

Minutes of the GSO Senate meeting on Thursday, July 17th, 2003

Meeting started at 6:12pm with 12 Senators present. 2 Senators arrived later, for a total of 14 present at 6:30pm.

A motion to pass the minutes from May 7th, 2003 with no changes passed unanimously.

Appointment of Treasurer

Christine Promin made a motion to "compel the President" to nominate Bryan Field as Treasurer, which Salih Kocer seconded. Shawn Pottorf asked the President who the nominees are for the position. President Guofeng Hou then stated that he had talked to several candidates interested in the position, and though that Rong Su, a Ph.D. student in Computer Science would be a good candidate. Senators then asked Ms. Su a series of questions. Shawn asked about the collection of fees, and Rong said that the GSO will have to work with administrators to work out a solution. Tanya Smith asked if she has been to past Senate meetings, and Alex asked what Rong's position on the fee was. She replied that she voted mandatory and thought it was important to graduate student life.

Tanya asked who the other nominees were. Guofeng stated that Chi Ma from Computer Science was another candidate. Vice President Angeliki Pollatou stated that Chi Ma did not participate in the budget committee meetings in the last year.

A motion to end discussion and call the question failed (5 for - 6 opposed - 0 abstain).

Chi asked Rong about her experience in similar positions, and Rong stated that she was in charge of her department's finances in college, and had experience being involved in external clubs.

Bryan Field then was asked about his feelings about the nominations. Bryan claimed that the Treasurer position is unlike any other in the GSO, involving the largest burden of work. Salih then asked Rong if she had the time to fulfill the duties of the position, and she said yes.

Tanya Smith then moved to amend the motion to "compel the President to nominate Bryan Field as Treasurer until the first Senate meeting in the fall." Salih seconded the motion. Alex stated this serves all of the students' interests. Shawn moved, Salih seconded a motion to end discussion. The motion to end discussion of the amendment passed (9 for - 4 opposed - 1 abstain).

The motion itself to amend the motion at hand to "compel the President to nominate Bryan until the first Senate meeting in the fall" then passed (10 for - 0 opposed - 4 abstain).

Maria moved, Christine seconded a motion to end discussion of the motion. The motion to end discussion passed (11 for - 3 opposed - 0 abstain).

The motion to "compel the President to nominate Bryan until the first Senate meeting of the fall semester" then passed (11 for - 0 opposed - 3 abstain).

Guofeng Hou then nominated Rong Su for the position of Treasurer. Zenny Zhang made a motion to confirm the nomination, which Chi seconded.

Senator Sabrina Hom asked how Rong Su would be trained. Maria Squire commented on the importance of stability and experience. Christine Promin then asked if Guofeng had a personal problem with Bryan. Guofeng replied that he did not have a personal problem with anybody. In further discussion, Alex and Chris Noto claimed that not nominating Bryan was not in the best interest of graduate students. Zenny pointed to the importance of having new ideas and new thinking in the position.

Tanya moved to end discussion, and Maria seconded. The motion failed the required 2/3 majority (7 for - 5 opposed - 1 abstain).

In further discussion, Salih pointed that Guofeng may be afraid Bryan will not step down in the fall, Chi Ma asked what the GSO members would think of the refusal to appoint Rong, and Alex claimed that Bryan was the only option aside letting GSO finances "be a mess."

Maria moved to end discussion, which Tanya seconded. The motion passed (12 for - 1 opposed - 0 abstain).

The motion to appoint Rong Su as Treasurer failed (2 for - 11 opposed - 0 abstain).

Guofeng then nominated Chi Ma for Treasurer. Zenny moved to confirm the nomination, which Chi seconded. Tanya moved to end discussion, which Maria seconded. The motion to end discussion passed (11 for - 1 opposed - 1 abstain).

The motion to appoint Chi Ma as Treasurer failed (2 for - 9 opposed - 2 abstain).

Guofeng then nominated Nitin Pillai for Treasurer. Chi moved to confirm the nomination, and Zenny seconded.

Tanya stated that the Senate would disapprove of anyone but Bryan, and moved to end discussion. Maria seconded the motion. The motion to end discussion passed (9 for - 0 opposed - 3 abstain).

The motion to appoint Nitin Pillai as Treasurer failed (0 for - 10 opposed - 3 abstain).

Guofeng then nominated Mei Yan for Treasurer. Chi moved to confirm the nomination, and Zenny seconded. Tanya then moved to end discussion, which Kostas seconded. The motion to end discussion passed (11 for - 1 opposed - 1 abstain).

The motion to appoint Mei Yan as Treasurer failed (1 for - 10 opposed - 2 abstain).

Guofeng then nominated Zenny Zhang for Treasurer. There was no motion made on the nomination, so the nomination failed.

Chi Ma then moved to delay the issue of Treasurer until the next Senate meeting, which received unanimous consensus.

A quorum check was called, and a head count confirmed 13 Senators present.

Committee Vacancies

The issue of open spaces on both the Board of Appeals and other committees was brought up since current members had graduated, and Christine and Tanya expressed interest in joining the committee. Guofeng did not nominate any candidates to fill these positions.

Referendum on Activity Fee

Tanya moved to call a referendum on the graduate student activity fee for the last full week of August (25th-29th). Christine seconded the motion. Tanya modified the motion to include a provision for online elections which passed unanimously. Stefan Hyman moved, Chris seconded a motion to end discussion. The motion passed (9 for - 1 opposed - 0 abstain). The motion to put the referendum to vote passed (10 for - 1 opposed - 2 abstain).

University Cafe

Shawn presented on the new graduate student lounge, which he proposed to name the University Cafe. Tanya moved, Salih seconded a motion to confirm the name of University Cafe. The motion passed unanimously.

Shawn also presented a mission statement to the new lounge. Tanya moved, Chris seconded a motion to pass the mission statement. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine then moved, Tanya seconded to revisit the Treasurer issue. The motion passed (6 for - 3 opposed - 2 abstain).

In discussion, quorum was lost and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.