

Senate Meeting Minutes

Feb 9th

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

R: First, we have Steven Jaret from Rules and Constitution Committee, and we will vote on the proposed changes to the Constitution.

Vote on Election Rules and Regulations proposed changes

Current language regarding elections in the Constitution

Current language regarding elections in the By Laws

Proposed changes to Constitution

Proposed changes to the By Laws

All proposed changes to the Constitution approved except item No.11.

(Voting Item 11 -- Executive Committee Elections)

Flyers and posters -- all candidates must follow university rules regarding where flyers and posters are allowed. No campaign flyers/posters are allowed to be posted on individual room doors within residence halls or on student offices (even if this is posted by the occupant of the room).

Space for advertisements on the GSO office door or GSO bulletin board will be given to all candidates equally.

R: Thank you Steven. Next is the President's report.

V: Thank you Steven. What happened in the last half an hour took the committee the whole semester to discuss and write up the proposed changes. I am very grateful to Steven and the committee for working on this. By the end of this meeting, we will know that which changes are approved and which ones are not.

About DTA winners: Thanks to the DTA committee, we have 8 winners from different departments. The winners info will be posted on the website. We had over 40 applications and 8 of them were selected.

The EC election will take place in April. We will inform you about the timeline of election by the end of March. We will also post it on our website and FB. If you know anyone who has leadership skills, please encourage them to run for the office. We will have a meeting with the candidates to make sure that they know about the responsibilities and duties of each officer.

About Tax: the tax clinic will start on Feb 19th, and all the dates will be posted on our website and FB page. We are also offering an online tax filing tool for non-residents, it is called Sprintax. You have already received information about Sprintax. You need to pay \$2 for Federal

tax and \$20.95 for State tax. Linrui will send you another email about it tomorrow, so you can forward it to your department. They have 24/7 technical support online. If you have any technical problems, you can contact them. This is our first time to use Sprintax, so please give us feedback about how friendly it is. Your comments and feedback will help us to improve it for next year. We will also have two tax workshops. One for Indian and one for Chinese students. If there is demand, we will offer more workshops.

Senator: I used the Sprintax, and when I checked out the total amount is around \$28.

V: Send me an email with all the details and I will follow up on it. I will make sure that you will get your money back.

Senator: There's free software to help you on your tax on the Internet.

V: Yes, but it's for the residents.

V: About the NAGPS Regional Conference: it will be from April 15th-17th. On April 15th, people will arrive Stony Brook. We will take them to UCafe for entertainment, please come and socialize with students who will be visiting our school. The conference day is on April 16th in Wang Center. After we have the program finalized, we will share it with you and we will let you know how you can get involved.

V: In Ucafe, the bar is open. There will be different kinds of beer and wine, and food menu. It costs campus dining about \$500 for each event so in order to not to lose money, they need to sell food and alcohol. It's important to have more students attend the events. Please come to events whenever you have time and bring your friends. Let people know that the bar is open. As usual, we have Jazz nights every Wednesday. This Thursday, we will have Karaoke. All the event dates are posted on the website.

V: As usual, we have legal clinic and you can check the dates on website.

Senator: Do we have a contract with the lawyer?

V: Yes, we do.

Senator: Can you change the lawyer?

V: Yes, we can change the lawyer but why? Please send me email about your concerns and I will follow up on it.

R: Next is the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's report

Approved

R: Now, we have John Martin to talk about the Union and GQA.

John: Hi, I'm John Martin, and I talked about GQA last semester. Today, I'm here to talk as the representative of Graduate Student Employee Union, and please give a quick show that how many in this room are TA, GA, RA. A lot of you! Great! You are going to have union to present you. I'm going to talk about one big thing: the GSEU are heard the contract will be end in this semester, which is July, which means we are going to negotiation. We will ask people what they want in their contract with their payment and benefits. More important, what happens right now, is that we push people to sign in. Thus, we can push the transaction where GSEU are in. For

now, we don't have the greatest power to negotiate with the NY state, since we just have 19% people signed.

Senator: In my first semester, I was told that if I were not joining in the union, I would get fired. And then I talked to my employer and they told me that it never happen.

John: That should be RA union, which is different from the GSEU. We will have an open meeting on next Thursday for the RA union, so they will come to talk to me and to see what changes should they make to prevent these terrible things happen. So GSEU is different from RA union and GSEU is represent all the TAs, RAs and Gas. So they are different types of union with different rules and mode. And you have any question on me, we have the sign-in to be part of the team on 24th and 26th. Also there're some sheets with our information, you can pick it up over there. Thanks!

Adjourn