

# GSO Senate Meeting - Minutes for Nov 9, 2000

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

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## Old Business

- a. Approval of Minutes from 10/12/2000 *with corrections*: Under Secretary's Report....It was asked that recognition of the actual formation of a Housing Sub-Committee be recognized in the minutes. Sen. McKay also wished to be noted as a member of this committee. Under Treasurer's report...Under KGSA request -Motion 1: ADD that KGSA was approved by a majority vote of the Senate for \$800 for their annual welcome party, pending receipts and provisions cited.

## 1. New Business

- a. *Guest Speaker: Dr. Fred Preston, VP of Student Affairs*

Discussed 3 issues: 1) the designation of this year at Stony Brook as the Year of Community Service and outlined several organized activities that would be occurring on campus in that vein, e.g. Habitat for Humanity, C-Bev, Americorps, NYPIRG.

2) Campus Rec. Center: resolution has been passed with undergraduates, stressed that the grads need to decide "as a community" whether they are interested in financially supporting the Rec. Center.

3) The SPOT: Dr. Preston expressed his support for a grad "student social venue that meets needs of all grad students". He reiterated that although these venues are notorious for losing money, that they are still important facets of grad student life. Dr. Preston stressed that grad students need to "develop a concept" of what the identity of this venue be; the concept of a Graduate Student Cultural Center was discussed and Dr. Preston expressed support for this idea. Dr. Preston also stated that there is often a "schism" between what grad students want and what they settle for. Dr. Preston further asserted that the SPOT would not close until there is a "reasonable place" for it to reopen.

- b. *Ron Willa, C&D agent*: key issues: GSO has a large surplus and we should focus on finding ways to allot that money to key causes/issues so that our supportive funding from other sources. Regarding SPOT...Ron advised the Senate that we are close to running into allotted spot subsidy for the year and a decision should be made before spring whether we want to go forward at the current rate of spending.
- c. *SPOT discussion: Kevin Kelly, Godfrey Palaia*: Key issues: fiscal concerns of SPOT. K Kelly noted that the SPOT subsidy was currently \$15,000 and speculated that it could run as high as \$40,000/yr.

*Senate Q&A/discussion*: fiscal concerns of SPOT (\$15,000 subsidy vs \$40g spent), senators expressed need for GSO to convene and rally for SPOT, need to raise awareness of location/existence of SPOT in grad population, need to raise concerns to administration and petition for the SPOT, possibility of doing a new survey of SPOT interest that gets better response, need to hold more grad events & non-GSO events at SPOT, change image of SPOT, need to incorporate undergrad students in SPOT, esp. on weeknights. It was also proposed that issues concerning the SPOT and its control be included on the next election ballot.

- d. *President's Report*

Issues relating to the newspaper: Kunal announced that due to issues pertaining to non-collaboration, creative differences & employment standards (??) Dorothy Brower (a.k.a. Dee Dee) was fired as Editor in Chief of the Graduate Times. The Executive Committee is presently looking for a new Editor and is actively advertising for this

position. All interested parties should submit qualifications to the GSO office. Positions for 2 staff writers are also still open. These are paid positions.

Meetings Attended: Kunal attended the Technology mtg & HPAC mtg and briefed the senate. Re: Computer Science...Sen. Kostas raised issue of 30min gap between 7:30 closing and 8:00pm reopening of CS sinc site. Resolution of this gap would be helpful to students. HPAC mtg: Board of L. Martin, D Melucci, D. Bowman, & Kunal. K, is aiming to get 50-100 beds available to graduates in new dorms. Sub-committee is being formed to address proposal of grad housing. On issues of quality: money on heating grad dorms--Univ. will consider spending more \$ on this, with grads being a priority. Discussion from senators about housing contracts, lease agreements and unethical and unfair practices conducted by housing officials. the need for more grad representation at these meetings was stressed.

e. *Graduate Student Advocate Report (C. Nagle):*

In context of above discussion, Chris stressed that he is able to provide counsel to individuals who feel that have been unfairly treated by housing administration. His number 2-GRAd is active. Chris also stated that a lawyer was available to grad students: Mr. Shapiro, is an Attorney who works on campus with undergraduates and has extended his services to graduates as well. Rm 221: 4:30-8:00pm Wednesdays. Sen McKay stated that a subgroup of interested students within CARA have formed to address issues of housing. This sub-group is interested in collaborating with the SO housing sub-committee.

f. *Vice President's Report:* in light of time issues, VP forfeited his speaking time.

g. *Secretary's Report:*

Housing issues: Gave Pres. Kenny's enrollment figures & Housing report as presented at the University Senate Mtg.: (n= 19, 924 students, above targets). Residence hall renovations scheduled to be completed in Dec. 2000 and Fall 2001, will provide 8,000 beds for on campus residents. The need for these beds to be allotted to grad students as well was stressed since most of these beds are for undergrads. Re; housing shortage of Fall 2000, SSK reported that 157 graduates were wait listed for housing. At present, all new students have been given housing (mostly int'l students) and Div of Campus Residences expects to accommodate remainder of waitlisted (non-new) students by spring semester. The need for this information to be passed onto housing subcommittee was noted.

h. *Treasurer's Report*

- No budget meeting this month because of no timely requests for funding. 2 Clubs wished to present their requests to the Senate at this meeting.
  - 1) Hillel: Martini Night—Hillel presented information about this sponsored event which will feature a professional mixologist. Funding in the amt. of \$450 was requested. PASSED—14 vs 0
  - 2) CARA request for funding of Diwali: the IGSA students requested an amount of \$700 for funding their Indian Festival of Lights. PASSED-14 vs 0.
- Student Assembly minutes: handed out but not discussed due to time constraints.
- SPOT update: David discussed the current situation at the SPOT & non-attendance at the SPOT raises the issue of relevance of current level of funding.

**Student Council:** did not present due to time constraints

**NYPIRG:** did not present due to time constraints

**Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.**

