

Minutes of the GSO Senate meeting on Thursday October 10th, 2002

Meeting started at 6:00pm

Welcome remarks - Dr. Lawrence Martin

Dr. Lawrence Martin, the Dean of Graduate School, started the meeting with some welcoming remarks. The tuition waivers have been taken care of; there were mistakes in the way they were posted. Dr. Kenny made a commitment that the problems will be fixed for spring. It is unclear why this happened, nobody has made an active decision about what happened but it has been taken care of now. Lawrence Martin asked the Senate whether they think that the housing is sufficient and urged GSO to react if they think it is not. Yvet Hubbart said that new housing for graduate students can be built but it will not be affordable. Masa Prodanovic said the HPAC is in the process of getting new housing for graduate students. Lawrence Martin said that the Graduate School encourages the graduate directors to give the students they accept the info that if they apply after May 15 housing is not guaranteed and to guide them to off-campus housing. Pegine Walrad said she is surprised by the fact that the results of the housing survey from last year were used in order to raise the prices for on campus housing. There is a loophole for building housing: alumni can build on state land but the alumni association does not have any money. Jasmina Sinanovic asked why the staff is being paid location pay and the graduate students do not. Lawrence Martin said an average location pay in this University is about \$300 a year. Location pay is set by the Union contract and the GSEU should deal with that issue. A question was raised why the RAs do not get the location pay and the answer by Dr. Martin was that usually whatever is given to TAs and GAs is given to the RAs as well, but this is not written anywhere. Mark Yondola commented on the fact that last year and this year students were not paid for the first 4 weeks they are here. Shawn Pottorf suggested the Graduate School to send a letter to the new students saying that they will be paid 4 weeks after the beginning of the semester. Dr. Martin promised he would look into it. Bryan Field asked about the future of the SPOT. Dr. Martin said that the last plan he heard was the SPOT would move to the 'End of the Bridge' at the Student Union. He added that FSA and the Administration would have it done by the end of the spring semester. Pegine Walrad said that according to Kevin Kelly from FSA the chances the SPOT will move in the end of the spring semester is 0-2%. Dr. Martin promised he would get back to us on that. Ron Willa commented that as far as he knows this move is pending but not for this fiscal year.

Parliamentary Law

Bryan Field (Speaker) presented the 'Parliamentary Law' document and passed copies to the senators. The Senate is expected to follow these rules in order the meetings to run efficiently.

Minutes from September passed with no changes.

New Treasurer appointment

The President appointed Bryan Field as the new Treasurer. Rajesh Elissety is graduating soon and he does not have enough time to devote to the GSO.

Ron Willa went through the numbers of our Budget. He said that nothing significant has changed so far.

Rules and Constitution Committee

The changes in the Election Bylaws were presented as a result of the Rules and Constitution Committee meeting. Jasmina suggested attaching the committee bylaws to these laws. Shawn Pottorf made a motion for the bylaws to go back for revision – motion passed.

Tanya Smith made a motion for the bylaws to pass with the amendments that were suggested: 'managed' instead of 'man' (Article V-Polling stations), adding 'must be' to the sentence 'Sufficient evidence submitted to the Elections Committee...' (Bylaws for the Election of Departmental Senators - Article II. Procedure - Election in a meeting), the Election Chair cannot be the Secretary (or someone related to him/her or any of the candidates) if s/he is running for the elections. The person that will replace him/her if needed will be discussed in the meeting prior to the elections.

New Speaker Election

Dominique Limprevil nominated herself to be the new Speaker but she was not a Senator at the time so she could not be elected as Speaker (the Speaker is voted among the confirmed Senators of the meeting). Christopher LaBarbera was voted unanimously to be the new Speaker of the GSO.

Budget items

1. 'Talking with...' organized by Pegine Walrad and the Cabaret at the SPOT. They asked for \$270 and the recommended amount from the Budget Committee was \$200. The Senate decided to give \$270 (30 senators in favor).
2. 'La Nocha Hispanica' organized by the Schomburg staff. They asked for \$500 and the Budget Committee recommended the same amount. The Senate decided to give \$500 (26 senators in favor).
3. Events for FALL 2002 organized by the Social Justice Alliance. They asked for \$1520 the Budget Committee recommended giving \$995 from the Speaker Series and \$480 from Cultural Events line. The Senate approved of the $\$995 + \$480 = \$1475$ total (24 senators in favor).
4. Lecture discussions from the Students for Peace and Humanity. The amount they requested was \$1700 and the recommendation of the Budget Committee was \$915. The amount of \$915 passed unanimous. Adelaide from Students for Peace and Humanity asked from the Senate to give \$600 that would go for the honorarium of a speaker to come from the Cultural and Social Events line. The request came to a vote. From 28 present senators, 14 votes against, 12 voted for and 2 abstained. Motion failed.

New business

Shawn Pottorf wanted to discuss about the Senate List Sever but due to time constraints the matter was tabled for the next senate meeting.

Hernan Pruden and Ramon del Castillo discussed GSEU issues.

The issue of a table tennis to be put at the SPOT was brought up. The Budget Committee recommended only one table to be bought (\$425) but the issue was never brought up to the Lounge Committee, which is the Committee that will decide whether the table tennis can stay at the SPOT. Motion to vote on the issue. Out of 14 senators that were present 8 senators voted that they did not want GSO to buy a table tennis (no) and 6 of them voted that they want GSO to buy a table tennis (yes). Motion failed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Submitted by Angeliki Field-Pollatou

GSO Secretary

11/14/02