

## December 7th 2004 GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

The Senate meeting was called to order at 6:10PM with 22 senators and all the executives present.

The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously. The november senate meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

### Question and Answer session with the University Police

Douglas F. Little from the University Police was present to answer students' concerns regarding the safety on campus.

1) The first question was regarding insufficient lighting on campus, especially behind the Roth quad and the LIRR parking lot. Chad Bender added that the south part of the loop road has not lighting as well.

Doug informed the senate that some of the lights are not broken; it is an issue of timing. Some lights are turned on late. He also said that the police is striving for better lighting on campus. While the police does not deal with lighting on campus, they will make recommendations to the concerned authorities to conduct a survey regarding the lighting issues. He also suggested that we meet with Terence Hardigan of Environment Health and Services.

Doug was asked if timing was the usual problem. He said that it is usually timing and people working.

Mark Coleman complimented the University Policy on the great job they are doing to keep the campus safe.

2) The second question was regarding the 2-RIDE service. Students have complained that the police is unfriendly, have told them that this is not a cab service and have asked the students if they really felt threatened. Another common complaint is that the police take a long time to respond, usually in the order of 45 minutes.

Doug said that there are a lot of students on campus and the cops try hard to provide the RIDE service. If it takes too long for the cops to arrive, he wanted the students to lodge a complaint. He also said that there are students misuse the service. If students encounter unfriendly attitude or it takes too much time, they should make a note and let Doug know.

Doug was asked if there are any student escorts. He said there are and it is the WALK service. One of the senators commented that the RIDE service is not well advertised and that she has never heard of it while she was an under graduate at Stony Brook. Doug said that they do advertise it. Doug was asked to send another advertisement and specify that students should not abuse this service.

3) The third concern was the lack of yield to pedestrian signs. Mark Coleman said that less than half the walkways have signs. Doug said that they are putting up 'Use Crosswalk' signs and stop signs at walkways. Mark suggested they the police can put up 'Approaching Crosswalk' signs for drivers. Doug said that they are only allowed to use international signs. Angeliki said that international students do not know the rules as

they are different from what they are used to back home. Doug suggested that GSO editors can write about these issues in the graduate newspaper. Angeliki suggested that we can have a driver and pedestrian education session during orientation. Monica expressed concern regarding bike paths saying that some of them end quite abruptly. She also said that some hospital staff park in Chapin and then drive the wrong way.

4) The last area discussed was the security issues on campus. One of the issues was people losing or forgetting keys and calling the police to let them into closed buildings. One of the senators commented that closing buildings does not go with graduate life. Chad said that if you are supposed to have access to a closed building, you would have the keys.

And finally, Doug was asked if the police can send security alerts by email instead of just posting them on their website.

### **Budget Committee Report**

Rong Su, the GSO Treasurer, presented the Budget Committee report. The following funding requests were discussed.

1) Stony Brook University English Department Graduate Conference in Manhattan: Michael Boecherer was the representative who was present in the senate meeting. Monicca asked him who this event was open to. Michael replied that it was open to all the graduate students. Chad asked him how many people participate in this event. Michael told him that there are 75 presenters from 21 universities and colleges. Angeliki made a motion to approve \$850.00 for the event. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

2) Lounge Committee: Chad informed the senate that out of the \$1500 approved for Lounge Committee spending during the November 9th senate meeting, \$1468 was spent on a professional grade sandwich station.

3) Funding request for a theatre project: Monicca asked the representative if this was part of her thesis work. The representative replied in the affirmative. Andi said that GSO cannot fund this event as this is part of her curriculum. Andi made a motion not to support the event until they form a legitimate organization. The motion was seconded by Gina Chiarella. The motion passes unanimously.

4) Speaker series event requests for Social Justice Alliance: The organization requested \$470 for 'Panel on the World Social Forum Movement' and \$590 for 'Panel on Iraq War Veterans Against the War'. Angeliki made a motion to approve the requested amounts. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

### **Question and Answer Session with GSO Executives**

Chad commented that the executives do not seem to know the constitution and Robert's rules of order. Mark asked Monicca if she can keep the senate informed regarding the University Police Q&A. She replied in the affirmative. Angeliki asked Prasanna what was going on with the Housing Committee. Chad added that during her State of the

University address, President Kenny did not mention graduate housing. Satprem replied that the Housing Committee is still one senator short of having a working membership. Miranda Moore expressed interest in joining the Housing Committee. Her nomination is approved unanimously. Miranda Moore is appointed to the Housing Committee.

### **New Business**

Eric presented NYPIRG's 7-point resolution that aims to provide a more affordable, accessible and quality higher education to New York State students. Miranda Moore made a motion to support the resolution. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

Miranda Moore made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.