

Graduate Student Organization Senate Minutes

Tuesday November 8th, 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 October 11th, 2016: approved.

III. Todd Johnson: FSA Assistant Executive Director - Director of Operations: Eliminating campus bookstore

Stony Brook's took the decision to move to an online bookstore through Amazon was made after an extensive competitive bid process to find a vendor that would provide the most affordable and convenient service for our students.

This is in line with understood future trends:

- Sustained change in the industry nationwide
- Students have been shifting to online retail: Amazon already owned 40% of SBU course materials purchases
- Increased growth in textbook rentals through Amazon

Amazon received over 7,000 course material requisitions: 1,000 more than last year.

The Bookstore Liaison Office (BLO) - continued working with teaching faculty to facilitate adoption of course materials.

Outreach to faculty started in the spring to obtain course material information and begin adoption process promptly

- 3 residence hall mailrooms serviced resident students (4th Opening Soon)
- Over 33,000 packages were received in the first 3 weeks of the semester during "rush" period
- Mailrooms were open 7 days a week during rush to facilitate package pickup
- Very few issues besides extended waiting times

SBU have a new Amazon Campus Pick-up Point, it is located in lower level of Melville Library, serves as drop off, pick up and customer service location. This will allow students to:

- Students can order their course materials and other items directly to lockers
- Free one-day shipping for course materials
- Free one-day shipping on millions of items for Prime and Student Prime members

Also, SBU now have Amazon Lockers located in Level 2 of HSC

Additional, convenient and safe pickup location for students in East campus

Finally, the new East Side Dining, is a State-of-the-art facility, with 50,000 square-foot and Retail and Dine-in and Open concept kitchen, high end equipment. There will be diverse menus, authentic cuisine prepared in traditional equipment.

The dinner will start in November 14 and will be completely open by November 30.

President's report (Vahideh Rasekhi)

V.R.: Our NAGPS conference on November 3-6 was successful! We received a lot of compliments on how well organized we were. Everyone had a good time in Stony Brook. I thank the GSO EC members for all their work in putting such a great conference together. Special thanks goes to Joe for his hard work and efforts in planning and organizing the conference. I also thank the volunteers and all those who attended the conference.

Every year at the National Conference, NAGPS gives awards to a few organizations based on their services to the graduate student body and contribution to the mission of NAGPS. I am pleased to announce that this year, Stony Brook's GSO won two awards; one award for the Regional (Northeast) member of the year and one for the National member of the year. We are very proud of everything our GSO has been doing! I would like to mention that the selection of the award recipients is done by the NAGPS advisors who are not students but rather specialists who know how graduate student organizations work. After looking at different GSO's profile and work, they interview two people from each organization. Joe and Oscar were Stony Brook GSO's representatives to participate in the interview. Thank you Joe and Oscar for your great interview!

I am also pleased to announce that Joseph Verardo, our very own Treasurer, was elected for the VP position of NAGPS. It was a tough competition between Joe and another candidate who has been involved in NAGPS for 4 years, but Joe was the one who was voted to serve as the VP of NAGPS. We are proud of Joe for his accomplishments and we are looking forward to seeing him in higher positions.

At our next Senate Meeting on December 13th, we will have Bob Megna, the VP of Finance and Administration here with us. The EC has already met with Bob and his staff. We have talked about the Broad Based Fees and how students' opinion should be taken into consideration in the process of fee increase. They have asked us to put together a list of the services that we are paying for but we are not using and a list of services that we should have but we do not. It is very important that we work together in making these lists. Now, it is the right time to tell them what services we want and what services we don't want so that they can plan for next year accordingly. Please talk to students in your department and find out what type of services are useful and which ones are not.

I will be out of country during our December senate meeting. Please email Tiffany by December 1st your lists. Also, if you have specific questions for Bob Megna or if you want to see data on a fee or a service, please email your questions to Tiffany. It would be helpful to let Bob know our questions in advance so that he can come to the meeting prepared to answer our questions.

As you know the decision to increase fees is done during committee meetings. Please make sure that you attend your committees regularly and that you are an active committee member. When an important topic is discussed at the meeting, you should bring it up at the senate meeting to hear your colleague's opinions. Please take your role in the committees very seriously and don't hesitate to voice your opinion when necessary.

We will have our third annual speaker series event in April. Last year, we invited Trevor Noah, the event was successful and we had more than 3000 people in the arena. Right now, we are soliciting names for the speaker, please talk with people in your department and tell us who you want us to bring to campus. The speaker should appeal to different population: to graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty, staff, and administration. Please email your suggestions to me by the end of December. After we have a list of speakers, we will have the USG agent to get a quote on each individual. Based on the speaker's availability and price, we will make the final decision. We would like to have 2-3 senators to be involved in planning the speaker series event and act as a liaison between the senators and EC. Those of you who are interested in being involved in this year's speaker series event, please email me.

IV. Vice President report (Tiffany Victor)

T.V.: On November 10, 8pm we will have Game Night in the U cafe. On November 17, 8pm we will host S'mores indoors, at U Café. Please save the dates for:

- Senator Brunch – November 20, Sac Ballroom B 10:30 a.m to 1 p.m
- Senator Holiday Party – December 13, Location & time: TBA

V. Treasurer report (Joseph Verardo)

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

1. Art History Lecture Series, October 2nd 6PM to 8PM, \$300, Speaker Series
2. MFA Open Studios, Nassau Hall, \$700, Social and Cultural
3. GWISE Annual Mixer, November 28 5pm-8pm, \$500, Social and Cultural
4. Music and Autism, 11/20 2pm Staller Center, \$800, Social and Cultural
5. Computer Science Presents Cspeakeasy, By Weekly 12pm to 1pm starting Tuesday 11/15, \$1200 per year, Social and Cultural
6. Commuter Student Association, 11/16 11am to 2pm, \$1200, Social and Cultural

Remaining funds

Speaker Series: \$10,356.65 of \$22,000

Social and Cultural: \$5,905 of \$10,000

VI. Lyl Tomlinson Report on Research

Stony Brook is member of the Association of American Universities, that is a:

- International Organization of 62 top tier research universities with a strong interest in research and education.
- List of members includes: Brandeis, Cornell, Harvard, NYU and Stony Brook
- In 2004, 74% of Nobel Prize winners generally came from AAU institutions account for 58% of research grants and contracts in the U.S.
- Membership is by invite only and important qualities include: faculty awards, citations, and research spending

Recently, Stony Brook loss:

Over \$90 million dollars less in federal research funding (a more than 80% loss in funding), for three reasons: during 2009-2010 we received the stimulus package and was only temporal, and because

researchers leaving the University with grant money. Also, NIH reduced funding 2011 NIH Budget Slashed by \$117 million (affects competing grants disproportionately). Finally, over \$25.3 million dollar less in research funding from State and Local sources (about a 73% loss in funding).

Currently, more than half (58%) of the researchers' funding gets taken by the university for:

- Dues to President's Office
- Dues to Provost's Office
- Maintenance and Rent
- Fund Departments and Centers
- Benefits for Students

We have to focus in career opportunities for students. This will be a more direct approach.

Vice President's Office: GSO can create a 5 year plan with career advancement activities for submission to the Grad School (and work with them to garner funding through other offices and outlets)

Humanities pays also the student activity fees and is not receiving all the benefits for this.

VII. Secretary report (Ramiro Malaga Ortega)

Only to remind you to participate in the DTA committee, soon will be the meetings to choose the winners of the Fall 2016 DTA.

Next meeting we will serve Indian food.

VIII. Old Business: no old business.

XIX New Business: no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ramiro Malaga Ortega
Secretary