

GSO Senate Meeting – April 5, 2011 – Minutes

I. Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Paola Espinosa

- Forty-two senators present.

II. Approval of Agenda, and February Senate Meeting Minutes

- Agenda and minutes approved.

III. President's Report

- The University Senate adopted a resolution Governor Cuomo's budget based on GSO's resolution .
- Next Stony Brooklyn event this Thursday, April 7th at the UCafe.
- In the process of scheduling meetings with VP Karol Grey, President Stanley, and Stony Brook Comptroller to address the proposed fee increases. We will start a letter-writing campaign addressing the Board of Trustees and Chancellor Zimpher. This is an important next step that we should all heed.
- There is a proposal to merge the departments of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies with Women and Gender Studies. There may be other merges on the way, and it is our job to minimize any negative impact on graduate students. We are positioning ourselves well to counter any negative effects.
- Remember to apply for the Distinguished Travel Award!
- Chao Gao nominated to Campus Recreation Center Advisory Board. We'll need to address where the money is coming from and how it's being allocated to maintain new facilities.
 - Nominations approved unanimously.

IV. Vice President's Report

- Have been running the Legal Clinics since early June 2010. We're currently paying our lawyer \$195/hour. Concerned that we're not fully utilizing the Legal Clinic (only an average of 3.5 visitors per three-hour session that's supposed to accommodate 12 members). Our options could be to reduce the number of hours in the future (we've already signed a contract for the remainder of this year). We negotiated to have our lawyer provide workshops on 'Immigration Services' and 'Intellectual Property.' Would still recommend having future VP better utilize this money (\$10,000/year).

V. Fee Increase Committee Report

- About 450 respondents to Technology Fee Survey, mostly Ph.D. students.
- Over 90% agreed that TLT is not managing our money in a transparent way.
- Graduate student demand for the services TLT plans to improve are quite low.
- The university is violating its own policy by exceeding the 15% cap on fee increases.
- In 2008, TLT made a commitment to spend our money on services that benefit students, but have not been doing that either.

VI. RA Union Liaison Committee Report

- Held a sit-in in the SINC Site and got the attention of media and administration.
- Encourage all RAs to attend RA Contract Voting session—this is our opportunity to let the Research Foundation know that students stand behind the work of the RA Union.

VII. GSEU Liaison Committee Report

- Currently conducting a letter-writing campaign to Governor Cuomo, in order to move the paybill forward.
- Also calling NY State Senators, and Assembly-members, and urging them to do the same.
- More info: <http://www.cwa1104gseu.com/updates/call-your-state-legislator-now>

VIII. Budget Committee Report

- Legal Clinics still being held, with extended hours.
- Motion to reallocate funds to particular lines that are currently overspent, or projected to be (also see Appendix A):
 - \$1000 to Grad Student Nights
 - \$1000 to Legal Clinic
 - \$2000 to Miscellaneous Grants
 - \$133 to University Café Programming
 - \$7000 to RAP
 - Unanimous consent to reallocate funds.
- Funding requests:
 - CARA, participating in Roth Regatta Boat Building Competition on April 23rd. Requesting \$180 from the ‘General Cultural and Social Events’ line to cover food, and supplies. General consent.
 - IGSA Spring Ball on May 1st 8-11 p.m. Requesting \$2,250 from the ‘Epic Event’ line to cover food, decorations, prizes, dance instructor, and DJ. Expecting over 200 students. General consent.
 - SARA (2 events) Ping Pong Tournament on April 14th at 6:00 p.m. in Schomburg Commons and End of Semester Potluck. Requesting \$450 (\$300 and \$150, respectively) from the ‘General Cultural and Social Events’ line to cover food, drinks, desserts, utensils.
 - Screening film ‘Departures’ on April 27, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in Wang Center Theater. A fundraiser for Japan Society to assist with relief efforts. Nicholas Seltzer requesting \$200 from ‘Miscellaneous Grants’ line to cover light food, drinks, and advertisements. General consent.
 - Global China Connection Cocktail Networking Hour. Requesting \$575 from ‘Speaker Series and Conferences’ line to cover advertising, decorations, food/refreshments, speaker travel, honorarium, and name badges. General consent.
 - Ecology Club Speaker Series (Dr. Scott Edwards) on Wednesday, May 11th and Thursday, May 12th. Requesting \$910 from ‘Speaker Series and Conferences’ line to cover travel, meals for speakers, and two receptions. General consent.

- Cabaret Collective (Art, Music, Theater Depts.) on Friday April 8th at 9:00 p.m. in Staller-003. Event will feature musical acts, musicians, and artists. Requesting \$150 from 'Miscellaneous Grants' line to cover light food and drinks. General consent.
- GSO-sponsored event, 'A Night with America's Most Dangerous Man: Daniel Ellsberg' on April 26th at 7:30 p.m. in SAC Auditorium. Requesting \$4,000 (co-sponsored with Stony Brook Press, they are contributing \$7,500) from 'Miscellaneous Grants' line to cover part of the honorarium. General consent.
- Public Health Research Poster Session on April 6th at 12:00 p.m. with guest speaker. Requesting \$280 from 'Speaker Series and Conferences' line to cover honorarium, food/drink and eating utensils. General consent.

IX. Report from Radio Station WUSB, 90.1 FM.

- Representative not present.

X. 2011-2012 Budget Report

- See Appendix B (as attachment).

XI. GSO EC Candidates 2011-2012

- GSO Executive Council elections will be held on Solar, week of April 11-15th. Candidates include:
 - President: Charilaos Papadopoulos, Computer Science Dept.
 - Vice President: Stalin F. Mafla-Trujillo, Biophysics Dept.
 - Treasurer: Eugenia Sidorova, Economics Dept.
 - Secretary: Selin Gonen, Economics Dept.
- Statements available online: <http://sbgso.org/node/8089>

XII. New Business.

- After funding reallocation, there will be live entertainment at the Spring Festival on Thursday, May 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the UCafe.

XIII. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Al Herrera-Alcazar, GSO Secretary.

