



GSO Senate Meeting Minutes: November 9, 2009

Approved October Meeting Minutes

GSO President's Address: Discussed TA line allocations. GSO Senate Executive Committee met with SBU President Samuel Stanley. Brought up stipends, living wage issues, and physical safety on campus. He assured us he understands our concerns and issues. GSO President Selterman Wants feedback on MS programs and affect on PhD students. What are MS students getting for their money? Seeks concrete feedback from MS programs.

Dean Lawrence Martin Address: Discussion with Provost Kailer, Dean of Colleges, and Chair of Departments. Allocation of TA/GA lines. Goal is to 1: recruit outstanding grad students and 2) support instructional mission. University needs to manage enrollment/recruitment. Brought up the *Provost's proposal*: Let individual departments have greater autonomy managing resources. i.e. History and Art – TA lines used to support grad students 3-4 years. Departments currently feel constrained. Some feel they are not allowed to manage money to the best interest of their students. (A) Grad School and Dean managing money vs. (B) Departments managing money. In (B) there would be greater flexibility and discretion to support students in their 3rd or 4th year with a TA line without special approval. Goal should be to secure additional student lines. A system to guarantee support until graduation. Support even w/o money in the bank. Should offer multiyear support package. MS resources: help students complete their degree and pay their way. The Graduate Council + Deans decided on a minimum stipend of \$15,125. Will this stay campus wide? Dean claims that for PhD students there is no way this will be lowered. Consider pooling adjunct faculty and grad student lines. There are currently 400 lines used for recruited and 620 total lines. The way this works is that each Department brings their total number of line requests to the Dean, and he allocates money +/- a few lines. Many programs use their lines exclusively for first year students. Departments have an obligation to fulfill their teaching requirements. Problems: i.e. – no funding for 6th year students, that money is used to fund new TA lines. DLM suggests there should be regulation over how much control departments have over their TA funding. Departments contract + shrink. Right now grad student lines are regulated by the GS. Need to be a balance between recruitment and maintaining lines. Question – has this idea ever been tried before at another institution? SUNY?

GSO President Address Conclusion: GSO Senator suggests it would be better to keep the pool of money for adjunct faculty and grad students separate and out of the centralized pot. Dylan suggests the idea of a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for Grad Students. This would include the following fundamental topics: (1) Living Wages/benefits (2) Creation of original academic work by grad students, theft of credit by professors (3) University openly recognizing appreciation of grad students i.e. Grad Student Appreciation Day. For example, the issue of quality affordable housing has been quite important to grad students. There has been so much money spent on undergrad housing, but graduate housing has been largely ignored and is similar to the day it was built. The Housing Committee has investigated the quality and safety of these dwellings i.e. Chapin and Schomburg. Dylan would like feedback on this idea. Other issues included the use of the List-Serv which Dylan claimed was prohibited for union related activities.

Also the attendance of GSO reps at the University Senate meetings. The lack of effective transportation on campus which runs on time and frequently enough.

GSO Vice-Presidential Report: Safety. New events – bowling night? Proposed new idea card with different color. This would take away our ability to attend free sporting events. It would let us into the University Café and possibly block undergrad students. Security and maintenance of buildings, report doors which don't lock -> Environmental Task Force. Security, cops on bikes, walking people home. U. Café - > drink specials?

GSO Funding – Budget Committee Requests: 1) Chapin Apartments Karaoke Night, \$300, 11/23. 2) Behavioral Ecology Group Series, \$370, 11/13. Dr. Lisa Moscovice. 3) Multi Disciplinary Grad Student Conference. Last year 38 presenters, \$725 – honorarium, food, publicity. 4/9/10. 4) Cinematography Interest Club. \$370 for food, raffles, advertising, 11/10. 5) Open Studios, MFA, 4th annual event. 4 Fullbright Scholars. \$625, 11/9-11. 6) SARA – Schomburg Break. Social Event. \$300 food, prizes, 11/13.

GSEU Report: by Derek McGrath. English Department mobilize. Petition – thank you for signing and distributing it. Collected 700 signatures and distributed it to Samuel Stanley at the inauguration ball. Many Union members were barred from the event for wearing a red union short. Forcibly removed from the inauguration. Finding it difficult to negotiate with the state, they are making it impossible to make appointments. Please call Governor Patterson. Will circulate the number and a script. Nov. 19th, Thurs. 1-m. General Body Meeting.