

## Chair Report - Fall 2006

### *GSO Housing Committee*

*The GSO Housing Committee is responsible for investigating problems with on campus and off campus graduate student housing.*

By Dan Woulfin (Chairperson & GSO Senator)

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### **Summer 2006**

#### Chapin Issues

*Chapin Community Center:* Following the unanimous passing of a resolution calling for construction to begin on the Chapin Community Center in Spring 2006, I along with GSO President Andrei Antonenko wrote a letter to Dallas Bauman, Assistant Vice President of Campus Residences in support of the unbuilt Chapin Community Center. Money had been allocated from a rent increase in the 2004 budget meetings between Chapin Apartment Residents Association and Campus Residences.

*Chapin Maintenance Meetings:* These were meetings between Campus Residences, Chapin staff, myself, and the Executive Committee members of the Chapin Apartments Residents Association to discuss systemic maintenance problems within Chapin. Two meetings were held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and a follow up meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The meetings resulted in a clarified work order system, a Work Order Follow Up Report for when residents are not at home when workers come to fulfill a work order.

#### Off Campus Issues

*Off Campus Renters Guide:* The first student devised, researched and written Off Campus Renters Guide was finalized during the summer and put on the GSO website.

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### **Fall 2006**

#### General On Campus Issues

*On Campus Housing Placement Issue:* Following a complaint during the September GSO Senate meeting and an article on the SBGradMag at <http://www.sbgradmag.org/node/56>, I investigated the issue of housing placement for incoming graduate students who were placed in West Apartments or Schomburg rather than the more affordable Chapin due to sending in their security deposit late. I met with Al Devries, Assistant Director of Housing Administration and Regina LeGrasta, Apartment Housing Coordinator. They explained to me the placement process and that materials were not sent out from Campus Residences but rather by individual departments. They also explained that the freeze date

when students could be reassigned was two weeks after the last day someone could move in. The day after the freeze date all students who came to me

*Accounts Hold During Rent Grace Period.* Following up on a complaint by a Chapin resident I inquired about the hold put on SOLAR accounts until on-campus rent is paid, even though there is a grace period of 10 days. The issue was clarified, the rent is due but late fees are not charged during the grace period.

*Graduate and Professional Student Housing Task Force.* I attended the first meeting of the Graduate and Professional Student Housing Task Force in September. Peter Baigent, Vice President of Student Affairs, commissioned the Task Force to assess the current condition and needs of graduate and professional student housing at Stony Brook and make recommendations to solve long-standing problems of graduate and professional housing. A survey is currently being done by the Center for Survey Research.

### Chapin Issues

*Chapin Community Center.* I attended a Graduate Council meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup> with Dallas Bauman to speak in support of the Chapin Community Center. The Graduate Council unanimously renewed its endorsement and support for the project and sent an email to Peter Baigent.

*Chapin F Building Hot Water Issue.* A resident of Chapin F Building came to the Housing Committee meeting complaining that there was no hot water in his and other apartments. I encouraged him to have as many people affected by the issue to write to Campus Residences and to cc it to me. Kenneth Fehling, Director of Campus Operations, investigated the problem at the power plant and found a broken valve that was causing the problem. The problem was fixed and the residents got hot water.

*Chapin Mailroom Issue.* Following up on a complaint by a Chapin resident I met with Baycan Fidelli, Associate Director of Campus Residences Student Advocate, to discuss the availability and staffing of the Chapin mailroom. The problem had been solved when the previous employee left and a new person replaced him. Baycan also asked for help in advertising Mailroom Assistant job opportunities, which I did over the GSO and Stony Brook Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) listserv.

*Consolidation in Chapin.* During the consolidation period in Chapin, where residents who are living in doubles without a roommate have to move to another room or find a roommate, I was in conversation with Al Devries and Regina LeGrasta to make sure that policies were implemented fairly.

### Schomburg Issues

*Schomburg Maintenance Meeting.* I attended the Schomburg Maintenance Meeting on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We discussed the old windows at Schomburg, routine maintenance problems, and the implementation of the Work Order Follow Up Report in Schomburg

*SARA Survey:* Following a request from the Executive Committee of SARA, I worked with them to help them create a survey about Schomburg issues and put it online. The survey is still on-going.

#### Off Campus Issues

*Student Tenant and Landlord Survey and Renters Guide:* The GSEU agreed to cosponsor the 2007 Student Tenant and Landlord Survey and Renters Guide Project and I am in the process of revising the survey. I have been contacting local housing advocates to help in evaluating and improving the survey and guide.