

Graduate Student Organization
Senate Minutes
March 7th, 2017
Wang Center Chapel, 5:30 pm-7:00 pm

Luigi Pesce, GSO Senate Speaker, chaired the Senate Meeting

I. Approval of agenda: approved.

Luigi: There are a couple of changes, a couple of cancellations.
The agenda with modification was approved.

II. Approval of minutes of February 7th, 2017: approved.

L.P. made the motion to approved the minutes, senators second the motion and the motion was approved.

III. Karen Wishnia: GSO-GSEU relations

March 3, 2017: Ratification vote for GSEU's new contract

Negotiated

- Salary increase: 2% per year
- NO INCREASE IN HEALTHCARE COSTS
- Fund increases: 2% per year
 - Downstate Location Fund
 - Doctoral Recruitment and Retention Fund
 - College Recruitment and Retention Fund
 - Professional Development Fund
 - Fee Mitigation Fund
- Work-Life Services Program: 2% increase per year
- Dependent Care Advantage Account (Child Care): \$600 per enrollee per year

Negotiated

- New Side Letter – Sample Letter of Appointment (each TA and GA receives a uniform letter of appointment every year)
- New Side Letter – Labor-Management Funds Extension (extends the time to utilize unspent fund monies for nine months beyond expiration of contract through March 2020)
- New Side Letter – Compensation Reopener (enables GSEU conditionally to reopen negotiations if any other union negotiates with the state a salary increase exceeding 2% for any of the three years)

Next open meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28 // 1-2 PM // SAC 304

IV. Meredith Walker: MBA Association Spring Formal Event

When:

- April 6th, 2017 from
- 7 PM to 11 PM
- Where:
- Watermill Caterers, Smithtown, NY
- What:
- An evening of networking, dinner, and dancing
- Who:
- Graduate Students, Alumni, Professors, and Faculty

Details:

- Networking with Classmates, Alumni, and Colleagues
- 1 Hour Cocktail Hour
- Wine & Beer Included
- Sit Down Dinner
- Dancing
- "Photobooth"
- Raffle baskets (over 20)
- 50/50 Raffles
- Making Memories with Friends

V. President's Report (Vahideh Rasekhi)

1. **Legislative Action Day in DC March 11th-14th.** Next week we will go to DC to attend the NAGPS Legislative Action Day. We will taking a few of our graduate students with us. As usual, we will be meeting with the chief of staff of our senators and congressmen. President Stanley will also be in DC next Monday and Tuesday. He has agreed to take Joe and I to his meetings with Senator Schumer, Senator Gilibrand, Congressman Zeldin, and Congressman King. We will be advocating for immigration reform, funding for graduate education, and graduate student debts and loans.
2. **Three Minute Thesis competition** on Friday, March 31 from 9:30am-2:00pm in Wang Center. We have about 23 students who have RSVP-ed. They are from different disciplines. The criteria for choosing participants is that they should be G5. All of the presenters will go through coaching sessions at the the Alda Center. The Alumni Association is sponsoring our prizes: the first place winner will receive \$500, the second place \$300, and the third place \$100. We also have a people's choice award (\$100); the audience will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite presenter. For more information about the event, please visit our website
3. **Speaker Series on April 21.** Last year our invited speaker was Trevor Noah. This year's event will be on Friday, April 21. Please save the date. We have been contacting different potential speakers. there are a lot of speakers we would like to invite to our campus but unfortunately we can't afford them. As of now, we don't have a confirmed speaker. As soon as we make a deal with a speaker and sign the contract, we will let you know. The

ticket price will be probably like last year: \$5 for stand and \$20 for floor. However, the price of the ticket depends on the speaker's fee.

4. **Debriefing the meeting with Bob Megna**, the VP of Finance and Administration. Please tell your departments about this meeting, is very important for our students to attend the meeting to express their concerns and ask questions.

Zahra Ebrahimi: Do we have minutes?

J.V.: One student took notes, we will send it to senators.

Bertus Jordaan: There are some SUNY regulations that SBU have to follow, for example, the reason that explains why the fees for undergraduates and graduate students are the same is a SUNY regulation.

Vahideh: We have to follow some SUNY regulations.

Vasiliy: Some of the fees are Health Service fee, how many of you ever used this service? Some use for CAPS.

Bertus: That is a SUNY regulation (every student must have access to health service on campus).

