

GSO Senate – Minutes – November 13, 2007

The meeting begins with 27 Senators and 5 Executives.

1) Welcoming Remarks

President Soule congratulated the senators and thanked them for coming. He announced that the Nature Conservancy's Proposal 3, which the GSO supported last month, did not pass on Election Day last week. It was ultimately opposed by 60% of Brookhaven's electorate. The NC did thank us however for our generous support on the measure. President Soule also reminded the senators that GSO is looking for a new Office Manager and encouraged the senators to publicize this important position in their departments. Finally, the executives will be proposing the GSO's first resolution of the year, later in the agenda.

2) Approval of the Agenda

Kate Hankinson (English) motioned to approve the agenda. It was approved unanimously.

3) Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Melissa Patterson (Chemistry) motioned to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

4) Center for Prevention and Outreach

Michael Bombardier, a representative from the center, talked about prevention of disruptive behaviors in classrooms (coming from undergraduates). Every department should have a point person for TAs to go to in cases of disruptive behaviors. Every disruptive behavior should be reported to Judicial Affairs: 632-6705. In case of emergency, students should call campus police at 631-3333. The representative will send another email with more details to the senators' list.

5) GSEU Report

Victor Rosado, GSEU Liaison, reported:

- So far there are no progress in the negotiations on a new contract with NY State. We will wait until February to see if things are moving forward before taking additional actions.
- RA campaign: there is a website where RAs can go and fill out an interest form, so that the GSEU can better act on the issue. The issue is moving forward.

6) Internal Committee Reports

a) Budget Committee

Treasurer Longobardi presented the general amount that the GSO has for allocation to cultural events, speaker series, conferences etc. So far we haven't spent a big portion of the budget.

There were six requests for funding this time:

1. SARA asked for a \$400 support for a multi-cultural event. Melissa Patterson (Chemistry) motioned to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
2. CARA (Chapin residents Association) asked for support for a trip to Tanger Outlet on the day after Thanksgiving. They asked for \$782 from the GSO (out of a total of about \$1000). Dylan Selterman (Psychology) motioned to approve the funding. It was approved unanimously.
3. A representative from Material Sciences asked for GSO funding for a social event hosting the creator of PhD comics.com. They requested that the GSO support the cost of two thirds of the initiative: \$2,100. Jose Colmenares (Materials Science) Motioned to approve the support. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Speaker Antonenko presented a request for support for a Linguistics speaker series – bring a speaker from Japan. Cost: \$2,680, but they only asked for \$2180 from the GSO. William Lahti (Computer Science) Motioned to approve the proposal. Motion was approved unanimously.
5. A representative from Behavioral Ecology Group presented a request for a speaker series. The request was for \$461.5. Jose Colmenares (Materials Science) motioned to approve the request. It was approved unanimously.
6. Representatives from the Graduate English Society asked for funding for their 22nd annual meeting. They want to extend the conference this year and make it more interdisciplinary. They asked for \$3,565. Melissa Patterson (Chemistry) motioned to approve the proposal. It was unanimously approved.

b) Rules and Constitution Committee

Speaker Antonenko presented the new document for the Internal Control Program, focusing on the changes made and new programs that were introduced to the document. He asked that the senate approves the document as is, although there may be a few changes in the future (probably only next year). Following a discussion in the senate, there were a few changes to the proposed document:

- David Roelfs (sociology) suggested that funding for each individual group will only be available for two consecutive semesters (section 6.3.1.2). This was approved by the senate.
- In section 6.3-d the term “event” was changed to “individual event”.
- John Christie (English) motioned to approve a change to the line on Seminar/Workshops Travel (section 6.3.7). It was unanimously approved.

- Dave Roelfs (Sociology) motioned to add a part to the recreation section (Section 6.3.8): the budget committee will be empowered to make a cap each semester/summer on this line. This motion was approved unanimously.
- Dylan Selterman (Psychology) made a motion to strike item H from the 6.3.5. This motion was rejected (6 in favor, 11 against, 6 abstained). Line H stays.
- Motion was made to introduce a new line of \$999.00 for Seminar/Workshop Travel line to the Annual GSO Operating Budget. It passed unanimously.

Dante Dilanni (Music) motioned to adopt the document. It was approved and this will be the new Internal Control Program.

c) SUNY Assembly

Dan Woulfin (History) attended SUNY Student Assembly Fall Conference in Binghamton from Oct. 26-28. All GSOs attended and he had good conversations with their representatives at the Conference as well as presenters like NYPIRG. Ten resolutions including a resolution from Binghamton GSO calling on a change in New York State law to say that University Councils should have two student representatives, undergraduate and graduate. Dan reported on the resolutions that passed in the SUNY student assembly (was sent to the senate Listserve). President Soule added that he and the USG President will also write a joint letter to President Kenny on this issue. Onte Johnson (Political Science) motioned to adopt the second resolution. It was approved unanimously.

d) Housing Committee

Dan Woulfin (History) reported:

* **Chapin Community Center** – he was informed by Dallas Bauman, Associate VP of Campus Residences, and Charles Taber, Chair of the Graduate Council, that a structural analysis of Chapin has been finished and came back positive. This is an important step in the process of having the Chapin Community Center built and also important because it assures graduate students without cars and international graduate students affordable housing in the area.

* **Schomburg Stop & Shop program** – Schomburg Apartment Residents Association (SARA) wants to start a program so that residents can have food shipped to them from Stop and Shop. After consulting with the Executive Council they've okayed using the GSO website to help start the program. Dan will be in touch with SARA and Schomburg staff soon.

* **Consolidation/Relocation in Chapin** – The consolidation/relocation letter for Chapin residents has been updated to include that the key to a residents new apartment is available to be picked up once the new assignment is finalized and that they don't have to return the old key until the deadline to move occurs (usually 10 business days after they get the notification letter). This will ease the process of moving from one apartment to another during the semester.

* **Funding Guide for Schomburg and Chapin** -- Dan is working with the Budget Committee to put together a funding guide for Chapin and Schomburg so that both the staff and CARA and SARA know our policies. This is important

because the high turnover in CARA and SARA and the ignorance of staff to our policies has caused confusion in the past.

e) Social Concerns Committee

VP Gersch:

- Emphasized the issue brought earlier – prevention of disruptive behaviors in classrooms. He encouraged the senators again to find out who the point person in their department is and make sure that there is a person taking care of these issues.
- Parking – not much happening so far. Tickets have doubled.
- Safety issues – there were a couple of incidents of assaults on students lately. VP Gersch is writing a letter to President Kenny asking to brighten up the campus. If senators have specific suggestions, they should send them to VP Gersch.

7) New Business

a) Alternate Member for the Budget Committee

President Soule asked the senate to approve Onte Johnson (Political Science) as an alternate member of the budget committee. This was approved unanimously.

b) NYPIRG

NYPIRG is working to keep the fare prices low for MTA Transit including LIRR. Over half of the New York State Senate and Assembly has signed on to delay the fare hike until April 15th. NYPIRG has distributed over 10,000 leaflets in 2 days urging Governor Spitzer to give MTA more money so that fare prices can stay low and we are also working on improving weekend discounts. So far, NYPIRG has helped create a 14- Day unlimited Ride MetroCard for \$31.51 and we are working on creating a 5-Day unlimited ride "flexible" pass for \$16, which means that you get unlimited rides for 5 non-consecutive days. The Public Engagement Workshop is this Saturday at NYU from 10am to 1:30pm. If you would like to attend contact me at: jlee@nypirg.org and I will show you how to register for this event.

Dave Roelfs (Sociology) motioned for adjourning the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eran Shor