its bad time
- Luigi: We can go right after finals. We do not follow academics we are an organization
- David: Ok lets do it, then in May
- Luigi: That way, when everyone is done with papers and exams, then we can go to Boston.
- David: That works for me.

6. President's report

- We participated in the Student Life committee and talk extensively about the topic of safety, especially for women safety.
- We had 2 representatives attending DC, Karen and Luigi, and they advocated for many policies: Gun control, F-1 renewal process, increasing research funding for sciences, social sciences and humanities, and DACA
- These are all my topics for today. Thank you.

7. Vice President's report

- On April 6th there is G-Wise event, and on April 13th there is Jazz night. There are going to be many events happening, such as a Picnic place
- Mareola: For the Ball event, can undergraduates attend?
- Talbot: No.
- Mareola: Great
- Talbot: We will have an end of the semester social, a movie night at the Staller steps, and so much more many events that we will put on the SBU website, under the calendar section.

7. Treasurer's report

- There are events left over for the NYC Trip to the Natural history NYC museum with the history department. Ask David for it.
- We have everything ready for May.
- We have 10k in the budget from the research foundation
- As long as I have original receipts for the reimbursements, everything should be ok
- We have the speaker series event happening in March 27th, sponsoring for the School of Social Justice; a theater group from Brooklyn its coming. Its an all day event
- 40\$ are being applied for coffees and donuts
- On April 4th, the piano project will occur, the Music department is asking for funding for printing the flyers and the reception.
- The history department is having an event in May, it is to renovate their depressing hallways. They want funding for supplies and put decorations such as contextual documents,
- Any questions of the proposal?
- Mareola: These funding request falls for Department Allocation. Not for this

- Senator from Ecology and Evolution: I do agree with support this, I understand your pain of not having a decent looking website.
- Karen: We can amend the Budget Committee recommendation.
- Roger: I created my own website and it was fine and easy.
- Senator 13, Matt from Music: I actually used to work for SBU music publicity. We worked with a very tight budget. It is very frustrated its that there SBU keeps changing the website platforms they produced. I think it is good to give money to a very marketable department such as the music department. Their website can link to this website, the GSO website, so it is a way to market the GSO as well.
- Luigi: In the senate meetings of the University, they always said that funds must be redirected to the music department because it is the “second best music program in the US”. It something to bring up to the University.
- Senator 13, Matt from Music: It is about they do not give us the money for specific things. I understand both side’s arguments.
- Roger: I am trying to see how this can benefit the community at large
- Luigi: Can we vote on this?
- Roger: A vote to modify the website.

- Senators vote:
- Luigi: Keep your hands there.
- Favor: 26
- Against: 3
- Abstain: 0
- Roger: May I have a motion to approve the budget?
- Senators: Approved
- Roger: Other news, how many students actually attend the music events? I go there most times, and no one ever shows up.
- Luigi: Email the information of the music events to me, and I will email it to the senators.

9. Secretary's Report

- Luigi: We attended the offices of Zeldin, King, Rice and the senator offices of Schummer and Gillenbrandt
- Luigi: Most of the staffers were very receptive to most of the issues. Except Zeldin's office, when we spoke about the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act, since people from other states (that do not have strong gun laws) can bring their bought weapons to NY. So, it is a problem of safety and we felt strong to advocate about all these issues related gun control (lack of) and school safety.
- Senator from Pharmacology: That law does not state that people from other states can bring their guns here. It is only if they are passing through the state, let's say if they are coming from Georgia to Canada to hunt. From where you are getting this information?
- Luigi: From official government websites, and the staffers we met. Thank you.
- Luigi: I have office hours on Monday. Its for you guys to know that the office is operating at this time. If you want to use the office to drop something
- Luigi: We went to the University Senate Meeting, and Stanley provided similar explanations to what Mister Bailey Jr said today, about what exactly the newsday article stated.
- Senator from Hispanics Literature: Just to express some clarification regarding the gun laws. It does state that people from other states can come here to the state.
- Senator from pharmacology: I was wrong.
- Luigi: thank you
- Luigi: The committee chairs' you guys are suppose to communicate with me about the progress.
- Senator from Geosciences, Rene: I emailed my committee, not reply.
- Molly: The administration apologizes for the software delays that occurred

- Luigi: Those are good news. I do not know how to react to good news. I am happy we spoke about gun laws, there no gun laws in Indiana.

10. Policy Action Committee report

- Camilo: We met with the Dean of the Graduate School and we spoke about fees. There was a feeling in the senate that when convenient for the administration we are treated as students, and when convenient (for the administration) we are treated as workers. The Dean of the Graduate School thinks it should be the opposite.
- We also met with the committee of academic affairs and we spoke about the fees. They said that the fees will be reviewed. I propose that we should be able to pay the fees in a payment plan, such as 3 payment plans.
- We also brought up with the Dean of the Graduate School that the acceptance letters do not state that the fees are paid by the University.
- Senator from Anatomical Sciences: The hiring freeze does affect the graduate students, as the ones in my department.
- Camilo: We communicated this with the President (Stanley) and he said that every department will make the case and advocate for their own graduate students.
- Andrew: I met with the administration officers such as Dean Taber, so if the GA or TA lines are coming from the Graduate School, then, they will be protected. Our union represents 1100 members, so we want to know how many of these lines are not covered by the graduate school. So, I will let you guys know. Do not panic, we do not know exactly what does it mean that we have less federal budget. We would like to have it on writing so we can then force the administration to follow through.

11. New Business (Elections)

- Roger: Is there anyone that has new business that want to share?
- Luigi: Yes, David.
- David: An email was sent out last week to the student graduate body about the elections. We have had conversations about making recommendations to the constitution committee. The Elections committee still needs to finalized what we want to do. So, I will let you guys know.
- Senator: I was kicked out of the HSC parking lot. We received emails where they basically told us that we can't park there anymore. There were several days where we could not park anywhere. It is not a tragedy but there was a lot of bureaucracy. We do have a transportation committee, who is in the transportation committee?
- Amir, Senator from Civil engineering: I am. Please email me this and I will communicate.
- Luigi: Thank you for communicating this.
- Senator 32: So, because of the weather there are supposed to be an event. On April 11th there was an event. It was really nice to see people from GSO that attended last year.
- Luigi: Thank you.

12. Adjourn:

- Roger: Ok, I hope that's it. I hope no one else has anything else to say
- Luigi: Food for next month?
- Senators: Persian food
- Rogert: Motion to end the meeting
- Senators: Second.