

Senate Meeting Minutes

April 12th

Approval of the Agenda

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R: We are starting with the President's report.

V: Hello everyone. Thanks for coming. First, I want to give you an update on the NAGPS conference. We have the following schedule:

- Reception on Friday, April 15th at 6:30pm at UCafe
- Conference on Saturday, April 16th in Wang Center
- Regional Eboard meeting on Sunday, April 17th

The conference is free for Stony Brook University. But for planning purposes, please RSVP by emailing Ran if you want to attend the reception and/or the conference. Only a few people have RSVP-ed so far. Why do we have such a low attendance?

Student: I never received any email about it. And I don't know if there's free food. I guess that's the reason.

We have already sent out several emails, and it is posted on our website and FB page. Your department senators should forward you the emails. When it says that there will food, it implies that it is free food. We will send you another reminder tonight about the event along with the program and all the details.

As you know we are hosting Trevor Noah on Friday, April 29th at Island Federal Credit Arena. The doors open at 7pm and event starts at 8pm. There will be an after party at UCafe. Right now, we have about 300 graduate students who have filled out the ticket reservation form. I am aware that you are not happy that we didn't tell you about the speaker earlier. It was because we couldn't talk about the speaker due to confidentiality issue. We could only announce it after everything was finalized. In Fall, we should discuss whether we should have a committee for the speaker event and whether we should decide how much money should be spent on the event. This year's budget is as follows:

- \$40,000 in the speaker line
- \$26,000 Ticket sale revenue
- \$13,000 President's office
- \$13,000 Provost's office
- \$5,000 USG
- \$5,000 Alumni Association Office (\$3500 donation and \$1500 from selling 75 tickets to alumni)
- \$4,000 Productions
- \$3,000 Dean Kaushansky, Dean of Medical School (we will give them 250 tickets to sell)
- \$2,500 Advancement office

Total: \$111,500

Total money raised: \$41,500

So as you see, we are not going to take any money from any of the lines. We are trying to build partnership with all the offices on campus. If we have a successful event this year, they will give us more money next year.

If you would like to volunteer and help us during the NAGPS conference and the Trevor Noah event, please send me an email.

This Thursday, the budget committee is meeting to write next year's budget. If you have any suggestions about moving money from one line to another for this year and next year please email Joe tomorrow. The budget committee will consider your suggestions and comments.

We are going to have EC election from April 25-29th on Solar. This year, there will be Mandatory Student Activity Fee Referendum, in accordance with the SUNY Chancellor's Guidelines. Please make sure students in your department understand where their activity fee goes and what it is spent on. You pay \$70 per year and in return you get \$350 for RAP, \$1500 for DTA, you get department allocation, club allocation, and so on.

Senator: For the budget, can we have them online?

V: Yes, all the budget information should be online.

It was suggested that we should videotape candidates' speeches and make them public for all the students. I would like to request next year's election committee to work on this and find out if there is any legality involved in this. Whether the candidates need to sign the consent form, whether it should be mandatory or voluntary, whether it should be individual video or filming the speeches during the senate meeting. The answer to all of these should be clear and this should be added to the election bylaws.

Joe and I attended the NAGPS Advocacy Summit and Legislative Action Days in DC, March 12-15th. We met with Senator Gillibrand, Congressman Zeldin, Congressman King, Congressman Israel, and Congresswoman Rice. We advocated for three things: funding increase, graduate student loans and debts, and domestic renewal of F-1 visas for international students.

On March 23, we had Graduate Students Broad Based Fee Consultation Meeting. As you know next year, we have fee increase: \$8 for CAPS, \$2.50 for transportation, and \$12 for technology per semester. Joe and I attended the meeting. We had 4 people from the GSEU and there was another student. We expressed our concern and dissatisfaction with the fee increase. We were told that the fee increase was discussed at the meetings during semester while students were present at the meeting. I don't know if our representatives had attended the meeting when they had discussed fee increase. It is very important that you attend university committees and be actively involved.

We are having the grant writing workshop On April 26th, from 1:00-2:30pm in SAC 305. There will be lunch. We are going to have Nancy Goroff (Prof. in the Department of Chemistry & Associate Provost, IREP) and Barbara Frank (Prof in the Department of Art). It's open to all

graduate students and postdocs, and they will focus on where to look for funding, writing persuasively, and organizing proposal. We will send you an email about this workshop with flyer tomorrow. Please distribute it in your department.

