

GSO Senate – Minutes – February 13, 2006

The meeting begins with 31 Senators and 5 Executives

1) Welcome Remarks

- a. The President welcomes the Senators to the first meeting of the semester.
- b. The President announces that we are trying to go paperless at Senate meetings except for the budget report and the minutes.
- c. The internal audit of the GSO, ordered by Dean Martin, has been released to the President and Treasurer. They are working on it and will disclose the contents of the report at the next meeting

2) Approval of the Agenda

- a. The agenda is approved by unanimous consent.

3) Minutes

- a. Approved by unanimous consent.

4) Childcare

- a. The childcare system at Stony Brook University has been in place for many years and they are very appreciative of the money that they receive from the GSO. Students get a discount on child care services and they cannot provide the same level of quality service without GSO support.

5) Environmental Club

- a. The environmental club is trying to reduce the amount of paper that is printed at SINC sites by having the printing go default duplex printing and reducing the cover pages from one per job to one per student.
- b. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to empower the Executive Board to write a letter of support. *Sen. Rountos (Marine Sciences)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes 26-0-0

6) Madagascar Akinzy Fund

- a. *Sen. Hall (Anatomical Sciences)* speaks about the Madagascar Ankizy Fund. In 1998, the Madagascar Ankizy Fund (MAF) — Ankizy is a Malagasy word for “children” — was founded by Dr. David Krause, Ph.D., a paleontologist and Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Anatomical Sciences, School of Medicine, Stony Brook University (SBU). While working in northwestern Madagascar, the SBU paleontology team encountered some of the most abandoned and destitute people in the world. In response, MAF was formed with the goal of providing education and healthcare to Malagasy children living in remote areas through the building of schools and establishment of temporary healthcare clinics.
- b. In addition to a range of other initiatives (e.g., renovating an orphanage, establishing an arts and crafts industry, delivering shoes, clothes, medical and dental equipment and supplies), MAF has also established several

temporary clinics in rural communities. SBU healthcare personnel have joined with MAF to provide medical and dental services to rural communities. These healthcare teams have successfully treated a variety of diseases and provided care to thousands of patients.

- c. We need volunteers to find sponsors and golfers, and to obtain raffle and auction items from businesses for a golf benefit we are doing. We will also need help with publicizing the event as it nears. For more details contact Justin Hall, theropods@gmail.com

7) Budget Committee Report

- a. The Department of Ecology & Evolution requests funds for the Slobodkin Lecture Series featuring Regan Callaway. The Budget Committee recommends funding for \$358.13. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve in the full amount. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* seconds the Motion. The Motion is approved 26-0-0.
- b. The Graduate Student Forum of the Department of Sociology requests funding for their event including the screening of a film on Oaxaca and a speaker. The Budget Committee recommends \$504. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* makes a Motion to approve the funding request for the full amount. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
- c. The Department of Linguistics requests funding for a conference they will host. The Budget Committee recommends \$2000. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the event in the full amount. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* seconds. The Motion was approved 22-0-3.
- d. The Department of Psychology requests funds in the amount of \$970 for an event. The Budget Committee recommends funding the full amount. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the event in the full amount. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* seconds. The Motion was approved by unanimous consent.
- e. The Musicians' Alliance for Peace requests funds for their Music for Peace Project. The Budget Committee recommends funding in the amount of \$2500. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to approve in the full amount. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* seconds the Motion. The Motion is approved 27-0-0.
- f. The Treasurer states that the Budget Committee recommends a transfer of \$497.50 from the GSO Office – Insurance line to the Survival Guide – Printing line. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the transfer. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Woulfin (History)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
- g. The Graduate Student Table Tennis Club requests \$2000 in funding to travel to the National Table Tennis Championship. The Budget Committee does not make a recommendation on the basis that the organization did not go through the proper Senate procedure for event funding. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* makes a Motion to Table the proposal. *Sen. Hamilton*

(*Psychology*) seconds. The Motion to Table the funding request passed by a vote of 14-0-10.

- h. The English Department requests \$500 for the honorarium for a speaker at their English conference. The Budget Committee does not make a recommendation on the basis that the organization did not go through the proper Senate procedure for event funding. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that although they did not follow procedure, this is an annually funded event from the GSO and makes a Motion to approve funding in the full amount. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Point of Order warning that the Senate is nearing the end of the line for this budget item if we approve this event. *Sen. Naydan (English)* seconds the Motion to approve in the full amount. The Motion to approve funding in the full amount passes by unanimous consent.
- i. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to request that the Budget Committee recommend an overspending of the Speaker Series line. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* seconds the Motion. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* makes a Point of Order asking where the money will come from. The Treasurer responds that it would come from the surplus. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre Arts)* asks what the surplus is. The Treasurer says it is extra money. The President states that the Speaker Series line is a very important line and can overspend it. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that the purpose of the GSO is to fund events like this: cultural events and speaker series. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre Arts)* says that he does not know what the surplus is, really. Ron Willa, the C&D Agent, says that *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* must be a new Senator because we discussed the surplus last semester. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* states that it is wonderful that we are overspending this line and that we are getting more applications for events and cultural gatherings. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* states that we should increase this line for next year's budget. We should also have a systematic approach to allocate these funds, the Senator adds. We should limit the amount of times people can request money. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* seconds the Motion to request that the Budget Committee recommend an overspending on the Speaker Series line. *Sen. Colpitts* makes a Point of Order and asks the Treasurer to put the surplus on the Budget Report from now on. The Motion introduced by *Sen. Moore (Economics)* passes 26-0-1.
- j. The Treasurer makes a presentation regarding the new tax clinic to help graduate students file their taxes. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* asks what the estimates have been. The Treasurer responds that they are anywhere from \$75 to \$200 / hour. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* asks how successful the Legal Clinic has been so that the Senate can compare the two services. The President responds that it has been very successful. The Treasurer states that the tax clinic will be run on a test basis. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that this service is worthwhile because of the surplus and makes a Motion to release \$4000 from the surplus over next month for the Executive Board to fund this activity. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* seconds. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* makes a Point of Order and states that there will be a lot of

