

GSO Senate Meeting – February 8, 2011 – Minutes

I. Meeting called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Paola Espinosa

- Thirty-five senators present.

II. Approval of Agenda, and December Senate Meeting Minutes

- Unanimous consent. Agenda and minutes approved.

III. President's Report

- According to Provost Kaler, graduate student enrollment may be reduced next academic year.
- Provost Kaler has been unwilling to provide any follow-up on the fee-transparency issue that's carried over from last semester. Has been told that Karol Gray is 'working on it.'
- Senate voted unanimously to invite Karol Gray to our March Senate Meeting for an update.
- Today, Student Health Advisory Committee is planning to increase fees from \$138 to \$145. They have not provided any information on the basis for wanting to raise this fee.
- Nominated Daniel Callahan, Senator from Social Welfare, to SHAC committee. Approved unanimously.
- The University Senate has condemned New York Governor Cuomo's budget, but is also pushing for a 'rational' tuition policy.

IV. Rules and Constitution Committee Report

- Constitutional Amendment and Standing Committee bylaws:
 - Constitutional amendment approved unanimously (35-0-0).

Constitutional amendment

j. Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA)

The CAA shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate, and shall include at least three other GSO members. The committee shall review and provide advice on any University changes that could affect the academic progress of graduate students. If said changes involve a particular department, the committee shall invite the senator(s) of that department to participate.

- Standing Committee bylaw approved unanimously (35-0-0).

Section H: Committee on Academic Affairs

1. As noted in the Constitution, the CAA shall be chaired by the Speaker of the Senate and shall include a minimum of three other GSO members. The committee shall invite the senator(s) of the affected departments to join the committee.
2. The committee will meet to make recommendations regarding any proposed changes that could affect the academic progress of graduate students.
3. The committee shall also serve as an official liaison between GSO and the University Council.
4. The committee shall invite three faculty members to review the applications for the Distinguished Travel Award, according to the guidelines in the application.

V. Green Trail Presentation

- Kara Hahn, President of the Civic Association of Setauket, and Jim McAsey, community member, provided information on the expanding Green Trail between Stony Brook and Port Jefferson.
- Currently 1.5 mile off road trail, on land owned by the Department of Transportation
- Used by cyclists, walkers, dogs, rollerblading, snowshoeing, etc.
- Parking access located at 96 Gnarled Hollow Road in Setauket.
- Planning to extend east to Port Jeff Station, and West toward 25A in Setauket (about 4 miles each way, 8 miles round trip).
- Planned route will provide safe bike path from as far as Port Jefferson Station to Stony Brook University.
- More info at <http://www.civicassociationofthesetaukets.org/GreenwayTrail.htm>

VI. RA Union Liaison Committee Report

- In today's bargaining session, the Research Foundation (RF) argued, incorrectly, that research funding is decreasing (this is not the case). The RF acknowledged the validity of the RA Union's arguments, and acknowledged that they have the money, but that it would be inappropriate to use their funds in this manner when others are economically suffering.
- RA Union is having an event on Valentine's Day, press event at noon outside the Administration Building.

VII. GSEU Liaison Committee Report

- NY State failed to pass a 'pay-bill' in the last legislative session. Passing a pay-bill has never been contentious in the past.
- GSEU has hired a lobbyist and the lobbyist has been in contact with several legislators/their staff, senators and assembly-members.
- Need Department Mobilizers in Biochem, Physics, Hispanic Lang, AMS, Electrical Eng., Material Sciences, Neurobiology, and Theater. Please contact Aman Gill, GSEU Chief Steward, if interested in the position: amango@gmail.com.
- Next open meeting on Wed, 2/23 12:50 p.m. in Humanities 2030

VIII. Budget Committee Report

- Funding Requests
 - Stony Brook English Graduate Conference: "Complicities" on March 11, 2011, @ SB Manhattan Campus. Requesting \$3263.50 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover speaker honorarium, food, publicity. Budget committee recommended \$1500. Motion to approve \$1500. General consent.
 - SARA: requesting \$300, and \$300 from the 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host a 'Valentine's Day Event' and 'SAD (Single Awareness Day)', respectively, on February 15. Motion to approve both events. General consent.
 - SBU 4th Annual Queer Symposium Event, March 24th at UCafe @ 7:30 p.m.: requesting \$1141 from the 'General Cultural and Social Events' line for

- performance fee (\$1000) and LIRR transportation (\$141). Motion to approve \$1141. General consent.
- SoMAS: Okubo Distinguished Scholar Speaker Series, March 10-11, requesting \$1541.00 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover honorarium, transportation, lodging, food, advertising. Motion to approve \$1541. General consent.
 - Behavioral Ecology Group Presents: Spring Speaker Series. Requesting funding for three separate speaker series events, requesting \$2989.13 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover separate events in February, March and April. Motion to approve \$2989.13. General consent.
 - Global China Connections: Chinese New Year Audition Performance Event on Friday Feb 11, expecting 250 people, and requesting \$560 from the 'General Cultural and Social Events' line for advertising, food, decorations, and gifts. Club did not present this request to the Budget Committee prior to the Senate Meeting, therefore only entitled up to \$200 (2% of General and Cultural Events line). Motion to approve \$200. Motion passes with one 'No' vote.
 - Chinese Student & Scholar Association: Spring Festival on Feb. 13, 6:30-10:00 p.m. in SAC Auditorium. Requesting \$2250 from the 'Epic Event' line for publicity, DJ, decoration, performance, food, and prizes. Budget committee recommended reducing the request for prizes to \$250 from \$500, and either reallocate the funds toward food, or reduce total to \$2000. Motion to approve for \$2250 with reallocation of funds. General consent.
 - MA Philosophy and The Arts Conference 2011: an interdisciplinary conference with artists and theorists on April 1-2 at SB Manhattan Campus. Requesting \$2231 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover expenses. Motion to approve \$2231. General Consent.
 - GSO: conference titled Defining the Future of Public Higher Education, and interdisciplinary and all day event on March 18. Requesting \$850 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover expenses including honorarium, traveling costs, food, and advertisement. Motion to approve \$850. General Consent.

IX. The GSO Presents Report

- If we're going to continue to sponsor the concert series, we will need to have access to quality sound equipment. Currently, we're renting, and the price is going to increase. Instead of renting equipment, Bill is suggesting to start an internal production company, whereby gear would be purchased, and could be rented out for a future profit (in addition to the savings from not having to rent).
- Currently have three separate quotes from wholesalers in the Tri-State area. Would require a \$16,000 investment, which would be used to purchase assets that could later generate revenue. Motion to approve GSO purchase of sound equipment. General consent.

X. GSO Resolution on Governor Cuomo's Proposed NY State Budget for 2010-2011

- Separate, but overlapping resolutions were introduced. One resolution is in favor of a 'rational' tuition increase policy, and encourages aligning ourselves with UUP and other university-wide bodies to push for this. The second rejects the notion that 'there are no alternatives,' and unequivocally condemns Governor Cuomo's proposed budget and cuts to higher education. Senate worked together to draft a coherent and consistent resolution.
- Call for quorum, quorum present. Motion to adopt resolution. Passes unanimously.

XI. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Al Herrera-Alcazar, GSO Secretary.