

Graduate Student Organization
Senate Minutes
April 4th, 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 March 7th, 2017: approved.

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

III. President's Report (Vahideh Rasekhi)

Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition

Last Friday, March 31, the GSO hosted the 3MT competition in Wang Center from 9:30am to 2:00pm in Wang Center. We had 15 graduate students who participated. 9 people from round 1 moved onto round 2, and out of the 9 presenters we had 4 winners:

1st Place: Zoya Vallari, Physics & Astronomy (\$500)

2nd Place: Rajapillai Pillai, Neuroscience (\$300)

3rd Place: Elizabeth Trimmer, Cognitive Science & Psychology (\$100)

And the People's Choice Winners were:

Pratik Kumar: Chemistry (\$100)

Zoya Vallari: Physics & Astronomy (\$100)

Elizabeth Trimmer: Cognitive Science & Psychology (\$100)

The prizes were sponsored by the Alumni Association office.

Speaker Series Event on April 21

Last year we invited Trevor Noah and we had about 3000 people at the IFCU arena. This year, we invited Dr. Sanjay Gupta, a neurosurgeon and an Emmy Award-winning Chief Medical and correspondent in CNN. The event is open to all Stony Brook members: undergrad, grad, faculty, and staff. The ticket price for students: \$10 for floor and \$5 for stand. The ticket price for non students is \$20.

For ticket reservations, please visit: tinyurl.com/sanjayguptaticketreservation

Art Contest with the theme of Gender Equality

As you already know, we are hosting our second annual art contest. Last year's theme was 'research' and this year's theme is 'gender equality'. This year, the art contest is open to undergraduate and graduate students and post docs. Please consider submitting an artwork and encourage your friends to do so! The deadline for submission is April 28th and all the contest rules are posted on the GSO website. We have a panel of judges who will select the top 10 pieces. The selected artwork will be displayed in SAC.

IV. Vice President's Report (Vasily Safin)

Social Concerns Committee Meeting

- Graduate Student Survey
- Minimizing redundancy
- Collecting information we can act on

Senator Social Event

1. Brunch
2. Bowling Night
3. Happy hour at The Bench
4. Coffee and bagels in the GSO office

We will have a new Online Forum for Graduate Students

<https://www.reddit.com/r/sbugradstudents/>

V. Treasurer's report (Joseph Verardo)

J.V.: For the next elections the budget committee will propose the increase in the activity fee by \$10.

Bertus Jordaan: What you propose to do with this increase?

J.V.: This fee funds GSO's financial services, RAP, clubs, speaker series and social and cultural funding, and GSO events. Unlike most fees, the student activity fee is the only fee where you can get money back. If the fee increase passes, students will be able to receive \$500 towards their RAP conference reimbursement. It is currently \$350 per individual. A \$10 per person increase will allow students to get \$150 additionally reimbursed. We will also be increasing gym reimbursements for students from \$50 to \$75. Additionally, increases in the allocated funds to clubs and departments will be increased.

L.P.: Please serve yourself the food.

Steven Jaret: There si no budget approval?

JV: No, because nothing new was approved.

VI. Speaker's Report (Luigi Pesce)

Legal Clinic:

The results of the survey about the Legal clinic are mixed, there are many good reviews but also some not good reviews. We will evaluate if we will continue with the same lawyer.

25% Strongly Agree the service is good

42% Agree

17% Neither agree nor disagree

16% Disagree or Strongly disagree

Advocacy for easier access of graduate students to religious groups and organizations

DTA.

DTA applications for this semester will open soon. The deadline will be April 15th.

VII. Lyl Tomilson on Earth Day:

On April 22 we have the March for Science in Washington DC. Buses will depart from Administration Parking Garage at 4:30am and will come back at 11pm.

Tickets will cost \$20.

VIII. Secretary's Report (Ramiro Malaga)

R.M. I want to talk about something really important, on March 8 the students of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences received the news that their program will be shut down. They will lose their stipend and funding. There are 17 PhD students involved.

The date is very bad, in March 8 you cannot apply to any other school or another program inside SBU, because admissions are closed. This is a symptom that the administration is using students as a variable of adjustment. Camilo can explain what happened in the University Senate Yesterday.

Camilo Rubbini: I am Camilo from Economics and I attend the University wide Senate as representative of GSO. On March 6th, two days before these cuts to HRS were announced, the university Senate that some cuts will be applied, they didn't specify how will be these cuts. In that meeting the representative of the Union, specifically asked if these imply that people will be laid off. They said no. Only two days after, students in HRS were communicated that immediately the end of the semester they will lose their tuition and stipend. For International Students this means to leave the country in two weeks because they will lose their legal status. As Ramiro said, this is important, this is not only affect students in this particular program. If cuts are to be made, and we don't speak up, next time other departments will be affected. We need to be very vigilant and follow the negotiations the students of this department are doing and we have to be prepared to make a statement.

Anna Sitzmann: Who speak in the senate?

Camilo Rubbini: Was the representative of the Union, representing the faculty. Yesterday I asked about this, and they were not clear, they said that there are negotiations.

Senator: The problem is that Dean Kaushansky is not only the Dean of Medical School but also the Vice President of Health Sciences.

Bertus Jordaan: Who is the senator of HRS?

Camilo Rubbini: Luigi is from HRS but not the senator.

Luigi Pesce: Chris Mike is the senator.

Chris Mike: We didn't receive any written communication, they are not explained why this 10 years old program is scrapped.

Senator: We see this in the past. Some programs have one foot in the School of Medicine and the other in Graduate School. This is very unfortunate.

Mariola: There is zero considerations to students.

Abraham: They advertise admissions for new students?

Chris Mike: Yes, but were cancelled.

Senator: We have to write a resolution to ask for the separation of the roles of Vice President of Health Sciences and dean of Medical School.

Camilo Rubbini: Does the EC Board has a position about this topic?

Vahideh Rasekhi: We meet with the President the dean of Grad School and we express or preoccupation about this problem, we are waiting for the meeting of the students of HRS with Dean Kaushansky before to decide how to proceed.

VII. GSO Elections Committee Chair: Candidate's Speeches for GSO Elections (David Purificato)

GSO Elections Committee Chair:

David Purificato

GSO Elections Committee Members:

1. David Purificato
2. Steven Jaret
3. Camillia Monestime
4. Rebecca Siford
5. Gregory Woody

The candidates running are:

For President:

1. Vasiliy Safin, PhD student in the Department of Psychology
2. Ramiro A. Malaga Ortega, PhD student in the Department of Economics

For Vice President:

1. Jinelle Wint, PhD student in the Department of Molecular Cellular Biology

For Secretary

1. Luigi Pesce Ibarra, PhD student in the department of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

For Treasurer

Nobody run. Following the GSO Constitution, if there a position vacant, the President can propose a candidate to the Senate, if this ratification is not possible, the President elect can choose a valid candidate as treasurer until Senate ratification.

The candidates made their speeches followed for a round of questions, candidates will leave the room after this in order the Senate can discuss (no minutes were taken at this point because the Secretary is one of the candidates and was not present all the time.).

X. Old Business: no old business.

XI. New Business: no new business.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Ramiro Malaga Ortega

Secretary