questions about international tax preparation and wants to make sure the people who are hired to run the clinic are trained in international tax preparation. The Motion introduced by *Sen. Woulfin (History)* passes by unanimous consent.

8) Social Concerns Committee Report

- a. The Vice President reported that the bike path from Chapin to the South exit is a recent addition and is benefiting residents there.
- b. New lights have been added, with more under construction, by the entranceway to the hospital near Chapin. This was formerly a dangerous crossing since it was in the dark.
- c. The bus route via P Lot to Chapin has been slightly modified to decrease time when going from the SAC to Chapin. The bus waits at Chapin instead of P Lot, saving about 7 minutes.
- d. The Open Systems Blog was approved by President Kenny and is undergoing review by tech specialists. We are projecting a version of it to be produced for Blackboard and only for Graduate students, as a pilot program to be modified.
- e. The SCC has met with the Environmental Committee (report made earlier) and also Freewheel; Freewheel will be able to make available safety kits for bicyclists (comprising helmet, front light and back light) for about \$20. We are working on how to fund this initiative.
- f. The Survey will be up soon and we ask that senators encourage their fellow classmates to take the survey. Once completed, some follow up will be necessary in the case of problematic departments.

9) Elections Committee Report

- a. The Secretary encourages active members of the Senate to run for Executive office. The positions are President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer (the Speaker is elected by the Senate in the Fall). Salaries range from \$3-4,000 depending on the position. The downloadable form to register your candidacy is available on the GSO website, www.sbgso.org.
- b. The Secretary reports that an informational session will be held for persons interested in seeking a position on the GSO Executive Board on March 20 at 6pm in the GSO office, room 227 in the SAC.

10) Lounge Committee Report

- a. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* reports that the Lounge is still open and that there will be no Starbucks Café in the Lounge area.

11) Housing Committee Report

- a. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* reports that the Schomburg Maintenance Survey will be ending on February 16th. There has been 27 responses which is approximately 15% of the total population of Schomburg, a more than statistically valid response rate and a great success. We will be and putting out a report and sharing the results with Campus Residences and the

Schomburg Apartment Residents Association (SARA). The GSO Housing Committee will also be making recommendations to SARA

- b. The Student Tenant Project will be entering its second year. The survey has been revised to include demographic information and cost of living questions. We've sought help from several experts including a trained sociologist specializing in diversity issues, Phil Solages from the GSO Legal Clinic, and Long Island Housing Services, a fair housing organization on Long Island. Long Island Housing Services will also be giving a workshop tentatively scheduled for March 20th.
- c. The FSA Off-Campus Housing office has a new manager who has been incredibly responsive to suggestions. They have agreed to include information about GSO resources for students living off campus and have made some significant changes that will help GSO members looking for off campus housing.
- d. Two changes they made themselves were to include their anti-discrimination statement on the bottom of each listing and starting in the 2007-2008 fiscal year they will be shortening the time a listing will be up from 90 days to 60 days. Responding to a suggestion from the GSO they have also included a date listed column so potential renters can have an idea about how long the housing can be on the market.
- e. There is also a complaint process at the OCH office against landlords who list with the service. We will be working with OCH to clarify that process on the site, find outdated information and correct it, and include the complaint process in future GSO off campus renting materials.

12) GSEU Liaison Committee Report

- a. Victor Rosado encouraged everyone to please sign their yellow membership cards to make sure that they are enrolled in the union books.
- b. Update on tech fee policy: The Union is waiting to see what happens to see if the fee waiver kicks in.
- c. Last time, it was reported that there was a problem with some international students not being paid. This problem has been resolved.
- d. The results of the bargaining survey will go up on Monday. The top three demands are stipend increase, increase in cost of living fund, and no fees.
- e. There will be a shift in strategy to pressure the administration. Though they claim that the negotiations are between the union and state, the fact is that the university does have leverage.

13) Grad Mag Logo Contest

- a. *Sen. Naydan (English)* reports that the Graduate Magazine Editorial Board met and that discussions are underway regarding the printing of the GradMag.
- b. A logo is needed for product identification of the GradMag. Therefore, a logo contest is being held and the winner will receive \$50, pending GSO approval.

14) NYPIRG

- a. Scott Zotto announces that there is activity around TAP and this is a positive development. Governor Eliot Spitzer will be increasing the line on higher education spending and some of this money will be coming to Stony Brook University. This is also great news.

15) Motion to adjourn

- a. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* makes a Motion to adjourn. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Hamilton (Psychology)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent. The Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Louis Esparza