

# Senate Meeting Minutes

## December 8th

Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Minutes

R: First, we have a presentation from Barbara Hakimi from Alumni Association.

Barbara: Hi everyone, I am Barbara Hakimi. I'm here to introduce you the Alumni Association. I intend to create the alumni community as well as working with GSO and USG, and engaging students to reach the gap between the students and alumni. We feel the need to do that. When students graduated, they didn't know about how the alumni can help them. So building the relationship between them is an important job for alumni association. The stronger the relationship between the alumni and alumni association, the more potential we act for alumni. Alumni really make differences for university. One of my important duties is to create the stony brook young alumni engagement association. The goal of this association is to give the current students and other students the opportunity to engage and interact the university. Old alumni can help young alumni with their career and social. And also we are going to develop program for young students in alumni and they share the area of interests. So the alumni association provides you the opportunity of networking with other alumni, volunteer opportunity on campus, we also have job fairs and career workshops, and we just want to share the last memory of university. And I want to ask tonight, if anyone has suggestion for us, any question in terms of alumni association, I am happy to answer.

Senator: Is the association only open to USG and GSO leadership or it open to everyone?

Barbara: It's now open to anyone. We will have community to working with people so that everyone can join us.

Senator: Is the job fair separate from the one career center hold?

Barbara: We do cooperate with career center.

V: The alumni association is a great association on campus, they organize a lot of events and bring alumni to our campus. But now what's missing is the connection between the current students, which is us, and alumni. We want to find a way to engage our current students to bring in alumni. There will be funding for you if you want to organize an event and invite alumni. We are currently working on the process of application and the details of funding. Our aim is to finalize it next semester.

Senator: How do we, current students, get benefit from the networking opportunity? One suggestion is that connecting with each department, and holding a meeting at the beginning of the semester, bringing alumni to our students, and give them the ideas about how things going in different field.

Barbara: This is a good suggestion. Actually we do that, we have networking meeting. I think we will have one on March actually, and it's in New York city, and I can give you more information about it.

R: Thank you Barbara. Now is Aimilios Sofianopoulos from the Institute for Advanced Computational Science.

Aimilios: Hello everyone, I'm Aimilios Sofianopoulos, the president of the Institute for Advanced Computational Science. The Institute of Advanced Computational Science in Stony Brook University was funded in 2011. Recently we moved to Loafer Center.

It is a multidisciplinary institute focused on computational science. Currently employs 11 core and 30 affiliate faculty members. We has already installed 2 supercomputers doubling the computational power of the University and more than 100 graduate students are directly affiliated with the institute. The students in IACS span a wide range of departments from Linguistics and Arts to Applied Mathematics and Computers Science. And this is the Vice-President Mohammad, our Secretary Joel, and Treasurer Tristan. If you say graduate life sucks try the graduate life of a student in computational science. We know it's kind of boring so we want to change it. Everybody is in a committed relationship with his or her screen. Combine it with the "abundance" of choices available to an underpaid 20 something year old person working long hours around Stony Brook. Many people graduate grad school having zero connections for jobs and zero friends simultaneously. When we got the idea for the association from the IACS secretary we said that we could help change that. Our goal is to connect graduate students working across different disciplines with their peers within the IACS institution. Communicate the capabilities of computational science across Stony Brook campus. Connect with similar groups in other Universities and network with potential employers, like we invited someone working in Yahoo to talk with us and get the ideas about how's thing working when we get into company. We want to take advantage of the benefits offered by the institute and help students to improve their graduate life. And also connect with other groups on campus and create a graduate student group of friends. To do this, we have lots of events. Like having a trip to major computer companies in the city along with other universities, and organizing a speech by the inventors of IPAD (yes one of them is in SBU). We also have happy hours to have fun and hold joint events with other graduate student groups on campus (e.g. game nights, movie screenings or my personal favorite clubbing). The GSO is the godfather of graduate students club. Your experience is much larger ours in organizing events and recognizing the needs of graduate students. We would also be honored if we could part-take in your events and we believe that you would be the best advisor for us on campus. So do you have any question?

Senator: Do you open to undergraduate students?

Aimilios: The organization was found by graduate students so we forced more on graduate students. But undergraduate students are also welcome.

R: Thank you, Aimilios! The next is the President's report.

