

GSO Senate Meeting Minutes for Dec 7, 2000

Minutes taken by [Geraldyn Datz](#), Secretary

Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from 11/09/2000 with minor corrections.

1. New Business

a) *Special Guest: N. Duffrin*

Ms. Duffrin discussed the expenditures of the technology fee. She also mentioned plans to rewire both Chapin and Schomburg for T1 access, and that this had been difficult because the bldgs are old and difficult to rewire. Plans for Schomburg are underway, plans for Chapin are still in the planning stages. Several questions were addressed from the senate including whether spending on infrastructure is proportionate for grad and undergrads. Handouts were given to the senate which described the 1990-2000 expenditures, plans for use of expenses, the graduate technology fee (there were not enough go around, however.)

b) *Treasurer's Report*

- o MFA: requested \$300 for speaker series event; however, event cancelled and request was withdrawn.
- o Hillel: Update of Martini Night (which was approved for \$450 @ last senate mtg). Poorly attended event due to liquor license problems, which prevented the actual serving of martinis.
- o Kwaanza: SARA sponsored event Approved in amt. of \$500. PASSED: 26 vs 0

FIRE DRILL ---afterward...N= 23 total attendance (not counting Execs) & N=14 Senators

Meeting continued....

- o FSA request to move to \$5000 from surplus to SPOT subsidy because annual subsidy for the SPOT was exhausted. Costs of operating the SPOT were discussed: (e.g. in July /Aug when closed = \$1700. Operating fully = add'l \$700-800/mo.) Senators raised issue of allocating more to SPOT than to RAP funding. Issue of raising RAP to \$250 as previous years. Sen. McKay asked that SPOT concerns documented so that Senate educated. Executives responded that this has been done but new info will be distributed at the next meeting. In the end...SPOT subsidy shelved as per recommendation from Sen. T. Smith, Approved of \$2500 (half of requested amt.) with stipulation that next

senate mtg. will include a detailed summary of SPOT history and future plans. Kunal noted that if issues arise over break, Execs could address them and report back to senate in January. PASSED: 14 Vs 0 against.

- David reviewed GSO expenditures sheet with no objections or comments.

c) President's Report

- Vote to move 1st Senate meeting for spring semester to 2nd Thursday in February

PASSED: 14 vs 0

- Kunal reminded Senate that a vote needs to occur which grants the Execs permission over the break to make financial decisions / allot monies if necessary. If Execs spend monies, a full report must be given to Senate at the next meeting. PASSED: 14 vs 0.
- As an example of above, D Spears brought up a SBCSSA (Stony Brook Chinese Scholars Students Ass'n) request for \$2400 for the Chinese New Year. Since this was such a large request, and so few Senators were still present, a motion was made to postpone voting on this event until Feb mtg. PASSED: 14 vs. 0.

- Housing Crises: Kunal reviewed his impression of HPAC discussions. Housing will be guaranteed to all new students who apply for housing by May 15th. Discussion of exploitation of housing (e.g. by students with families), the need for overflow spaces, & the removal of HSC students from dorms (approx. 50-80 beds). This last point was brought up as an action that would essentially "solve" the housing problem.
- Finally, Kunal mentioned plans to develop a housing survey to ask on and off campus students about their housing experiences. The survey could also include questions from the Chapin housing committee and would enlist the support of the Dean of Graduate School. The political Sciences dept was also mentioned as a possible avenue for data collection. Sen. Pentakousis asked that average age of occupants of dormitories also be assessed. Kunal mentioned that depending on the results of the survey, HPAC might be convinced of long term building plans for Graduate Dorms.

d) Editor in Chief, News & Blues: Jacob Heller

- Jacob announced the release of News & Blues and encouraged graduate participation in the paper. 2 positions for staff writers are open. There will be a

mtg. next week for interested contributors, writers or researcher for articles.
Reimbursement is \$100/per person per issue.

e) Vice President's Report

- Jean made a recommendation of a Prof. in the math dept who might be of assistance with the survey and deferred discussion of other issues in the interest of time.

e) Secretary's Report:

- Geralyn disagreed & raised concerns with Kunal's optimism over housing issues. She questioned why the ratios that were originally agreed upon by GSO Execs (i.e. 1/4 of new rooms or n= 200) have been steadily & gradually reduced in discussions with administrators. As an example, at last senate mtg, 100 rooms were mentioned as the goal. Even this number has since dwindled to approx. 50-80 rooms (at the present meeting in the Presidents report).
- Additionally, Geralyn expressed concern that the removal of HSC students from the dorms could be construed as "solving" the housing crises. She mentioned that many students are in fact interested in on campus housing and do not seek it because it is known that there is not enough room @ SB to accommodate graduates. So, freeing up 80 rooms certainly shouldn't be looked at as anything but a band-aid on the current problem and long term planning is needed. Certainly a survey could help address these concerns more clearly.
- Further, she addressed a problem that would likely arise as a result of the "guaranteed" student housing rules: namely, existing on campus grad students having only 2 months to look for a new apt over the summer. Also, the fact that a car is a necessity for off campus living, is a difficulty particularly for international students on campus.
- Finally, Geralyn stated to Kunal (and the Senate at large) that maintaining our stance is with administration is critical for change to happen. Attuning to political agendas and the gradual revising of our original goals were stressed as items to be on the watch for.

f) Speaker's Report: deferred in the interest of time.

g) Protestant Campus Ministry

- Announcement of services offered, given by Brother Clarke Berge.
cberge@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

h) NYPIRG

- Review of successful semester activities by Meagan Reeve (Notably, voter registration of N = 2200--largest ever at SB, Toy Safety Programs, and SCAT: Small Claims Court Action Center, Stuff-A-Bus, & Anti-Sweat Shop Campaign.) You can reach Meagan @ NYPIRG x6457

- **Move to adjourn**