

GSO Senate – Minutes – May 5th, 2009

The meeting begins with 28 Senators and 4 Executives
Secretary Colmenares is Abroad, Joseph Ortiz (Marine Sciences) substitutes in minute taking

1) Approval of the Agenda and the April Minutes

The agenda and the April 14th 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

2) Appointment of New Speaker

Given Luigi Longonobardi resignation from the Speaker Position Gregory Sabino (Biochemistry) was unanimously elected by the senate to hold such position for the remainder of the academic year.

3) Presidential Welcoming Remarks

President Naydan spoke about the qualities of the newly appointed President of the University New president Samuel Stanley. She also invited all senators and graduate students to the end of year party, to be held on May 15 at the Curry Club. President Naydan also gave special attention to the issues of Tuition hikes and Tuition Waivers. She also welcomed Dean Lawrence Martin to the Senate Floor

3) Lawrence Martin, Dean of the Graduate School

Dean Martin spoke about different subjects including the merits of the new President, The focus on Biomedical Research, the incoming year being tough for graduate education for Stony Brook given budget constraints. The reduction in the number of TA lines for incoming students. The budget cuts for the turner program (15%), the fact that Turner is not accepting postdoctoral applications. Graduate tuition will increase in 21% for next year, the 15% cut being denied and the \$3 million short fall for incoming year.

A period of 5 minutes for question was approved unanimously, which included topics such as: Possible federal sources of funds. Tuition increase for graduate students equal to increase for out of state undergrads, only 14% for in-state undergraduate students.

A 10 Minute Extension was approved unanimously to address matters such: How do we avoid dropping programs entirely? Role of SUNY in approving budget cuts, stifling growth. Advocacy for going to assemblypersons to discuss budget cuts, support.

A 5 Minute Extension was approved with one negative vote.

4) Rules and Constitution Committee Nomination

Angel Gonzalez (Psychology) was temporarily nominated and appointed unanimously.

5) Rules and Constitution Committee Recommendations (Greg Sabino)

Speaker Sabino recommended the following changes to the Internal Control Program:

- 1) Stamp documents to discourage reuse. Unanimous Approval.
- 2) Purchase of equipment requires majority vote and explanation. Unanimous Approval.
- 3) GSA supplement deleted. Unanimous Approval.
- 4) Graduate student nights moved to Programming heading. Unanimous Approval.
- 5) Survival guide ad finder's fee moved to 30%. Unanimous Approval.
- 6) OSA Recognized Clubs and Organizations. No more than 60% of signatures can be from single dept. Proof of registration from the Office of Student Activities. The 60% requirement amended to 80% by Matt Engel (Biomedical Eng.). The recommendation failed to pass with the following votes:
With the 60% requirement: yes: 10 votes. No: 12 votes. 3 abstentions.
With the 80% requirement: yes: 9 votes. No: 14 votes. 2 abstentions.
- 7) Cultural events must be open to all graduate students. Unanimous Approval.
- 8) Brief report must be submitted after cultural/social events. Revision: 250 words, stricken. Unanimous Approval
- 9) Maximum allowable cap @ 15%. Amended to "...maximum of 4%" to "...additional maximum of 4%." Amended to add "... except when BC is nonoperational, during the summer". Unanimous approval with all amendments included.
- 10) 75% cap on fall, 150% cap over full fiscal year. Unanimous approval.
- 11) Maximum cap of 10% on speaker line. Amended to reflect same summer change as before: "...additional maximum of 2%" as above". Unanimously approved with amendments
- 12) GSELF Committee non-public members. Unanimous approval.
- 13) Total number of approved loans for each person shall not exceed five. Unanimous approval.
- 14) Loan procedure clarification. Unanimously approved.
- 15) Loan appeal procedure. Unanimously approved.

6) Election Results. Oath of Office.

The elected executive committee members are the following:

- Dylan Selterman (Psychology) - President
 - Angel Gonzalez (Psychology) - Vice-President
 - Christopher Young (Materials Sciences) - Treasurer
 - Matt Engel (Biomedical Engineer) - Secretary
- All new executives recited the oath of office.

It was proposed that there were two election violations.

- 1) Election continued into May 1st.
- 2) There was no write-in spot for elections.

It was proposed that the election committee chair write an apology/explanation to Senate List Serve. Approved Unanimously.

A Motion to call executive session for GSELF was approved unanimously.

7) Resolution on Traffic. (Vice President Selterman)

Approved unanimously with an amendment to remove 5th recommendation & 3rd whereas clause. (see appendix I)

8) Budget Requests:

Men's hockey. Requests \$1000 for summer camp precession from miscellaneous grants. Approved with 1 Abstention.

9) Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 (Treasurer Young)

Motion to increase presidential and treasurer lines: DENIED. No support.
Treasurer Young explained the budget of the survival guide.
GradMag.

Discussion for 10 minutes, a 5 minute extension denied.

Budget line for The Statesman. Approved with 11 votes in favor and 2 against

2009-2010 Budget approved with 11 votes in favor and 2 against (see appendix II)

10) RA Union Update

Motion to Allow Matt Engel to fill in for Zosia Turek. Approved. Matt spoke about 6 of 750 possible students working to represent the RA Union. It was Suggested that email go out describing positions on RA Union.

11)New Business:

Budget Committee positions.

Catherine Salussolia (Neurobiology), Clint Young (Physics), and Joe Ortiz (ESM) appointed unanimously.

Joe Ortiz suggested that list-serv should not be used for apartment rentals and other non-necessary issues.

President Naydan invited those presenting a voting card to a free drink at the University Cafe.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Ortiz
Senator, Materials Sciences / Temporary Secretary

Jose Colmenares-Angulo
Graduate Student Organization Secretary

Appendix I Resolution on Parking and Transportation

Whereas the Graduate Student Organization acknowledges the general philosophy of the Stony Brook parking and transportation administrators to institute policies and procedures that discourage parking on the innermost areas of campus and encourage parking on the outskirts of campus; and

Whereas the Graduate Student Organization recognizes and admires the diligent efforts of Barbara Chernow and co-workers to resolve the parking and transportation problems; and

Whereas the Graduate Student Organization recognizes that building new parking lots would be costly, detrimental to the environment of the campus, and ultimately unnecessary since there are enough parking spots/lots currently in existence to accommodate all employees; and

Whereas Stony Brook graduate students pay a parking and transportation fee every semester, and yet are fervently dissatisfied overall with the parking and transportation services offered; and

Whereas the employees of Stony Brook University, comprised of faculty, staff, graduate students, and other employees have expressed significant frustration with the lack of available parking on campus, due (in part) by illegal nuisance parking by people without appropriate permits; and

Whereas through informal testimony, Stony Brook police officers who issue parking tickets have expressed the opinion that parking on campus is a “free-for-all,” with illegal nuisance parking a continuing problem for all parking lots on West Campus; and

Whereas Stony Brook parking enforcement issues tens of thousands of tickets every year, (which represent only a fraction of all parking ticket infractions, many of which go undetected), resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars in parking ticket revenue; and

Whereas Stony Brook faculty, staff and graduate students are all in unanimous agreement that the parking enforcement as it currently exists in the form of ticketing is not an effective deterrent against nuisance parking; and

Whereas the “Admin Overflow” and “Old-H” parking lots are overcrowded, especially when compared to the “Tabler” lot, which has significantly more open parking spaces; and

Whereas employees of institutions affiliated with Stony Brook (e.g. Brookhaven National Laboratory) who are not full time workers on West campus do NOT hold permits to park in faculty/staff (designated Red) lots, and nonetheless are allowed to park in those lots; and

Whereas Stony Brook employees who make use of the “Stadium” parking lot have commented that there is insufficient space for faculty/staff (designated Red) due to the numerous unused premium and paid meter (designated Brown and Orange) parking spots; and

Whereas Stony Brook graduate students are forced to forfeit their faculty/staff (designated Red) permits if their cars are not registered in their names (which is often the case for graduate students whose cars are registered through their parents); and

Whereas Stony Brook graduate students who consistently work on campus until very late at night expressed feeling ill-at-ease while walking in the dark to their cars in the absence of campus police patrols; and

Whereas Stony Brook graduate students have expressed that the 2-Walk program is often unresponsive and inefficient, making people less inclined to use it; and

Whereas Stony Brook graduate students who live in dormitory housing (e.g. Chapin) have emphatically expressed that the shuttle buses designed to transport them to and from West campus operate on unreliable and unpredictable schedules, making it very difficult to get to and from West campus and indirectly contributing to illegally parking in the designated Red faculty/staff lots; and

Whereas the Graduate Student Organization recognizes that the problems involving parking and transportation on campus can be solved without building new lots; simply by following recommendations listed below; therefore be it

Resolved that the Graduate Student Organization issues the following recommendations to help fix the parking and transportation problems at Stony Brook:

