

## **GSO Senate – Minutes – October 7, 2008**

The meeting begins with 32 Senators and 5 Executives

### **1) Approval of the Agenda and the September Meeting Minutes**

The September 9<sup>th</sup> 2008 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **2) Welcoming remarks**

President Naydan thanked the Senators for attending, she mentioned that the form from the graduate school for processing the 250\$ of the professional development funds should be available soon. President Naydan explained that she had sent the resolution regarding the unionization efforts of the Research Assistants to the University authorities; she also reminded senators that the University President Search Committee is looking for input of the graduate students on the qualities that the new president should possess.

### **3) Career Center**

Dr. Alfreda James from the career center explained the programs designed for grad students: Job Search strategies, resume writing, practice interviews workshops,].

### **4) Committee Nominations**

President Naydan explained that some positions for university wide committees are still open and asked senators to volunteer, the students who volunteered are:

College of Art and Sciences: Joseph Ortiz, Eboni Jones, Andrei Antonenko

Curriculum Committee: Ashley Gosselin-Ildari

Academic Standing: Onte Johnson

Academic Judiciary: Clint Young

Teaching Learning and Technology: Joseph Ortiz

Student Life: Jessica Stanton

A motion to approve the aforementioned composition of the committees was approved unanimously

### **5) Budget Advisory Committee report:**

Secretary Colmenares explained that the current situation of the state budget is critical given the crisis in the financial market. He said that the definitive numbers of the budget cuts for Stony Brook are not know yet, but will likely range from 10 to 25 MM\$. Secretary Colmenares told the students to forward any questions regarding the budget cuts and their effect on campus life and explained the decision of the Budget Advisory Committee to Freeze hiring of all non-essential personal from the state payroll

### **6)GSEU update:**

Business Agent Victor Rosado told the senate that in the week previous to the meeting the GSEU bargaining team met with the governor's office of employment where the

union counter proposal was denied. Agent Rosado reminded students to vote in the upcoming CWA local 1104 elections

**7) RA Union Update:**

Matthew Engel (Biomedical Engineering) explained the current situation on the organization efforts of the research assistants; he mentioned that the Research Foundation had hired the “labor relations” firm Bond Shoeneck and King with the intention of busting the Research Assistants unionization efforts. Senator Engel also reminded students that State employees are required to remain neutral regarding unionization issues.

**8) Survival guide editors presentation:**

Christopher Marai and Eduardo Mari explained the key accomplishments of the editorial team for this years survival guide, in which the Quality, appearance and Organization where improved while adhering to Campus publication guidelines. The editorial team also mentioned the positive reviews received for their work.

Cindy Leiton (molecular and cellular pharmacology) motioned to reconsider a motion from the 09/09/2008 meeting to allocate \$900 as a bonus to the survival guide editors (\$450 each). The motion passed with 20 votes in favor, 2 opposed and 8 abstained.

**9) Internal Committee reports**

**a. Social Concerns Committee:**

Vice-President Selterman explained the possible solutions for solving graduate student parking problems on the table such as increasing fines for illegally parked students or electronic gating of the Old H parking (near the SAC). Vice-President Selterman also reminded senators that the get out the vote campaign was in the last week and asked senators for help in registering new voters.

**b. Budget Committee:**

Funding requests

I) MFA Open Studios: Kristine granger from the Art department requested \$200 from GSO for the Master of Fine Arts program Open Studios which allows interaction between the artists and the general public. The event will be October 24 & 25, 2008 from 5 to 8 PM at the SBU Graduate Studio Art at Nassau Hall. A motion to approve \$160 was approved unanimously.

II) Melissa Mark from Behavioral Ecology Group requested \$307 for a visit by Drs. Peter and Rosemary Grant who will be giving a talk on Wednesday, October 29th at 3:45pm in 038 Life Sciences Building and Thursday, October 30th at 10:30pm in room 301 Wang Center. The funds were approved unanimously

III) Theresa Amendola from the Graduate School requested \$2582 for a conference on the Influence of the press on October 16th, 2008 from 6-7:30 pm at the Wang room 201, the funds were approved unanimously

IV) A representative from the Buddhism Study & Practice Group requested \$470 for a One-Day Meditation Workshop & Dharma Sharing by Nancy Bonardi in November 8, 2008 from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM in Wang center room 301, the funds where approved unanimously

V) Andrei Antonenko from the Linguistic department requested \$1500 for the Linguistics Lecture Series with Daniel Everett as the speaker on December 4 and 5, 2008. A motion to grant the funding was approved unanimously

VI) Luigi Longobardi from the Hera Group requested \$900 for a series of talks on the Energy of the Future with different guest speakers, the talks will be held on October 8,23,29 and November 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. The funds were approved unanimously

### **8) New/old business**

II) Megan Daum, Assistant editor of the GradMag requested a total of \$800 for the following expenses: Two freelance writers during the first semester (\$400), \$250 to the assistant editor for the website redesign and \$150 for the assistant editor for reporting on the fall GSO senate meetings. A motion to approve the funding was passed.

I) A representative from NYPIRG explained to the senate the activities NYPIRG has promoted on campus and the current funding situation of the organization.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jose Colmenares-Angulo  
Graduate Student Organization Secretary