Abraham Kohrman: Who uses the health service ten times a year? Because the copay of the insurance of that 10 times will be smaller than the health service fee.

5. **Tax Clinic Sprintax**: Please let international students in your department know about our online tax filing tool (Sprintax). We also have our regular tax clinic, please check the dates of the clinic on the website.
6. **EC Elections for the next year**. Those of you who are not senators, please make sure to sign in so that you can run for a EC position. On April 7th, we will have the candidates presenting their platform. Please pay attention to their speeches and vote for people not based on their words but based on what have they done .
7. **Art Competition with the theme of Gender Equality**: We are hosting our second annual art contest, with the theme of gender equality. We are going to announce the competition soon.

VI. Treasurer report (Joseph Verardo)

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

1. MFA Speaker Series; TBA in May; 50 people; \$369; Speaker Series.
2. Health and Rehab: Health Disparities Concepts, Measurement and policy; March 1st; 100 people; \$369; Speaker Series.
3. Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies :State of the Field Conference; April 7th; 100 people; Speaker Series.
4. History: Latin American and Caribbean studies Center Graduate Student Conference; April 22; 20+; 369 people; Speaker Series.
5. GWISE Poster Exhibition; March 3rd; 70 people; \$700; Social and Cultural.
6. Health and Rehab: Healing Voices; March 8th; 100 people; \$210; Social and Cultural.
7. History Library Trip; April 15th; 30 people; \$285; Social and Cultural.
8. Piano Project 2017; March 28th; 70 people; \$607.98; Social and Cultural.
9. Earth Day Advocacy Trip to Washington DC; April 22nd; 50 people; \$930; Miscellaneous Grants.

Remaining Funds:

Speaker Series: \$0.00

Social and Cultural: \$0.00

Update on Budget Lines: Amounts Used

RAP: \$50,170 of \$110,000

Recreation: \$6,345 of \$10,000

IDUC: \$364.93 of \$2500

Seminar/Workshop Travel: \$779 of \$1,500

VII. Secretary Report (Ramiro Malaga)

R.M. The election information is as follows:

Important dates:

- March 7: Informative Session
- March 31: Deadline to run (Friday 5pm)
- April 4: Candidates speech
- April 24-28: Elections in Solar
- After commencement : GSO 2017-2018 Executive Committee starts

Who can run

- Full time graduate student
- Paying GSO fee
- At least in second semester
- GPA ≥ 3.0
- Come from a department with at least one active senator before elections
- At least attend two senate meeting before election week

What are the duties:

- http://sbgso.org/images/Officers_duties.pdf
- We expect to devote a minimum of 15 h/week from the first day to the last.
- Lot of things to do during the summer
- Winter less busy

What are the compensations?

- To represent and serve our the graduate student body
- Experience
- Annual compensation of \$5,500 (P, T) and \$4,500 (VP, S)

How to run?

- 200 words statement
- 25 supporting signatures
- Format
http://sbgso.org/images/Elections_2017-2018/Officer_Elections_2017-2018.docx

is:

- Handed it in GSO office: SAC 227 before Friday March 31st 5:30 pm

Where are the rules?

- Constitution: <http://sbgso.org/images/Constitution2016.doc>
- Elections bylaws:
http://www.sbgso.org/images/PDFFORMS/Election_Bylaws_20170209.docx.pdf
- Election Committee: Anything not stated in the Constitution or Election Bylaws will be decided by the Election Committee

VIII. Lyl Tomlinson: Earth Day Bus trip event

Earth Day Bus trip event

April 22, 2017, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Zoo and FONZ will commemorate Earth Day with green-themed activities. Get gardening tips from expert horticulturists, take a tour of the Zoo's green facilities, attend special demonstrations, and more. Take a ride on the sustainable side, and join the Zoo in its inaugural Bike to the Zoo event this Earth Day!

April 22nd BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC FOR "EARTH DAY" FROM 5 AM – 11 PM
Available for Purchase on EVENTBRITE \$20 EACH (110 seats--LINK COMING SOON)

IX. Speaker Report (Luigi Pesce)

Miscellaneous Information

- Legal Clinic : Survey
- Tax Clinic: Schedule
- DTA: Email was sent
- Religious groups:

X. Old Business: no old business.

XI. New Business: no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Ramiro Malaga Ortega
Secretary