- 1) Develop better strategies for controlling illegal nuisance parking, which go beyond simply ticketing offenders. This should include building barriers at the entrances of each lot, to ensure that those people without proper permits will be denied entrance. This can take the form of automated gates, standing guards, or some other mode of limiting entrance to only those with appropriate permits
- 2) Employ stricter enforcement of parking violations.
- 3) Raise parking ticket fines for “nuisance” violations from \$30 to \$60.
- 4) Regulate permits for faculty/staff/graduate students who do NOT have a full-time position on campus (e.g. Brookhaven National Laboratory employees) and do not hold faculty/staff permits, such that those employees should park in the “Tabler” faculty/staff (designated Red) lot ONLY, instead of the “Admin Overflow” and “Old-H” lot.
- 5) Change the dynamic of the “Stadium” parking lot, such that a higher number of spots are designated Red (faculty/staff), since such a great number of designated Brown (premium) and Orange (paid meter) parking spots remain unused.

- 6) Increase the safety of on-campus parking lots through better lighting on otherwise dark paths and increased security patrols at night.
- 7) Conduct an overhaul of the scheduling for shuttle buses to and from East and West campus, so that there are buses scheduled at regular and predictable times (e.g. 8:15am, 8:45am) rather than irregular intervals.
- 8) Notify a liaison in the University Environment Committee (preferably the chair of the Parking and Transportation Subcommittee) of all future renovations, construction, changes and decisions regarding parking and transportation on campus before they go into effect.
- 9) Ensure that Stony Brook parking and transportation administrators are in contact with the University Environment Committee (at least once per semester) to discuss how the facilities are being used.

Appendix II 2009-2010 Budget

	Fiscal Year 09-10	Fiscal Year 08-09	Variance
INCOME			
Activity Fee	236922	204000	32922
Interest	1000	3000	-2000
RAP: Graduate School	10000	10000	0
RAP: Research Foundation	10000	10000	0
RAP: Office of the President	10000	10000	0
RAP: CEAS	5000	5000	0
RAP: CAS	3000	3000	0
Miscellaneous Income	3000	2000	1000
TOTAL	278922	247000	31922
EXPENSES			
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES			
GSO OFFICE			
Office Equipment and Supplies	2500	2500	0
Telephone	800	800	0
Insurance	2500	2500	0
PAYROLL			
Officer Stipends	21000	21000	0
Office Manager	7000	7000	0
Webmaster	2400	2400	0
* Public Relations	3500	3500	0
GSA Supplement	0	2000	-2000
ACCOUNTING			
FSA Administrative Fee	26000	25000	1000
External Auditor	4850	4000	850
INTERNAL GSO FUNCTIONS			
Meetings	4000	3000	1000
Miscellaneous Expenses	1000	1000	0
Travel	2500	3000	-500
Committee Expenses	500	500	0
NAGPS Membership	520	500	20
TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	79070	84600	-5530
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
GSO PUBLICATIONS			
* Survival Guide			
Printing	1500	2500	-1000

*	Editor	1000	700	300
	Periodic Publication			
*	Editor	0	2300	-2300
*	Assistant Editor	0	1400	-1400
*	Publication Grant	2000	2000	0
CONTRIBUTIONS AND PUBLIC SERVICE				
	Orientation	1500	1500	0
	Residential Support	1200	1200	0
	Campus Life Awards	1000	1000	0
	Legal Clinic	9700	9700	0
	Tax Clinic	4000	4000	0
	Freewheel Bicycle Collective	1000	1000	0
	Cabaret	1000	1000	0
	University Café	1000	1000	0
	WUSB 90.1 FM	1000	1000	0
	Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps	2000	1500	500
	Stony Brook Child Care	12000	12000	0
	New York Public Interest Research Group	4000	12000	-8000
*	Graduate Student Nights	6000	5000	1000
PROGRAM FUNDING				
	Student Clubs and Organizations	5000	4000	1000
	General Cultural and Social Events	15000	12000	3000
	Speaker Series and Conferences	25000	20000	5000
	Miscellaneous Grants	6000	5000	1000
	Department Allocations	5000	5000	0
	Resource Access Project	90000	90000	0
	Inter-University Doctoral Consortium	5000	5000	0
	NYC Seminar/Workshop Travel	2000	2000	0
	Recreation	3000	3000	0
	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	205900	201800	4100
	TOTAL OPERATIONAL EXPENSES	79070	84600	-5530
	TOTAL EXPENSES	284970	286400	-1430
	TOTAL INCOME	278922	247000	31922
	SURPLUS/DEFICIT	-6048	-39400	33352