V: Hello, everyone. Thank you for coming to our last meeting of this semester. I want to give you some ideas about what we have been doing, and I would like to hear your suggestions and comments. First, we have continued doing what previous EC was doing, for instance, we have had social events at UCafe, legal clinic, and we will have tax clinic next semester. In addition to doing what previous EC had done, we have broadened GSO's activities and programs, and we hope that this trend will continue. What we have done new for this year is that we have involved more students and departments; we have 9 new senators from 6 departments. GSO is growing

and we want to reach out to all departments that do not have senators. In some departments, some students stay as a GSO Senator for a few years and when they graduate, there's no continuity and students in their department are not aware of the Senator position and why they should be involved in GSO. So if you are graduating or you will not be a senator next year, please find a replacement for yourself before you leave the position.

Another important thing we have done is that checks are issued in 3 weeks. No checks will take more than 3 weeks unless the amount is more than \$1000, or some documents are missing. In addition, we have paid the bands and performers on time to avoid any problems. This is important because we have had this problem with last year's performers.

We have made progress in housing. You have all received the email about the housing survey. In the last Senate meeting, I told you that there will be a survey from housing committee, and the survey will be sent randomly. We talked about it in the meeting and we said that it's unacceptable, we want the survey to go to all students. So we followed up our request and made sure that the survey is sent to all students. last Saturday around 5pm, I believe, you all received the housing survey. It only takes five minutes to do it, so make sure that you complete the survey and please send a reminder to students in your department.

Senator: In the email of the housing survey, it said that I know you are busy with your final, and if you don't have enough time, please ignore this email. They didn't tell people that it's an emergency and the housing price will be made based on the result of the survey.

V: Yes, you are right. I will send them an email and ask them to delete those sentences and say that the survey is very important and everyone should do it.

Senator: Is it possible to resend it?

V: Yes, they will send out a reminder next week.

V: Another thing we did this semester was holding a workshop on how to get funding opportunity to conduct research overseas. We are also planning to do some grant writing workshops next semester. We hope that the next EC will continue working on professional development workshops .

Your cooperation and involvement in GSO is very important. We really want you to actively participate in committees, and that's why we asked you to send us a summary of the committee meeting. I appreciate those who have already done that. Those who have not sent us the summary of their committee meeting,

We are going to hold NAGPS conference, both regional and national. The regional one will be in April and the national one will be in November 2016. We are very proud that we are going to host the conferences and meet students from various universities. It's good for GSO to host these conferences and to show students from different part of the country how stony brook is.

About tax clinic: in addition to having tax clinic, we are going to have online tax filing tool for non-residents. We have arranged a discount, students will pay \$20.99 for state and \$2 for federal. Please make sure that people in your department know about this opportunity. We have 500 codes for federal and 250 codes for state but if more people want it, we can buy more codes.

The last important thing we are doing right now is fundraising. In GSO we have different types of funds, like RAP and DTA. One thing that is missing not only in GSO but also across the campus, is that we don't have a need-based scholarship. We want to raise money for need-based/merit based scholarship to fund students who are working on outstanding projects but they do not have any funding from their department. Our goal is to raise \$100,000, but probably we won't be able to raise it all next semester. We hope that the EC next year will continue working on this amazing initiative.

Senator: Does every committee meet every month?

V: No, some committees meet every month, some meet biweekly, and some such as BOA don't meet unless there is an issue.

V: We have realized that some of you do not forward our emails to your department. Some departments have a central email address, when you send an email to that address, it goes to everyone in the department. But some departments don't have such emailing system, so maybe you need to forward the email to the secretary of your department and ask her to forward the email to the students in the department.

V: About events: we will have Jazz Night on Wednesday, December 9, and Legal Clinic on Monday, December 14, 3:00-5:00. The DTA recipients will be announced by Dec. 20.

Next semester, the senate meetings will be on the second Tuesday of the month.

#### Treasurer's Report

Senator: People in my department are wondering how the money is spent in production line. Can you get a report about it?

J: Maybe we can try to do it in the next Senate meeting, and also there's information online you can check.

R: Ok, Thank you Joe. Now we have Steven Jaret to give us Rules and Constitution Committee report.

#### Rules and Constitution Committee report

Adjourn