

## GSO Senate – Minutes – February 3, 2009

The meeting begins with 31 Senators and 5 Executives

### 1) Approval of Agenda and the December Meeting Minutes

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

The December 2nd 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

### 2) Presidential Report

President Naydan reminded senators of the professional development funds available from the graduate school, she asked senators to spread the word regarding the second round of applications which is April 30<sup>th</sup> 2009. President Naydan informed on the election of Prof. Michael Schwartz as the new university senate president. She also told senators about the solution of the Cold Spring Harbor graduate student employees health insurance problem. The new appointment of Kira Schuman (History) as the new business agent for the Graduate Student Employees Union was also noted by president Naydan.

### 3) Constitutional Changes

Speaker Longobardi explained the proposed constitutional changes recommended by the rules and constitution committees, which are explained below

*Italic bold text represents new text in the constitution*

~~Strike through text represents text eliminated from the constitution~~

#### Article IV Sec. E part c

If the office of the Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer is vacant, the President shall nominate a candidate for that office. The nomination shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. Should the nominee fail to be confirmed, the President may nominate another candidate. If the office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office and nominate a new Vice President. Should the offices of President and Vice President be vacant simultaneously, the Senate shall meet to elect a new President. *For such a meeting, a stricter quorum shall apply of 66% of the total number of currently certified GSO Senators, or 24 certified Senators, whichever is less. If necessary, a special Senate meeting can be schedule with the purpose to elect a new President.* Nominations shall be accepted from the floor and are open to any member eligible for the office in question. The candidate receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be elected and shall assume the office immediately.

#### Article V Sec. A part f

In compliance with the GSO Internal Control Program and The Chancellor's Guidelines, the passage of any subsequent amendments to the GSO annual budget shall require a two-thirds majority vote. All budgetary allocations recommended shall require a ~~two-thirds~~ *majority* vote.

Article V Sec. D

a. All Senators will be required to submit their credentials to the Secretary for certification according to the procedures outlined in the GSO Election Bylaws. Should there exist a question of legitimacy for a Senatorial election, the Executive Council shall ~~oversee~~ *refer to Board of Appeal* the resolution of the disputed election within the department.

*b. A list of eligible departments and schools shall be compiled by the GSO secretary within one month from the beginning of the fiscal year and shall be approved at the first senate meeting of the fiscal year.*

Article VI Sec. A part g

The Executive Council shall:

G. approve the hiring and removal of GSO administrative personnel *and suggest possible removals to the Board of Appeal.*

The constitutional changes were approved unanimously; the quorum was of 31 senators, which complied with the minimum required by the constitution of 75% of the GSO senator

**4) GSO External Audit Report**

Joseph McLean, from the Faculty Student Association (GSO's Fiscal Agent) gave a presentation on the external audit on the GSO's financial status; the results of the audit are attached on Appendix I

**5) GSEU Liaison Committee bylaws changed**

Speaker Longobardi explained the proposed changes proposed by the GSEU Liaison committee and revised by the rules and constitution committee:

*Italic text represents new text in the bylaws*

~~Strike through text represents text eliminated from the bylaws~~

Section F: GSEU Liaison Committee:

~~1. As noted in the Constitution, the GSEU Liaison Committee shall have a minimum of three members. It shall be responsible for serving as a communications bridge between the Graduate Student Employees Union and the GSO.~~

~~2. The committee chair shall make sure that at least one GSEU campus officer is invited to every liaison committee meeting, if is not already a member of the committee. The committee is also expected to follow GSEU activities by attending GSEU monthly meetings, and report to the GSO senate.~~

- 1. As noted in the Constitution, the GSEU Liaison Committee shall have a minimum of three members. It shall be responsible for serving as a communications bridge between the local and statewide officers of Graduate Student Employees Union(s), which is defined as any union representing graduate student employees at Stony Brook, and the GSO. A member of the committee shall attend GSEU membership meetings and any statewide meeting that occurs at Stony Brook.*
- 2. The committee shall report to the GSO Senate on the state of GSEU(s) a minimum of one time per semester during a GSO Senate meeting and in writing over the GSO listserv and website. This report shall include reports from general membership meetings, update on any active contract negotiations, and any Public Employment Relations Board, Department of Labor or other regulatory body's charges, cases, or issues involving the union(s). Once a year the report shall also include the financial state of the union(s) in the form of the most recent federally filed LM-2 form.*
- 3. It is required that one officer of each GSEU(s) is invited to every liaison committee meeting as a non-voting member.*
- 4. The Chair of the GSEU Liaison Committee shall be responsible for assuring an archive of up to date union documents and minutes or reports from a GSEU(s) General Membership meetings on the GSO website.*
- 5. The GSEU Liaison Committee can propose political or policy positions regarding graduate student employee unions to the Senate in resolution form, pending approval of the Executive Committee.*

The changes were approved unanimously

#### **6) Budget Committee Report**

Treasurer Young explained expenditure levels of the GSO's different budget lines as of February 2009 in comparison with the total budgeted amount for the year (total in parenthesis)

Speaker series: \$10581 (\$20000)

Cultural & Social events: \$5570 (\$12000)

Misc. funding: \$3350 (\$5000)

Publication Grant: \$800 (\$2000)

RAP: \$31548.87 (\$900000)

#### Funding requests

- A representative from the Humanities Institute requested 240\$ for a lecture by Dr Norman Bryson about the "Maximilist" Art in Shanghai to be held March 4 at 4:30 pm (room to be announced). This event had already been granted \$1749 in the 11/4/08 meeting, the \$240 are extra to that amount. The funds were approved unanimously.

