

Graduate Student Organization Senate Minutes

September 13th, 2016
Wang Center Chapel, 5:15 pm

Tiffany Victor, GSO Vice President, chaired the Senate Meeting

I. Approval of agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes of May 5th, 2016: approved.

III. President's Report (Vahideh Rasekhi)

Vahideh Rasekhi explained what the Graduate Student Organization is, and the responsibilities of the senators.

V.R.: It is responsibility of the students to submit complete applications for reimbursement. Everyone should go to the GSO office to pick up their checks, we will not send out emails when checks are ready. All checks are ready within 3 weeks unless the amount of the check is more than \$1000.

V.R.: About the programs and events:

The GSO's Orientation for new graduate students was on August 26th. It was a successful event and we had more than 300 students.

The Welcome Back event will be on September 8th at UCafe (there will be dinner)

The Chocolate Affair event will be at on September 15th at UCafe.

The NAGPS conference will be on November 3rd to 6th, in Wang Center. Graduate students from different schools will arrive in Stony Brook on November 3rd and we will have a reception at UCafe. The conference will be on Friday and Saturday. On Friday afternoon, we will have buses to take students to NYC; during registration, students will say whether they want to go to the city so that we know how many people will go. These students will also pay extra \$10 (in addition to the conference fee). On Saturday night, we will have a banquet at the Hilton. We hope to see you at the conference. If you would like to volunteer and help us during the event, please email us and let us know.

About the programs, on November 14th will be the leases and Landlord event, and the Legal Clinic dates are published on the news section of the GSO web page.

The Three Minute Thesis (3MT) will be on March 31. After we have finalized the details, we will let you know.

We also have the Speaker Series Event in April. If you have any suggestions for the speaker, please let us know.

Senator: Last year, there wasn't transparency about the speaker, will it be transparent this year?

V.R.: Last year, we were not able to announce the speaker earlier than April because it would have been a violation of the contract. This year again it depends on the contract; we will have to follow the contract.

Those who want to be involved in the planning process should contact Tiffany, the chair of the Social Concerns Committee.

IV. Treasurer Report (Joseph Verardo)

J.V. The following activities were approved on the last Budget Committee:

- Behavioral Ecology Presents: Scott Creel; Speaker Series; \$1,009
- The Opioid Epidemic by SBU SPADE; speaker Series; \$1,200
- Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (CSCL) Graduate Student Conference; Speaker Series; \$1,200
- Hispanic Languages and Literature Graduate Student Conference; Speaker Series; \$1,197
- Graduate Chemical Society Halloween Party; Cultural and Social; \$700
- Graduate Chemical Society Trivia Night; Cultural and Social; \$255
- Cognitive Science in the Arts and Humanities Speaker Series: Emily Troscianko; Speaker Series; \$939.9
- Ecology and Evolution Speaker Series: Dr. Deborah Gordan; Speaker Series; \$1,000

J.V. The total allocated so far for Speaker Series is \$6,545.9 of \$22,000 and \$955 of \$10,000 for Cultural and Social.

V. Graduate Advocates Report (Caitlin Weisz and Zahra Ebrahimi)

Caitlin Weisz and Zahra Ebrahimi explained their responsibilities and what kind of services they offer to graduate students.

VI. Production Director (Conor Rooney)

Conor Rooney explained the last activities and the following activities of the Productions office, an explanation on the use of University Café.

V.R.: Is important that senator get involve in the selection of the activities, the Social Concerns Committee is the most appropriate place to discuss which events GSO will pursue.

VII. SBU Spade (Lyl Tomlinson)

Lyl Tomlinson explained the purpose of SBU Spade, the role of Science Policy, and invited the senators to share with their departments the next activity that will be on October 6th, 5:30pm in 550A Life Sciences Building.

VII. Speaker Election (Tiffany Victor)

T.V. Now we will have to elect the Speaker of the Senate for the period 2016-2017, the Speaker of the Senate will chair the Senate meetings and also the Rules and Constitution Committee, the Academic Affairs Committee and the Distinguished Travel Awards Committee. Please nominate yourselves or a fellow senator.

Senator: I nominate Nicholas Marcella

Senator: I nominate Michael Lenmark

Senator: I nominate Luigi Pesce

T.V.: Then we have three candidates. Please, each of you come here and explain us why Senators have to elect you.

Luigi Pesce: There is a restriction with the number of hours we can work? Because I am an international student.

R.M.: I was the Speaker I am also F1 and I had no problems.

Candidates presented talked to the senators, senators voted, the candidate with more votes was Luigi Pesce Ibarra.

T.V.: Congratulations to our new Speaker, Luigi Pesce.

VIII. Committee Assignment (Ramiro Malaga)

R.M. Dear Senators, in case you didn't handed the petition form, please handed it in SAC 227 as soon as possible. Please be advice that is important to have the signature of the Chair, Graduate Director, or Graduate Coordinator of your Department. Also, please sign in the committees. I will email you the spreadsheet with the committees in Google Drive, please sign in at least one committee, our fellow grad students need us to represent them. Finally, note that some committees are anonymous, in that case send me an email indicating you want to become part of that committee. Thank you.

IX. Old Business: no old business.

VI. New Business: no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ramiro Malaga Ortega
Secretary