

GSO Senate Meeting – November 2, 2010 – Minutes

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

- Thirty-five senators, Dean Lawrence Martin, and Dean Bill Arens (International Academic Programs) present.

II. Approval of Agenda, October Senate Meeting Minutes, and Emergency Senate Meeting Minutes

- Unanimous consent. Agenda and minutes approved.

III. Dean Bill Arens addresses Senate

- Could not comment on latest budget, as it was set by Lawrence Martin.
- Has eliminated the notarization process of documents for international students (it was an internal policy, not required by the State).
- Also eliminated 'letter of good standing' requirement for international students.
- Intends to develop an advisory board that would include student representatives. Board not expected to convene till January 2011.
- There are currently some vacancies in the office due to retirees, and there are plans to hire replacements.
- No intention of raising the international student fee next academic year.

IV. Dean Lawrence Martin addresses Senate

- Shared International Services budget on paper (see appendix).
- Bus pickup services for new international graduate students was funded initially by the President beginning in the late 90s, and not related to international student fees.
- The Graduate School's budget has been cut significantly (15% last year).
- Office of International Services was handed over to Dean Arens on July 1, 2010, and the office has been subsequently renamed Visa and Immigration Services.

V. President's Report

- RAP for Excellence:
  - Advancements have been made on this front-- the RCC and Budget Committee will introduce the necessary changes.
  - Anticipate \$10,000, plus matching funds from the Graduate School, and perhaps the Research Foundation will also contribute (waiting to hear back).
- Fee increases:
  - Met with Karol Gray, VP of Finance, she offered to help RAP for Excellence by providing contacts within the Office of Advancement.
  - According to Gray, we pay less in fees than Buffalo, Albany, and other SUNY campuses. They have plans to raise our fees to levels of Buffalo.
  - Enciso shared GSO's statement on fees with Gray. Gray agreed that fee increases should be transparent, and we should expect higher quality services to reflect the raises.

- Baine consultants have projected \$8-12 million/year extra in revenue, if fees are raised to Buffalo levels.
- Will introduce statement to on fees to President Stanley this Friday.

#### VI. Vice President's Report

- Plans to continue to pressure Dean Arens on international students' concerns. There are many points of agreement, but has heard same language from Dean Arens since July, without any notable improvements.
- In response to graduate students' safety concerns, a stop sign has been placed between LIRR station and North Entrance.
- Bowling night was a successful event, but 16 people didn't show up (cost GSO about \$200).
- Some Chapin residents have received bills via Solar after moving out, without a reasonable explanation. Will try to ensure this does not continue to happen.

#### VII. Rules and Constitution Committee Report

- Internal Control Program:
  - Remove Appendix G as is. Motion passes unanimously.
  - Add 'Appendix G: Department Activity.' Motion passes unanimously.

#### Appendix G. Department Activity

All departments are considered active before the first GSO Senate meeting of each academic year. After the meeting every departments activity is dependent on its senator's certification status.

A. The senator will lose his/her certification if he/she has missed two out of the last three GSO Senate meetings.

B. The GSO secretary will send a notice to the senator if it is in danger of losing its active status.

C. Alternate senators vote in place of primary senators, if the primary senator can not attend a Senate meeting. Alternate senator attendance counts as primary senator attendance for the meeting.

- RAP addition. Motion passes unanimously.

#### 6.3.5.1 The Tarabac Distinguished Travel Award

A. Is a special line of funding designated to support graduate students, who present their work at prestigious conferences, performances and professional meetings that will contribute to and build the national and international reputation of their departments and the University.

B. The application call will be made every February and will request the following documents

a. A written statement of no more than 500 words on the scientific or artistic contribution of the presentation, its impact in the national and international discussion of his/her area of specialty, and the significance of the event.

- b. An invitation or acceptance letter to the event.
- c. A letter of recommendation from the student's advisor, stating the student's contribution and impact on the field or discipline.

C. Every department can nominate a maximum of two students for each academic year. The program director should write a letter of support to the nomination.

D. The applications will be evaluated by a selected panel of faculty members and graduate students called the Special Committee of Academic Affairs, from now on referred to as SCAA. The graduate student members of the SCAA will be nominated by the GSO Senate.

E. All funds will be reimbursed following the same guidelines as for RAP (6.3.2).

F. The award can only be used once during a student's academic career, and the student is not eligible for RAP funding for the same conference.

- Election Bylaws. Remove part D of Section 4. Motion passes unanimously.

#### Section 4. Campaigning

D. Candidates must disclose the following information to the elections committee for publication at the time of nomination form submission.

- i. Number of semesters as a GSO senator
  - ii. Number of semesters as a GSO committee member
  - iii. Number of semesters representing the GSO on a university committee

VIII. Mary Cain, executive director of Stony Brook University Child Care Services, addresses Senate

- Child Care Services is a separate entity from University, and it's own 501(c)(3).
- Thanked GSO for passed support, and increased support this fiscal year.
- Child Care Services works to provide high quality care with early childhood specialists.
- Also work with student interns, and students from the psychology department.
- Provide affordable care to university affiliates (students, staff) on sliding fee.
- Capacity of 160 children.
- About 40% of families are student families, and most are graduate students.
- There are also volunteer opportunities for graduate students.

