

March 15, 2005 Rescheduled GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

The monthly GSO senate meeting scheduled for Mar 8, 2005 was cancelled due to the closing of the university and was rescheduled for Mar 15, 05. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM with 21 senators and 3 executives present. The speaker Andrei Antenenko made a request that since there was no acting secretary, the Vice President Monicca Shanthanelson be recognized as the secretary for the meeting. There was unanimous consent.

The following corrections are made to the agenda:

After secretary elections, technology fee discussion is added.

The agenda is approved unanimously. The February 8, 2005 minutes are approved unanimously.

Secretary elections:

As the president was not yet in attendance, Monicca introduces Ilektra Christidi to the senate as the president-nominated candidate to the position of the secretary. Ilektra gives a brief introduction to herself, is asked to leave the room. A motion to appoint Ilektra as secretary is made and passes with 18 voting in favor and 3 abstaining.

Technology Fee discussion:

The technology fee discussion is initiated by Ilektra. It is highlighted that the technology fee has increased by \$62 in Spring 05. The senate asks the executives about what is being done. Andrei tells the senate that Rich Reeder CIO, and Nancy Griffin Director of IC were asked to attend the senate meeting that night, had agreed to do so, but had cancelled 3 hours before the senate meeting. The executives had asked them to bring a copy of their department's budget and a breakdown of how the increase in fee would be used to pay for graduate student expenses.

The GSEU representative announces to the senate that the GSEU is in the process of negotiating about the fee. However GSEU does not represent the interests of RAs. Chad Bender makes the point that the technology fee is primarily used to pay for undergraduate expenses like providing SINC sites used by undergraduates, networking undergraduate dorms and improving audio visual capabilities of undergraduate classrooms. The senate therefore perceives the fee as an unaccounted for expense for graduate students. It is noted that it is cheaper to individually buy the software packages that are provided to the students as a result of this fee increase, than the actual cost of the fee itself. A motion is made to appoint a committee, which will investigate what can be done about the increase in fee and report back to the senate. 5 vote in favor, 8 are opposed and 8 abstain. The motion fails.

A motion to ask the executives to get a copy of the budget is made and is passed by unanimous consent. Another motion requiring executives to propose what can be done about this technology fee increase is made and also passes by unanimous consent.

Committee Reports:

(a) Appointment of New Committee members:

Monicca nominates Ari Grossman to Rules and Regulations committee and he is approved by unanimous consent. A call for members to the following committees is

made: elections, survival guide, and campus lifetime awards selection and housing committees.

(b) Budget Committee Report:

Rong Su, the treasurer of GSO, presents the budget committee report. The budget proposal for the fiscal year 05-06 will be presented in the next senate meeting.

Expenditure Report

<i>Item</i>	YTD	Budget 04-05	Notes
Gen.soc.event	7745	15000	Approved
Speaker Series	3093.03	5000	Approved
University Subsidy	12,519.84	20000	Processed
RAP	47,251.14	80,000	Processed
Dept. Allocation	2817	4000	Processed
Club Allocation	3250	5000	Processed

1. Karaoke Contest:

A member from the Karaoke club makes a presentation. Ari Grossman makes a motion to give \$ 900 to the Karaoke club, seconded by Jean Cadet and the motion passes unanimously.

2. Open the Horizon- New interdisciplinary perspectives on Latin America-speaker series:

This is a multidisciplinary one-day conference designed to facilitate dialogue across various areas of diversity and will have 3 sessions with 7 presenters each. The GSO funds will be spent to pay the keynote speaker and for publicity. A motion to pay \$525 for the event is made and passes by unanimous consent.

3. The FSA administration fee:

It is pointed out that this fee cannot be discussed, as the lounge committee was not consulted by the budget committee about this fee that is partly to be used to pay the health insurance of the manager of the University Café. The discussion is tabled until the next meeting.

(c) Social Concerns Committee:

Monicca, the chair of the SCC thanked the senators for their overwhelming support for the Faculty-Student Relations Survey. Monicca announced that 410 students filled the survey and that 37 departments were represented. Monicca said the SCC is now in the process of analyzing the surveys and will have it official report ready by the end of the semester.

New Business

(a) Location of the GSO senate meetings:

The GSO senate meetings starting the April 12th meeting will be held in Room 301 in the Wang Center. This is to ensure that there is enough space for all attendees.

(b) Lounge committee mission statement:

Chad Bender, the chair of the lounge committee presents the mission statement of the lounge. Dan Woulfin the senator from History raises the issue that tips that are paid out to the waiters in the university café is not given to them but instead is put back in the register. Chad explains that the manager has been allowed to use this money for hiring temporary staff and also to pay some entertainment expenses. Dan Woulfin makes the motion that all tips must go to the individuals. 5 are in favor, 8 oppose and 4 abstain. The motion fails. The issue of what exactly happens to the money is raised. Chad says that the manager is not required to report the actual way the money is spent. Another motion requiring the lounge committee to keep records of how the tip money is spent is made. The motion has 15 in favor and 2 abstaining and passes. Miranda Moore makes a motion to pass the mission statement of the lounge committee as is. Jean Cadet seconds it. The motion passes with 11 in favor and 6 abstaining.

(c) Campus Lifetime Awards:

Gina Chiarella, the GSO representative to campus lifetime awards committee makes the presentation. Gina announces that award is open to graduate and undergraduate student leaders, student organizations and student advisors who have demonstrated an excellence in leadership and campus involvement. The CLA ceremony will take place on May 04, 05 and the nomination forms are available at <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/dos/> The nomination deadline is Friday April 15,05.

A motion to move item (f) of the new business - Musicians Alliance for peace before item (d) is made and is passed by unanimous consent.

(f) Musicians Alliance for Peace

The representative from the music department announces to the senate that this was not part of the funding requests under the budget committee report as the group had missed the BC deadline. They inform the senate that the project has now become a rich tradition at Stony Brook and that in 2004 it sponsored 73 concerts in 13 countries in 50 hours. The goal of the project was to fill the world with music as a call for peace. The total expenses were \$17,520 however the group requested GSO funding for \$2500. A motion to award \$2500 was made and passed by unanimous consent.

(d) Status of TA support

The issue was not discussed as there was no representative to present.

(e) Art department accommodations:

Nelly made the announcement. Nelly announced to the senate that on Mar 4th partitions in the art department and some studios were being demolished with no promises that they will be rebuilt. A motion to extend GSO support for the department was made and passed by unanimous consent.

(g) Union Contract Negotiations:

Don the GSEU representative makes the announcement. The senate is informed that TA stipend contract negotiation was underway and that all are welcome to participate and vote. Contact hprudent@ic.sunysb.edu for more information.

(h) NYPIRG

Christina the representative from NYPIRG announced that that the senate-approved petition to the governor to prevent decreasing funding for higher education was presented in Albany. They announced that students interested in the issue should contact the NYPIRG office to become more involved.

The motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 PM and was passed by unanimous consent.