



**STONY BROOK GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION  
SENATE MEETING**

**May 8, 2018**

**Agenda**

1. Approval of April senate minutes

- Approved

2. Approval of May meeting agenda

- Approved

3. PhD Works (Lyl Tomlinson)

Lyl Tomlinson

- We have received many applications from students that want to work in SBU offices our outside
- We are requesting money from the GSO, hopefully it gets approved
- We are very excited to receive more applications

4. University Libraries (Dean Constantinou, Nicole Olakkengil)

Nicole Olakkengil:

- How many of you are students that TA or GA?
- Great, so most of you do.
- There are many things you could look at?
- We have so many resources in our website
- We are working with engineers to make these resources available for everyone
- The main problem that we are seeing is the cost of textbooks
- Another problem, is that students like the print version of the textbooks, most students want to have the textbook in their hands
- We want TAs to be successful in their work.
- There are many advocacies going across the government

- We did have an initiative grant for those that are starting to teach courses, we help them implement new material into the courses
- Please feel free to email if you have any questions or doubts

**Associate Dean of Library Services, Steve.**

- State support of the SUNY system its a problem
- Another main problem for students its the increasing costs of services
- We have worked with the Leadership of SBU; the Provost and the Dean of Arts and Sciences to find new ways that we can help the population
- Mariola: We have many issues with the fact that open access to journals it's going to be restricted. Graduate students do not ask for much, but that its fundamental to do our research and our GA work.
- Dean Steve: We are going to find ways that we can help students that we can get cheaper access to the research journals that we might not pay moving forward
- Mariola: How can the graduate students advocate for more funding for the library?
- Dean Steve: There is a serious budget issue going on right now at the University, and I think the administrators are more interested in learning from the students
- Camilo: How much the current situation has affected the Library budget? Do you feel supported by the administration?
- Dean Steve: I will say..
- Dean Constantinou: Let me jump in for a second, I will like to say that I appreciate how much you care about the library and your willingness to help. The budget cuts have affected everyone universally, even other libraries within the SUNY system. I do think the administration deeply cares on how to help. Now, we have to compete for funding against other academic departments. We can always have similar conversations across the University, from administration to undergraduate students and we welcome everyone to always voice their concerns. I will appreciate if we can do this once a month, so we can meet and

gather information of how to help and move forward trying to fix those agenda items.

- Senator: Not having funding for open access journal tis abismal
- Dean Constantinou: We agree, and we need to communicate this with our provost, and with our deans. We need to inform that open access is not free. We can always articulate how the open access works.
- Senator: If open access is not free, then it's just a redistribution of charges
- Dean Steve: Yes, correct, but this redistribution encourages a healthy growth of scholarship and research, and I will agree with those things.

## 5. Election Results

David Purificato, Ramiro Malaga Ortega and Camillia Monestime

- David:
- When I call your name, please come up here.
- The fee did passed by 81%
- The new treasurer won by 94%, Qing.
- By 66%, Luigi Pesce won as Secretary
- The new President, Karen, won by 91%.
- Now we are going to read the oaths
- Qing, takes the oath with David
- Luigi, takes the oath with Camillia
- Karen, takes the oath with Ramiro
- Oath: “ I promise to preserve, defend and uphold the GSO constitution, serve the bylaws, and laws of New York State and promote the general welfare of the Graduate Student Organization at Stony Brook University”
- David: The new 2018-2019 Executive Council.
- Senate claps.

## 6. Changes to Constitution and ByLaws

David Purificato:

- As you can see, here are the items. Luigi emailed these changes last Friday.
- One change is to prohibit any candidate from using their official GSO communication channel. Especially, already GSO elected officials.
- Another change is to prohibit to use the official email listserv.
- Ramiro: The problem with that rule is that the list is publicly available for everyone, so anybody can email anyone when they are running for elections.
- Ramiro: I do not agree either with the change of allowing clubs/organizations to publicly endorse a candidate. It will give them an advantage over the other candidates. I disagree with that and the other change
- David: Is there any comment regarding that change?
- Bertus: I do not see that problem
- Ramiro: The problem is that the list is publicly available
- Roger: We have an internal mailing list.
- Ramiro: But, we do not have an official private list
- Mariola: Guys, this is way overdoing it. If we can put all of these laws then no one will ever find out there is an election and no one will ever vote other than the GSO senators
- Roger: Also, everybody ran unopposed, so who cares?
- David: This is not urgent. Should we postpone this until we come back? Another change, is when the EC selects the PAC, it has to be pass through the Senate by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the vote.
- Ramiro: I disagree with that too. The PAC is also another position of the EC, such as the production director or media relations. Sometimes, the EC needs to hire this person fast and it is very time sensitive. The selection process might be very painful and long
- Camilo: I disagree with that, because the PAC, unlike the other positions its involved in policy.
- Roger: Ok, lets vote on this

- Senate votes:
- Luigi: The change passes, majority votes in favor
- David: Ok, then we leave the other constitution amendments for the fall.

## 7. Approval of budget for next year

Karen Wishnia:

- Thanks everyone that submitted the google form, it was very useful and we incorporated as much of the feedback as possible.
- We left the speaker event only if money comes from the outside. No student activity fee (paid by the graduate students) can go to the Speaker event
- We also launched a professional development fund. Basically, all the money we have left over, we put it into the professional development fund. Just in terms of changes, last year budget was very different than this one
- In payroll, we have proposed some increases to the EC. At the USG, they make \$15 the hour. We also added 2 new positions, like Assistant to the Treasurer and International Student Association. This person might make some advocacy at the state or federal level.
- In terms of how the GSO functions, we are dropping money for meetings, and money for the conferences. This, we do it to make it up for the increase in salary. We also cut funding for travel for the PAC. This funding it was meant to rent a bus.
- We eliminated to graduate student formal line. We just added that money to productions
- We have kept intact the money we give to childcare. We will give 5K money for PhD works, the program that Lyl just presented.
- We eliminated money from the social concerns committee, if they need more money they can just come to productions.
- Students will be able to apply for both RAP and this funds.