We have a Photo Contest, You can submit up to 2 photos. Deadline is Sunday, May 1 at 12pm. The winning photographer will receive an iPad. The theme is 'what inspires you?', 'tell us about what you do?'

We had very successful tax clinic this year. We had about 30-40 people in each session. Our last tax clinic was on Monday. But students can still use the Sprintax to file their taxes online.

We will have the next Senate meeting on May 3rd. I would like us to have a discussion and hear your feedback and suggestions. I have three specific things in mind: the length of our meeting, the order of presentation, and how we can work together to accomplish our goals. We will talk about these next month. I would also like to hear any other comments and suggestions you might have.

Senator: Are we going to pay the registration fee if students want to attend the conference?

V: No, that's why we asked you to email Ran for registration. We didn't ask you to register online. This conference is free to Stony Brook students.

R: Now, we are going to have our guest speaker: Elisabeth Pankl from the academic engagement at SBU Libraries.

Elisabeth: Hi everyone, it's nice to have the chance speak here. The Academic Engagement at SBU Libraries can provide instruction for the undergraduate courses that you teach. Here's the Request Form:

https://stonybrookuniversity.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_07LMfzO1O6RqSfH

We can design an instruction session that is tailored to the specific research papers and projects your students need to complete in any disciplinary area.

You can place materials on Reserve for your students:

<http://library.stonybrook.edu/services/course-reserves/>

We offer specialized workshops for tools and skills, including topics such as EndNote, Zotero, Systematic Reviews, Bioinformatics, Literature Reviews

<http://library.stonybrook.edu/events/>

You can request materials for your research by contacting your liaison:

<http://guides.library.stonybrook.edu/profiles>

Also, we offer information and services on publishing in open access journals and assistance with copyright questions:

<http://library.stonybrook.edu/scholarly-communication/>

We also offer workshops on publication strategies and venues:

<http://library.stonybrook.edu/events/>

Please take advantage of the research and collections help offered by your specific liaison. Take advantage of the research assistance we can provide you as an instructor. Take advantage of

our workshops on new skills and tools. Don't hesitate to ask for something if you need it! If you have any question, please feel free to contact Lis Pankl at: elisabeth.pankl@stonybrook.edu

R: Now, we are going to Vote on proposal to increase the incoming EC and Production's stipend.

V: Today, we will be voting on three independent things.

- Eliminating the Editor position
 - The position pays \$1,500
 - It's only for making the Survival Guide
 - Reason for this proposal: we don't need this position anymore! Vahideh and the graduate student advocates have already made a survival guide this year that can be used every year. If any changes need to be made to the file, the EC can easily update the file.
- Eliminating the Media Relation position
 - The position pays \$4,500.
 - Duties: making flyers, newsletter, promoting events
 - Reasons for this proposal: It is not an independent position. Works with the EC, Productions, and interns. We give them all the materials and they put them together. Since we are giving them all the content, we can easily put them together and make newsletters and flyers. It is not a necessary position for the function of GSO.
- Increasing the incoming EC and Productions' stipend, each \$1000
 - Current stipend:
 - § President and Treasurer: \$5,500
 - § Vice-President, Secretary, and Productions: \$4,500
 - § Speaker: \$4,000
 - Proposed stipend increase:
 - § President and Treasurer: \$6,500
 - § Vice-President, Secretary, and Productions: \$5,500
 - § Speaker: \$5,000
 - Reasons for this proposal:
 - § The New York's Governor has been advocating increasing the minimum wage to \$15.
 - § Our Office Manager is paid \$15,700 (he recently got \$700 increase mandated by FSA due to the minimum wage increase). He is currently paid \$16.75 per hour.
 - § The EC's current stipend is \$4.6 and \$5.7 per hour for the average of 20-hour work per week.
 - § The EC's stipend has not changed at least for the last 4 years.
 - § The EC's current stipend is about 6.3% of the GSO budget. After the proposed increase, the stipend will be only 7.6% of the GSO budget.
 - § GSO is charged by FSA an amount of \$38,100 a year (8.4% of GSO budget) for administrative services.

Vote result:

- Eliminating the Editor position passes
- Eliminating the Media Relation position doesn't pass
- Increasing the incoming EC and Productions' stipend doesn't pass

2016-2017 EC Election Candidates Speech

Treasurer's Report

Adjourn