- Sen. Matthew Hatkoff (Molecular Genetics & Microbiology) requested \$1007 for the presentation of a pilot for a television show called “The Graduates” the intended showing time will be March 13th at 3PM in the Wang Center Theater but is still not confirmed. The funds were approved unanimously.
- A representative from the English department requested \$1500 for the 2009 English Graduate Conference to be held at Stony Brook Manhattan on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The funds were approved unanimously
- \$1182 was requested for the Recherche Interdisciplinary Salon by Julia Kristeva to be exhibited in the SAC gallery from March 30 to April 7<sup>th</sup> in the SAC gallery. The funds were approved unanimously
- A representative from Stony Brook Chinese Students and Scholars Association requested \$1600 for the 2009 spring festival to be held Saturday, February 21st, 2009 in SAC ballroom A from 6:30pm-10:00pm. The funds were approved unanimously. SBCSSA confirmed that translation to English will be available in the event
- A representative from the Psychology Department requested \$600 for a lecture by Prof. Harry Reis on Capitalizing on positive events in a relationship context to be held on March 9 at 1 pm in PSYA109. The funds were approved unanimously
- Sen. Dante Dilani (Music) requested \$700 for a workshop on Marketing the Arts tentatively set for February 25<sup>th</sup> during campus lifetime. The funds were approved unanimously \$700
- Tara Duffy from SOMAS requested \$2000 for a seminar series in conjunction with the school of journalism named “from Peer to Public, communicating sciences to a wider audience” The seminars will be conducted at different dates during the spring semester. The funds were approved unanimously
- A representative from the Functional Morphology Group requested \$980 for a lecture by Prof. Theodore Garland on “Correlated Anatomical and Physiological Responses of Artificial Selection for High Activity in House Mice” to be held at 12 noon, 26th March 2009 in Anatomical Sciences Seminar Room, HSC, Tower A, 8-025. Funds Approved Unanimously
- Due to the absence of the Karaoke club representatives their funding request was tabled to the end of the meeting

## **7) Social Concerns Committee Report**

Vice-President Selterman presented the transportation feed back survey on the Stony Brook GradMag website, and said that the administration intends to perform a deeper study on transportation habits to justify infrastructure changes on campus. VP Selterman

noted the dangerous effects the current financial crisis is having on the university, and urged senators to organize to find ways to deal with the crisis. He also encouraged senators run for office in the GSO executive board for the 09-10 academic year.

### **8) Housing Committee Report**

Sen. Zosia Turek (Marine Sciences) Chair of the Committee update the senate in the recent activities of the committee including a meeting with the Housing Planning Advisory Committee regarding the construction of new housing for graduate and medical students as well as postdocs and also the resolution of issues with mail delivery at Chapin apartments

### **9) GSELF Committee Report**

Susana Huidobro (Chair) gave an update on the amount of loans granted this year and encouraged senators to promote the emergency loan programs to their classmates with unforeseen financial emergencies

### **10) New York Public Research Interest Group Update**

A representative from NYPIRG invited all students to the NYPIRG day in March 4<sup>th</sup>

### **11) Committee nominations**

President Naydan nominated Matthew Engel and Louis Sparza to represent graduate students in the University Senate, the nominations were approved unanimously, everyone in favor

### **11) GSEU update**

Business Agent Schuman invited senators to the GSEU general body meeting in SAC 227 on February 4, 1 pm. She also urged them to spread the word about the press conference to be held on Wednesday February 11. B.A. Schuman also explained the plan to increase student involvement in the union by the establishment of the position of departmental mobilizers.

### **12) News and leisure report**

Editor Frank Petrigani was not able to attend the meeting

### **13) New Business / Announcements**

- The 750\$ funding request for the Karaoke club was motioned for tabling given the absence of the club representatives, the funding request was not approved.
- Sozia Turek (Marine Sciences) announced an RA union meeting with 1104 local on Thursday Feb 05 at SAC 306, 6 pm
- Matthew Engel (Biomedical Engineering) reminded senators of the screening of the film naturally obsessed

The meeting was adjourned unanimously

Respectfully Submitted  
Jose R Colmenares-Angulo / Secretary of the Graduate Student Organization

APENDIX I

Summary of Graduate Student Organization of SUNY at Stony Brook  
Financial Statements and Auditor's Report  
Year Ended June 30, 2008

(Full report can be obtained by written request to the Graduate Student Organization)

**Lambrides**  
LAMOS, MOULTHROP LLP  
*Certified Public Accountants and Consultants*

Graduate Student Organization  
State University of New York at Stony Brook, Inc.  
Stony Brook, New York

**Independent Auditor's Report**

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of the Graduate Student Organization of SUNY at Stony Brook, Inc. (GSO) as of June 30, 2008 and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of GSO's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. The prior year summarized comparative information has been derived from the June 30, 2007 financial statements and, in our report dated August 23, 2007, we expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of GSO's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Graduate Student Organization of SUNY at Stony Brook, Inc. as of June 30, 2008, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

*Lambrides, Lemos, Moulthrop LLP*

October 16, 2008