- PhD works seems to be more oriented to projects involved in diversity and the projects have to be outside their area of research. For this other new line of funding, it seems that the projects can be inside their area of research/education.
- Camilo: I will like to express a concern. It is related with the speaker event. I think this budget goes in the right direction. It stipulates that no money from the student activity fee will go to this program. But, it will still allow the VP to go and raise money for the event which will take away the VP from actually doing work for the graduate students and the GSO. The administration will provide money but they will want us to do something in return, not in written, but they will let you know.
- Ramiro: I agree with completely cutting this event. We have to eliminate this event completely because it will be a problem in the future.
- Luigi: I completely endorse everything that Ramiro and Camilo said, mainly because this event goes to undergraduate students. Only undergrads come, so we are wasting money and we are redirecting resources from the GSO to these undergraduate's events.
- Abraham (senator): Isn't the last speaker event came only 10 grad students?
- Ramiro: 39, and it costs us 2 thousand dollar per student. It will take away our future for VP from actually serving the GSO
- Roger: We do not have to vote now.
- Abraham Senator: Yes, we do. I demand to vote now
- Roger: Ok, so does in favor please vote now:
- Luigi: 30 votes in favor, 4 votes in oppose. 0 votes abstain
- Roger: Yes, the motion passes. The speaker event is eliminated
- Ramiro: Thank you senate
- Karen: Any other questions regarding the budget?
- Roger: Ok, so we are voting on the budget for next year?
- Mariola: Let's vote.
- Roger: Those in favor please vote....

- Luigi: 34 vote in favor, 1 oppose, 0 abstain.
- Roger: The budget is approved.
- Luigi: You can watch famous people for free in the city, like Trevor Noah.

#### 8. President's report

- We had the meeting with the VP of Health Sciences last week. We advocated for funding for the PhD students in the Health and Rehabilitation Sciences program.
- We have a meeting with the Provost next Tuesday
- Talking about the fees, we had a meeting today with the VP of Finance, and the VP of Student Affairs. We expressed in this meeting our discomfort with how the fee process was took. The administration abuse of the fact that we were in certain committees with the fact that we took a great part in the consultation. The SUNY guidelines stated that they should consult with us.
- In this meeting of today, we almost secured that they delayed the payment deadline to November 15th.
- Karen: I was not in this meeting until the end, but they were saying inaccurate information, such as how much money they charge us when we pay late. So, please inform the students in your department if you are receiving late fees of \$50.
- Ramiro: These are the kind of things we have to be careful and advocate since the beginning of the academic year

#### 9. Vice President's report

Talbot Andrews:

- This was the last event before everyone showed up. This was our formal, it happened last week
- Also, many thanks to Karen because she led the budget committee and she was really in charge of everything.

## 10. Treasurer's report

Karen Wishnia:

- For department allocations, we still have money left for this line. So, please apply for funding for your departments
- The Indian Student Graduate Association its also asking for funding.
- There will be funding left in this line.
- There will funding left for other initiatives you guys would want to do.
- We do have a little bit of extra money because of the speaker event
- We will go club by club asking the ones that have money left over if we could use that money for something else
- Roger: Ok, lets vote on approving this budget
- Luigi: Ok, 31 people voted in favor.

## 11. Secretary's Report

Luigi Pesce Ibarra

- Please email me as soon as possible if you plan to be a senate next year. Also, next year I will make sure that all departments have the accurate senate representation. 1 senator for departments with 1-49 students, 2 senators for departments with 50-249 students, and 3 senators for departments with more than 250 students
- Please do not make the mistake that the departments of Computer Science and Mechanical Engineer do. Which is, wait until the end of the year to actually apply for funding. These departments were informed at the beginning of the year and they chose not to have senators.

## 12. Policy Action Committee report

- We are looking to draft a resolution regarding "shared governance"
- We agreed with the Senate Executive Committee to draft this resolution



- We want to make sure we reinforce in the agenda our goals, so we can guide our efforts for next year's meeting
- We should take the lead in some of the issues, instead of drafting reactive resolutions
- Ramiro asked to draft an "end of the year" document describing my experiences and strategies about the PAC position. This should help future PAC.

### 13. New Business (Elections)

- Kate Corbin. There should be a GSO committee that helps students with disabilities. Especially, to help those graduate students that gained disabilities while they were in grad school. During my time here, I was diagnosed with a disability.
- Luigi: Thanks Kate for speaking up, as we emailed. This is definitely we can do next year in the committees
- Senator: We need to do something more than advocacy. I cannot believe we live next to the hospital and we are not allowed to visit doctors in the hospital with our health insurance.
- Kate: By the time I graduate, it will take me like 10 years
- Kate M. Gordon (senator from sociology): We should create this committee and a library committee too. How are committees get created?
- Ramiro: Our committees can be created by us like the PAC
- Karen: Yes, we can create them.
- Luigi: Raise your hands if you want to be in this health/disability committee
- Senate: 6 or 7 students raised their hands.
- Kate: There should be a different committee treating issues with health than the committee helping students with disabilities.

### 14. Adjourn

- Roger: Can I have a motion to adjourn?

- David: Yes
- Roger: Ok, thanks everyone and many thanks to the current EC
- Senate stands and claps for the current EC