

Graduate Student Organization Senate Minutes

Tuesday October 11th, 2016

Wang Center 201, 5:30 pm

Luigi Pesce, GSO Speaker, chaired the Senate Meeting

I. Approval of agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes of September 13th, 2016: approved.

III. President's report (Vahideh Rasekhi)

V.R.: We have the **GSO NAGPS** Conference on November 3rd-6th. We will host the national conference of graduate and professional student conference. Graduate student leaders from all over the country will come to Stony Brook. On November 3rd, we will have a reception at UCafe, please come, socialize and network with students from different schools. On Friday and Saturday, November 4th and 5th, we will have the conference. On Friday, breakfast will be at 7:00am in Wang Center and around 4:30pm, we will take students to NYC. On Saturday, we will start again at 7am and at 7pm, we will have the 30th anniversary banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn. The fee for SBU students is \$10 for conference, and \$15 for the gala (banquet) and \$5 for the bus to the city. You will receive an email with all the information, please forward the email to students in your department and encourage them to attend the conference. We need volunteers for Friday or Saturday. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer and help us with the conference. During the conference there will be elections for the NAGPS board members, you can check the NAGPS website for the list of positions and their responsibilities. If you have any questions about the positions or elections, please contact me or Joe.

Senator: Can we bring a guest?

V.R.: Graduate students are priority for us since the funding comes from the activity fee students pay. However, sometimes we open our events to non-graduate students. We will let you know later if we are selling tickets to non-graduate students.

Senator: At what time people can go to the city?

V.R.: The plan is to go around 4:00-4:30pm.

Senator: At what time will they return?

V.R.: The plan is to return around midnight.

Senator: What time is the banquet?

V.R.: Saturday 7pm.

V.R.: The school is involved in the **HeForShe Initiative** and we want to include graduate students. HeForShe is about men standing for gender equality. Two universities in America are involved, one is Georgetown and the other is SBU. We are organizing an art contest with the theme of HeForShe. Our last year's photo contest was about research but this year we want to make it about gender equity. We are

expanding the competition and including undergraduate students. We would like to make this a campus-wide event. If you want to be involved in this project, please let me know.

L.P.: Please say your name and department, to record in the agenda.

Senator: My name is Gregor O'Rourke, from Economics. Is there a liaison or a committee that deals with issues with discrimination in clubs or organizations specifically? There was news about a change in policies of Stony Brook about the inclusion of LGBT students.

V.R.: Each club has a constitution, which has a section about discrimination. We don't have a committee that deals with discrimination issues in clubs.

L.P.: We have Office of affirmative action. There is a couple of lawyers and they are very helpful.

R.M.: The GSO committees, especially university wide committees is a place to discuss this kind of problems.

V.R.: You will receive a survey about the lawyer's service of the Legal Clinic. It is very important to collect data to evaluate the performance of the lawyer. Please forward to your departments and those students who have used legal clinic within the last two years can complete the survey.

V.R.: You will receive an email about the Distinguished Travel Award (DTA), this is the most prestigious award we have for students to present their research work in prestigious conferences. The amount is up to \$1500 dollar.

Application deadline: Friday November 18th. You will receive an email with all the information. Winners will be announced by December 15th. We need people to serve on the DTA committee, please email Ramiro if you want to be on this committee.

V.R.: Also we are trying to see if we can have a GSO Blackboard Page. If we post something on the Blackboard page, all students will receive an email. It will be possible for students to opt out; they will need to email us and we will manually remove them from the mailing list. This is not an ideal system but we are trying different option to reach out to graduate students. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

V.R.: Also I want to talk about the Food Pantry on campus, they give free nonperishable food items. It is located in Gray College, ITS Center, Room A09. Need SBU ID card but is confidential. This is their hours.

Tuesdays (7:30pm-10:30pm)

Wednesdays (3pm-6pm)

Fridays (12pm-2pm)

Senator: I want to mention that I work at the food pantry, it is for faculty, staff and students. It is very confidential. You can go as many times you need to.

V.R.: Please let students in your department know about the food pantry. They can use it if they need to. You can also donate nonperishable food items or money. They use money to buy food items from Costco.

Senator, Abraham from Genetics: Is there a program for reimbursements for gym?

V.R.: It is up to \$50, or 25%, whichever is less. Please keep in mind that all the reimbursement is on a first come, first served basis.

Senator, Delicia Kamins, Philosophy: I have a request about the bookstore. The idea of the bookstore is to go online. The bookstore will be closed. The option is to pay a shipping fee.

V.R.: I will invite Dr. Peter Baigent, VP of student affairs, or someone from his office to come to our November Senate Meeting. In the meantime, please ask people in your department how important it is for them to have a bookstore on campus.

IV. Vice President report (Tiffany Victor)

T.V.: Tomorrow you will see the in the newsletter you will see the activities.

Goal: boost graduate student participation in activities

Format of events: Every Thursdays (usually at Ucafe) from 7p.m

Incentives: Prizes, free food, discounted/free alcoholic drinks, usually \$3, beer or Long Island Ice tea.

Traditions: Formal event (Fall) Speaker series (Spring).

Senator involvement and Interaction:

- Bowling
- Night in PJ
- Weekend Brunch

We can do a weekend brunch in Port Jefferson, but you have to tell us what kind of events you want.

- Chocolate Affair
- Jazz Night
- Lio Sync Battle
- Speedy Ortiz

On October we will have many events:

1. GWISE Fall Social (October 13th)
2. Ladies Nighth karaoke at University Café (October 13th)
3. Re-animator at University Cafe (October 20th)
4. Halloween Party at University Café (October 27th)
5. NAGPS Conference (November 3-6th)

V. Treasurer report (Joseph Verardo)

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

1. Lab Rats Weekly Success and Failures by Biomedical Engineering \$250 Social and Cultural
2. Spooky Symposium by the Philosophy \$550 Social and Cultural
3. Developmental Psychology with Karen Adolph by Health and Rehab \$350 Speaker Series
4. Sensory modulations of stepping in Spinal Cord Injury with Keith Tansey by Health and Rehab \$350 Speaker Series
5. Provost Lecture Series Featuring Jack Dongarra by the IACS Student Association \$1200 Speaker Series
6. Guest Speaker County Executive Steve Bellone by the Commuter Student Association \$410.75 Speaker Series

Remaining funds

Speaker Series: \$8,856.65 of \$22,000

Social and Cultural: \$1,505 of \$10,000

VI. Secretary report (Ramiro Malaga Ortega)

So far we have 57 senators (between primary and alternate) and 37 departments. Compared with last year we still are lagging behind, last year we had 65 senators (between primary and alternate) and 39 departments.

We are missing the following departments:

1. Africana Studies
2. Electrical Computing & Eng.
3. Mechanical Eng.
4. Professional Development
5. Social Welfare
6. Technology & Society

We need to cover 111 positions:

1. So far we fill 85 (still 26 missing)
2. 4 GSO members-non senators
3. 11 primary senators w/o committee
4. 6 alternate senators w/o committee
5. Any GSO member can be in a committee.

VII. Old Business: no old business.

VIII New Business:

Senator Roger Sheck from Biochemistry. I am in the university research committee. We lost 44 million dollars in research money, we lost Faculty, senior and middle level, they took the faculty with them and we can expelled from the AIU.

A discussion about this topic lasted for 20 minutes and Lyl Tomlinson will gather all the information and present it in the next meeting.

Lyl Tomlinson: I will take the lead, I will information and present it in our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ramiro Malaga Ortega
Secretary