IX. Graduate Student Bulletin Proposal

- Kevin Young, 4<sup>th</sup> year Ph.D. student in History, proposed a Graduate Student Bulletin.
- SBU currently lacks a regularly printed graduate bulletin.

- Proposed bulletin would publish articles related to graduate student interests, as well as social, political issues.
- Proposed bulletin would include traditional reporting articles, opinion articles, and calendar of events.
- The views expressed in the bulletin would reflect views of author, not GSO as whole.
- Motion to approve Graduate Student Bulletin passes unanimously.

X. Proposal to support the “End the War Threats and Sanctions Program Against Iran Support the Struggle for Democracy Inside Iran.”

- Background information provided by Kevin Young, more info at [Cpdweb.org](http://Cpdweb.org)
- No motion made to approve or reject resolution.

XI. Committee Nominations

- Call for volunteers to serve on the committee to review RAP for Excellence applications:
  - Catherine Salussolia, Stalin F. Mafla-Trujillo, Sharonah Fredricko, Kristina Stoyanova.
- Call for volunteers to serve on the Undergrad Council: no nominations from the floor.
- Call for volunteers to serve on the Graduate Student Bulletin committee: Becky Goldberg, Samira Darvishi, Paola Espinosa, Kevin Young, Harris Papadopoulos.
- All nominations passed unanimously.

XII. Budget Committee Report

- Funding Requests
  - Pakistan Fundraiser: requesting \$500 from the ‘Miscellaneous Grants’ line. Motion to approve for \$500. General consent.
  - Linguistics Lecture Series: requesting \$1500 from the ‘Speaker Series and Conferences’ line to cover transportation, lodging, publicity, honorarium, food. Motion to approve for \$1500. General consent.
  - SARA Post Halloween Party: requesting \$325 from the ‘General Cultural and Social Events’ line to host a post-Halloween Party. Motion to approve for \$325. General consent.
  - SARA Thanksgiving Dinner: requesting \$250 from the ‘General Cultural and Social Events’ line to host a Thanksgiving dinner party. Motion to approve for \$250. General consent.
  - MFA Open Studios Night: requesting \$300 from the ‘Speaker Series and Conferences’ line to host an evening of student artists and reception. Motion to approve for \$300. General consent.
  - IGSA Diwali – The Festival of Lights: requesting \$600 from the ‘General Cultural and Social Events’ line to host an Indian cultural event. Motion to approve for \$600. General consent.

- CARA Thanksgiving Party: requesting \$470 250 from the 'General Cultural and Social Events' line to host a Thanksgiving dinner party. Motion to approve for \$470. General consent.
- Behavioral Ecology Group: requesting \$280 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host a speaker and reception. Motion to approve for \$280. General consent.
- Organization of Public Health: requesting \$330 280 from the 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to host a speaker and reception. Motion to approve for \$330. General consent.

#### XIII. GSEU Liaison Committee Report

- Need Department Mobilizers from Biochemistry, Physics, Theater.
- Senate special session on 11/15, perhaps last chance to pass pay bill this year.
- Next General meeting, 11/17, Wang 101, 12:50 p.m.

#### XIV. RA Union Liaison Committee Report

- Need Division Coordinators from psychology, SoMAS, Neurobiology, BSB
- Next General meeting, 11/15, Nassau Hall, 6:00 p.m.

#### XV. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Al Herrera-Alcazar, GSO Secretary.



**Appendix**

2009/2010			
Description	FTE	Base 09/10 salary	Total
Asst Dean	50%		
Receptionist	80%		
SL2, staff asst	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
Provisional subsidy			(70,000)
<b>Annual Payroll Cos</b>	<b>8.30</b>		<b>\$ 397,980</b>
OTPS (supplies, phones, reference materials)			
			\$ 42,000
One time costs associated with scanning files			
			\$ 9,000
			\$ 448,980
<b>REVENUE, GROSS</b>			
		<i>assume 2500 students paying \$100/sem fee to 900517-00</i>	\$ 500,000
Less: IFR Tlth		10% (2009-10)	\$ (50,000)
<b>NET REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS</b>			<b>\$ 450,000</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAIL (DEFICIT)</b>			<b>\$ 1,020</b>

2010/2011			
Description	FTE	Base 09/10 salary	Total
Asst Dean	50%		
Receptionist	80%		
SL2, staff asst	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
SL3, student adv	100%		
Provisional subsidy		discontinued	
<b>Annual Payroll Cos</b>	<b>8.30</b>		<b>\$ 467,980</b>
OTPS (supplies, phones, reference materials)			
			\$ 42,000
<b>REVENUE, GROSS</b>			
		<i>assume 2500 students paying \$100/sem fee to 900517-00</i>	\$ 500,000
Less: IFR Tlth		10% (2009-10)	\$ (50,000)
<b>NET REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR OPERATIONS</b>			<b>\$ 450,000</b>
<b>FUNDS AVAIL (DEFICIT)</b>			<b>\$ (59,980)</b>

*2 SL3 staff have opted for Voluntary separation; cost savings will reduce/eliminate projected deficit*