

GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

February 14, 2002

General Announcements were made.

December Meeting Minutes were approved without corrections.

Welcome Remarks:

Fred Preston, VP of Student Affairs- Habitat for Humanity Fundraising

GSO is attempting to raise \$2500 towards the University goal of \$40,000, in order to fund the building of a home in Suffolk County for a family in need. This is a university-wide fund raising effort. He encouraged our participation.

Patricia Cruso- Stony Brook Day in Albany-Feb. 26, 2002

We were all encouraged to participate in Stony Brook Day. A series of buses will take interested individuals upstate in order to lobby on behalf of our university. A tour of the city will be included, as will access to government officials, so we may voice our concerns.

Committee Reports:

Housing- Masa Prodanovic (speaker)- Schomburg Rent Review will occur soon. GSO representation (Masa and Jasmina Sinanovic) will be requested.

Budget- Ron Willa- (phone 2-6515) went through GSO financial statement.

Pegine Walrad (president) asked how much over budget is the GSO? Ron replied that we spent \$7,000 beyond our income in 2001. Last year, we approved a \$12,000 deficit budget, and we are already almost through those additional funds after 7 months.

Lorren commented that he could not attend an international meeting he was interested in (while not presenting) because of a lack of funding, and that the GSO should sponsor students in such situations.

Bryan Field (senator, physics and astronomy) commented that the GSO does not have the funding to support all students. Keith Metzger (senator, anatomical sciences) and Abigail McKay both suggested that he submit a proposal to the Budget Committee for them to consider.

Special Committees:

Social Justice Alliance- Ellen Lindquist introduced the new grad club to the senate and informed them of two events which will occur in the near future.

Habitat for Humanity Fundraising- Pegine Walrad

The GSO has a goal of raising \$2500. We need a task force. Mustafa Siddiq (senator, MCB) volunteered. She mentioned an idea for a Spot event including Lawrence Martin (Dean of the graduate school) playing foosball, and possibly Fred Preston involved in another activity. Student homeless stories could also be collected in order to support the grad housing cause.

Period of Discussion and Debate:

Old Business:

New members on committees- two new volunteers for the Lounge Committee-Poojan Prabhu, and Christine Promin. Petra Lammers is no longer on the committee.

New Business:

Budget Items:

Alex Kolker (marine sciences) commented how advertising of GSO events is frequently poor. He proposed adding an additional \$20-\$50 to each proposal towards advertising of GSO sponsored events, in order to increase participation. Shawn Pottorf (senator, physics and astronomy) mentioned that the budget committee deadlines were designed in order to ensure advanced notice to the grad community of upcoming events. Mustafa Siddiq suggested that there should be a requirement to post events on the kiosks throughout the campus. Keith Metzger pointed out that all approved proposals already have advertising allocations.

Carnival Fest:

Sponsored by the Hispanic Language dept. The dept will supply music, and a karaoke system. It will celebrate Carnival. It will occur at the Spot, and the expected attendance will be about 70 people. The budget request was for \$400 and included \$250 for food, and \$150 for decorations. The budget committee recommended \$250, since the GSO cannot fund more than \$100 towards food. It advised that the departmental allocation be used towards food. (Allocation from the cultural and social events category.)

\$250 proposal passed unanimously.

2002 Human Rights Campaign:

Proposed by the Students for Peace and Humanity. They requested \$800. (Stephen Shalom (Z Magazine) \$300, Father Roy Bourgeois (SOA Watch) \$500) This is an increase of \$50 over the request to the budget committee due to an increase of SS speaker fee. The committee recommended the entire proposal be funded (\$750). Allocation will come from the Speaker Series line.

\$800 proposal passed unanimously.

Habitat for Humanity Fund Raiser:

Proposed by the GSO Exec Council. We would like to match the funding raised by the GSO with a cap of \$1000. We will have several fundraising events, including the 'Beat the Dean' foosball competition. SBU would like to raise a total of \$40,000 in order to fund the building

of a house. The budget committee recommended matching the fundraising up to \$1000. Allocation will come from Miscellaneous.

\$1000 proposal passed. (13 for, 4 abstaining)

Late Budget Requests:

3 Events from the Underrepresented Graduate Scholars:

1-Caribbean Oral Traditions: Story Telling Workshop

Feb 21-23 Intended to teach students / faculty / staff Caribbean culture, writing, and the art of story telling.

2/21- story telling performance at the colors cafe 8pm-11pm (100 students)

2/22- breakfast session at SAC 305 including readings from LifeLines, Ms. Mazanares' book of monologues (40 participants)

2/22- workshop for story telling in theatre arts department Lunch served (25 students)

Possible Spot appearance from 830-930pm

Requesting \$650 from GSO

item	amount	source
airfare	\$350	GSO
ground transport	\$260	UGS
hotel	\$300	GSO
Colors cafe food	\$100	BFSA
Breakfast readings	\$50	BFSA
Workshop Luncheon	\$125	BFSA

Several senators commented that the ground transport from the airport was too high. Because of this, they suggested airport shuttles, and an adjusted GSO proposal of \$490 (\$160 less, the amount in excess of ground transport).

\$490 approved by senate

2) **Diversity Discourse Forum** Tabled until March meeting

3) **Women in Prisons Conference**

March 13, 2002 SAC auditorium 9am-3pm. Expected participation is 75-100 people

This conference is designed to teach the SBU community about issues concerning women in the prison system, and the impact it has on their family, children, and society.

Participating groups:

BFSA (Black Faculty and Staff Organization)

GSO

UGS

School of Social Welfare

Career Cultural Competence (C-3)

There will be a NYC guest speaker, a student panel presentation, small group discussions, and a plenary session.

GSO funding request: \$600

item	amount	source
transport (NYC-SBU)	\$50	SSW/GSG
speakers	\$500	GSO
lunch	\$100	GSO
	\$150	BFSA
	\$200	C-3

Discussion of Operational Rules for the GSO office (SAC room 227) and the clubroom (SAC room 226)

The lock change (to a combination lock) for room 227 was discussed, as was the sharing of the clubroom. Possible guidelines for conduct and sharing office space including reserving room 226 for club meetings were suggested.

Abigail McKay, UGS- Allocations of funds to departments

Currently, the GSO departmental allocation has a cap for 200 students per department. (This occurred in the spring, when the senate voted to increase the allocation from \$3 to \$5 per full-time and \$.75-\$1 per part-time student.) Abigail noted that there are 6 dept with more than 200 students. She commented that the cap was not voted on, rather the exec's made this decision, and is now putting large departments at a disadvantage. (In her dept, SPD, 45% of student would not receive their allocation.) She is proposing to remove the cap.

The exec board commented that this cap was a part of the senate-approved increase, and to change this, it would require going through the senate again. The issue of where the money would come from to cover this large increase in expenditures was also raised.