

Graduate Student Organization Senate Minutes

Tuesday December 13th, 2016

Wang Center 201, 5:30 pm

Tiffany, GSO Vice President, chaired the Senate Meeting

I. Approval of agenda: approved.

II. Approval of minutes of November 8th, 2016: approved.

III. Vice President's report (Tiffany)

T.V.: Dear senators, this is the report for the semester.:

Senators expectations:

- Committee meeting minutes in Senator's folder
- Meeting with department twice a semester
- Update department on issues from senate meeting as deemed necessary
- Orientation in Fall 2017

Updates on Fees & Services Concerns (will increase from \$740.50 to \$813.00)

- Technology fee
- Transportation fee
- College fee
- Academic Excellence
- We will require a clear explanation of where fees are spent. Some of them must not be applied like some to students who are not physically here on campus.

Graduate student satisfaction survey & Advocacy. During the semester GSO was engaged in:

- Departmental issues
- Social concerns
- Housing
- Services offered by SBU
- Professional development & training

Student engagement & Programming. During the semester we hosted the following activities:

- Karaoke
- Jazz Nights
- Games night
- S'mores Indoors
- Chocolate Fountain event
- Halloween Party
- Fall Kick off

- Concert
- Senator Brunch
- Holiday Party

For the next semester we will host the following activities:

- Fees & services meeting (February)
- 3MT (March)
- Speaker event (April)
- Formal event (April)

IV. Treasurer report (Joseph Verardo)

J.V. The only following activity was approved on the last Budget Committee:

1. Hidden Figures Showing Trip by GWISE, \$310, Social and Cultural

The total allocated funds are:

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

Social and Cultural: \$6,215 of \$10,000

J.V. Activity Fee

Vote on passing a resolution to equalize the students activity fee for both part-time and full-time graduate students, and to put this resolution equalizing the graduate student activity fee up to a vote by the graduate student body. This is to both maintain, fund, and expand equal reimbursement opportunities and services for both part-time and full-time graduate students at Stony Brook University.

J.V. Calendar Committee Update: Proposed changes to the calendar year. Gathered feedback from Senators.

V. Speaker Report (Luigi Pesce)

Distinguished Travel Award (DTA)

- Winners were selected by anonymous committee.
- 8 Winners in total
- 7 Full winners
- 1 Additional honorarium winner (partial funding)
- On December 15th emails will be sent
- We report that the potential conflicts of interest were avoided by the committee. To do that, if a member was from the same department of the applicant, the member have no access to any information of the applicant.

Legal Clinic

- A survey was sent to graduate students
- The responses were mixed, some in favor others not
- Please senators, encourage students to attend, and to complete the survey

VII. Lyl Tomlinson (Report on Stony Brook University's Research Standing, Funding, and what do we do as students)

- Over \$90 million dollars less in federal research funding (a more than 80% loss in funding)
- What happened?
 - 2009-2010 Received Stimulus Package
 - Researchers leaving the University with Grant Money
 - NIH reduced funding
- Career opportunities are difficult because each time there are more PhDs awarded than faculty positions.
 - Advocacy: ASBMB, FASEB, NIH, SFN, etc.
 - Enhancing Career Opportunities, applying for a 1 year-pilot (\$30K-\$50K)(focused on STEM)
 - Burroughs Wellcome Fund (focused on STEM)

VII. Secretary report (Ramiro Malaga Ortega)

Food next time will be Tai or Chinese.

VIII. Old Business: no old business.

XIX. New Business:

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ramiro Malaga Ortega
Secretary