

September 14th 2004 GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

The Senate meeting starts at 6:05 PM with 14 senators and all the executives present in the meeting. The agenda for the meeting is unanimously approved by adding GSEU report under the heading New Business. Minutes of the May 6th 2004 Senate meeting are unanimously approved with the following corrections:

1) The word 'president' in the second sentence of the second paragraph be changed to 'President Kenny'

2) The sentence 'Quorum is lost in the meeting and the meeting is adjourned at 8pm' in the last paragraph be made the last sentence of the minutes

Welcome Remarks

Former GSO president Angeliki Field-Pollatau delivers welcome remarks. She talked about the achievements of the GSO during the past year like the University Café and important changes in the constitution. She concluded her welcome remarks by wishing the new executives and the senators good luck.

GSO president Prasanna Kumar Thoguluva-Santharam delivers his welcome remarks. He implored all the graduate students to actively participate in the GSO activities. He further outlined some of the issues he would like to see GSO focus on, which include the University Café, actively voice concerns and take action, the housing issues (which fall under the purview of the Social Concerns Committee) and transportation (better bus routes). The president concluded his welcome remarks.

Smitha Fathima, the new Graduate Student Advocate, delivers her welcome remarks. She informed the attendees that she is located in the Graduate School. She talked about some of the problems faced by the graduate students, like the rising tuition costs and the indifference shown by the administration. She also wanted to work with the employees union to solve problems.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee Report

The GSO treasurer Rong Su presents the Budget Committee report. She summarized the expenses and surplus for the fiscal year 2003-2004 and informed the attendees about the meeting dates of the committee. Rong Su handed over to Ron Villa of FSA. Ron Villa reported that the year-end audit should be ready in about 10 days. He explained the various lines on the budget. He reported that there is about 38K of surplus, most of it in cash. Mark Coleman raised a question about the 15K difference in actual and budgeted student activity fee and requested a report. Rong Su took over from Ron and talked about the expenses for July and August 2004. Angeliki suggested that we put the survival guide expenses in the budget. Ron answered that it was processed in September and so it was not listed among the expenses for July and August 2004.

The following funding requests were discussed:

- 1) SBCSSA representative gave a presentation about the Chinese Full Moon festival and requested \$1730 for the event. Motion to approve \$1730 for the event is made and seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Mark Coleman raised a concern that \$1730 is 10% of the entire GSO funding allocation.

- 2) IGSA representatives made a presentation about the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and the IGSA freshers welcome party. They requested \$400 for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and \$1450 for the freshers party. Motion to approve 400\$ for the Ganesh Chaturthi festival was made and seconded by Mark Coleman. The motion passes unanimously.

Mark Coleman raised the following concerns regarding the funding request for the freshers party:

- a) Why is the DJ's cost more than that of the Chinese Full Moon festival?
- b) Why didn't the IGSA approach other organizations for funding?

Motion to approve \$1200 for the freshers party made by Mark Coleman and seconded by Ari Grossman. 9 senators voted for, 3 voted against and 1 senator abstained. The motion passes.

7:00 PM – Quorum still exists (13 senators)

RCC Report

Prasanna presents the Rules and Constitution committee report. Motion to approve the amendments to the constitution made and seconded by Ari Grossman. The motion passes unanimously.

Prasanna explained why the senate meeting location had to be changed from the University Café to the SAC. Chad Bender says that the Lounge Committee approves of the change. Motion to approve the change made by Mark Coleman and seconded by Andi Antonienki. The motion passes unanimously.

Prasanna then talked about the contracting agents for The Graduate. He explained the proposal that there be a finder's fee of 50% as in the Survival Guide. He proposed that anyone, not just the editor, can get a finder's fee and the line be included under 'Newspaper'. Angeliki suggested that the exact clause from the Survival Guide regarding the finder's fee be used for The Graduate. Motion to approve made by Ari Grossman and seconded by Angeliki. The motion passes unanimously.

Survival Guide Report

Angeliki presents the Survival Guide Report. She reported the split of the ad revenues, expenses and income. She also reported that \$2400 was spent on printing expenses.

Lounge Committee Report

Chad Bender presents the Lounge Committee Report. He explained that the purpose of this committee was to oversee the University Café. He informed that the University Café got the health department certificate last January. He reported the following:

- 1) The new additions to the Café, such as the big screen TV and the fountain.
- 2) The Café received \$6000 from the Graduate School and FSA.
- 3) Spent \$2000 to put up an awning.
- 4) The Café now gets both cable and satellite programming.

He requested that the food services be extended to 'limited food'.

7:25 PM – Quorum still exists

New Business

Speaker Election

No nominations for speaker elections. Motion made to postpone the elections made by Angeliki and seconded by Mark Coleman. The motion passes unanimously.

Appointment of new members to GSO Standing Committees (Prasanna)

The following new members were appointed to the standing committees:

- 1) Jean Cadet is the alternate for Budget Committee
- 2) Ari Grossman and Mark Coleman to the Board of Appeals Committee
- 3) Mark Coleman to the RCC
- 4) Jean Cadet to BOA (he has to make sure that he becomes a senator)

Motion to approve the changes made by Mark Coleman and seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

Appointment of new members to University Committees (Prasanna)

Angeliki informs that if we do not fill the committees, the administration might do it. The following new members were appointed to the University committees:

- 1) Andi to the Student Health Advisory
- 2) Ariel to the Concerns Committee and Academic Judiciary

Motion to approve the new members made by Angeliki and seconded. The motion passes unanimously.

NYPIRG

NYPIRG representative Eric promised to work on the housing conditions on-campus. He informed the attendees about voter registration.

GSEU Report

The GSEU representative informed the attendees that GSEU

- 1) filed a charge against the hike in the technology fee
- 2) filed a lawsuit against the international student fee, which is being used for surveillance
- 3) is negotiating regarding the 200% increase in the health insurance fee
- 4) will hold demonstrations on campus for just contracts

Motion made to adjourn and seconded by Mark Coleman. The motion passes unanimously.