

MINUTES OF THE GSO SENATE MEETING ON OCTOBER 14th, 2003

Regular Senate meeting on October 14th 2003 starts at 6:00 PM. All the executive members are present. The Senate meeting starts with 34 senators in the meeting.

Motion to waive the approval of last senate (Sep 23rd) meeting minutes to the next regular senate meeting passes unanimously.

Lawrence Martin, Dean of Grad School addresses the GSO Senate council

He asks the senators to represent their department as a whole and not to put in their personal views.

He says that the university café will become an asset for the student community life at the Stony Brook University.

Guofeng Hou, President of GSO thanks the Dean for his continued support to the GSO. He asserts that the April referendum is constitutional according to the GSO Constitution and the GSO Rules and Constitution Committee's ruling.

The Question and Answer session with the Dean answering the questions from the senate council begins:

Regarding over turning the April referendum, Dean says that it's a tricky situation and he consulted the best legal advisors he had and only then he overturned the referendum result, as the question was not properly placed on the ballot (in a way accorded by the GSO constitution).

Alok Gambhir says that the Dean should have consulted the graduate council when overturning the referendum result. The Dean replies saying that everybody has the right to raise their opinion against administration and that he based his decision on the expert legal assistance.

Standing Committee Reports

Budget committee:

Funding proposal for the SBCSSA Full Moon festival party:

Recommendation of the budget committee: To give the amount requested \$1,705.

Tanya asks, who all are present when the recommendation is made. Rong says that the budget committee members/alternates Song, Venkat and Guofeng were present. Angeliki, vice president says that she wasn't there. Tanya asks how many members on BC, who are also members of SBCSSA, were present when this recommendation is made.

A request for the itemized budget is made and the SBCSSA representative gives the Itemized budget. SBCSSA representative explains that the moon cake was given as a giveaway gift and it should not be considered as food

Motion to end the discussion passes unanimously. A motion to give the requested \$1,705 to SBCSSA is made. The motion passes in favor 25, opposed 0 and abstain 10.

Funding proposal by the Linguistics department to organize the 34th Annual meeting of NE linguistics committee under the funding item: Funding of general cultural and social events and speaker series/conferences by the GSO.

Recommendation of the budget committee: To give the amount requested \$1,600.

A presentation by the representative is made asserting that this conference improves the prestige of the department as NRC ranking are shortly coming up.

Motion to fund the event by giving the requested \$1,600 passes unanimously.

Funding proposal to organize a concert by a California composer:

No recommendations by the budget committee. \$700 is requested by the representatives from the GSO. Motion to fund the event by giving \$700 is made and it passes unanimously.

Budget is presented to the senate by the treasurer.

Issues like reducing the RAP, raising the cultural event, club allocations are discussed.

Motion to end discussion on the budget and send an email of the budget report to the senate list is made. The motion passes in favor 20, opposed 10 and abstain 4.

Motion to move the voting on the budget to the next senate meeting on Nov 11 and extend the interim budget till then is made. The motion passes in favor 22, opposed 2, abstain 8.

Board of Appeals Committee:

The Speaker decides not to allow the chair of the committee to present the report, as he thinks it is out of order. He explains that it is out of order because none qualified is present to answer the questions by the senate on the BoA report.

Graduate Council Committee:

Angeliki the graduate representative in the committee informs the senate that there is a proposal from some members of the Graduate Council to make an ethics course a requirement for graduation. No decision has been made yet but she asked feedback from the senators. Senators give their feedback on the proposed course.

Motion to end the discussion on this passes unanimously.

26 senators present in the senate meeting. Motion to adjourn the meeting is made and then dropped by the senator. Motion to discuss NYPRIG and GSEU passes unanimously.

The representatives from NYPRIG and GSEU give a presentation highlighting their achievements and support for the graduate students at Stony Brook University.

Motion to adjourn the senate meeting is made. The motion passes in favor 20, opposed 5 and abstain 0.

The meeting is adjourns at 8:45 PM.