

GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2001

Masa Prodanovic (speaker), made general announcements. The senate was asked to fill out a social concerns survey.

The October senate meeting minutes were approved unanimously with one correction.

Welcome Remarks

Jasmina Sinanovic (treasurer) notified all senators that some departments have their RAP frozen. If RAP of your department is frozen, it could either be a GSO error (which would be promptly corrected), the senator signature sheets are not current, or the senators missed more than 2/3 of the meetings to date. As soon as a senator can clear up the situation, RAP would be reinstated. Sherrye Glaser (secretary) added that if a department does not have a senator's name on the sign in sheet, RAP for that department is frozen. Please go to Sherrye to correct this matter.

Ellen (psychology) asked who gets notice that RAP is frozen? Jasmina replied that it is only those who submit a RAP request from a frozen department.

Masa went over the Rules of Order.

Committee Reports

Standing Committees

Housing-Masa-update from 11/5 graduate school meeting

The meeting discussed new proposed on campus housing. Throughout the entire meeting, the high proposed monthly rate was debated between the administrators and the graduate students. Pegine Walrad (President) noted that the state does not want to pay for graduate housing and that the construction cost of new buildings must be shared between this and other housing on campus. She also noted that complaints already began last year and that Fred Preston is against it. Amit Vas (genetics senator) noted that several million were spent on Sunwood and that these funds should have gone towards housing. He also asked who could afford the high rents suggested, and Peg replied that the admin thought that we could. Kostas Pentikousis (comp. sci. and budget committee) noted that all good universities have a house like Sunwood. Ben Hirsch noted that the Sunwood issue should be raised as leverage. Peg noted that it is a SUNY wide policy to not subsidize housing. Sherrye noted that SBU is the only SUNY located in an area where the cost of living is so high. Amit noted that Cold Spring Harbor housing rates were much more reasonable.

Jasmina noted that in order for grad's to influence this current crisis, we need more students to attend the meetings.

Masa asked for additional individuals to go to housing meetings in order to increase graduate representation.

Budget Committee-Ron Willa (phone 2-6515) (Control and Dispersal Agent)- explained the budget and expenditures for the GSO in a brief format for the last fiscal year (7/1/2000-6/30/2001).

Lounge Committee- Jasmina- The Halloween party went well. There were about 150 students. In December, there will be a Holiday Bash. New volunteers to sit on the committee and help set up the bash are welcome. See Jasmina for details.

Special Committees

Task Force for Local Outreach- Peg- Volunteers are needed for this task force. Currently Peg is the only grad. The next meeting is 12/5. The community is hostile towards certain members of the campus community. Local legislators will be contacted to help SBU reach the outside community and reduce hostilities.

Peace Partners-We gathered many volunteers for this program. We met with Douglas Little and discussed potential liabilities. We must now clear the program with the SBU lawyer.

.....Divided We Fall Series- Sherrye- Everything is coming together quite nicely. On 11/28, we will be having a speaker discussing RAWA (Fahima) and Taliban atrocities, RAWA's human rights campaign, and the formation of a transitional government in Afghanistan. On 11/5, Group Captain Banuri (the Director of Arms Control and Disarmament Affairs at the Strategic Plans Division in Pakistan) gave his personal perspective on topics such as Afghanistan, the Kashmiri Conflict, and weapons of mass destruction. A long question and answer period followed.

Women's Leadership Conference- Tanya- A day long conference held in the spring sponsored by the grad school, the president, and the GSO. Men are invited to participate.

Period of Discussion and Debate

Old Business- Tanya- There are 2 slots open in the non-tenure track faculty committee of the University Senate. Maureen Shaimen and Ravindra Ravindra volunteered.

Budget Committee-

Diwali- Chapin Residence committee and the IGSA are cosponsoring this event. Chapin and Campus Residences are sponsoring the food (\$1200), beverages (\$200), and the publicity (\$100). Arrista (a local company) is donating \$400 in prizes. The committee is requesting \$1400 from the GSO in order to cover an Indian Orchestra (\$1200) and decorations (\$200). It will be on 11/18 from 6pm until midnight. More than 200 people are expected.

The budget committee recommends the GSO funds \$1400. This was unanimously approved by the senate.

Cabaret Variety Show at the Spot- 12/1 at 8PM, a show including singers, story-tellers, and other performers will occur. A pianist needs to be hired (\$150), and publicity is needed (\$50). The costumes and props are coming from the Theatre Arts Department.

Normally there is a \$3 ticket fee, but since the GSO is sponsoring, grad's will be let in for free.

The budget committee recommends the GSO funds \$200. This was unanimously approved by the senate.

Afghan Women Under the Taliban- Fahima, a supporter of RAWA (the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan) is speaking on 11/28. The International Office of the Graduate School is covering the costs of the speaker, and coffee service for the talk. The Social Justice Alliance is requesting \$200 from the GSO (\$100 for a lunch for a small group of grad students to meet with the speaker) and \$100 for publicity.

The budget committee recommends the GSO funds \$200. This was unanimously approved by the senate.

\$1000 Donation to Malalai Hospital- At the September meeting, it was decided to donate \$1000 to the Red Cross and set aside \$1000 for a future donation to a charity approved by the senate. (The treasurer waited and received no other recommendations.) Sherrye Glaser suggested that the \$1000 be donated to reopen the Malalai hospital, the sole source of refugee women's health care along the Pakistani border. (All other hospitals only treat men.) According to projected costs, \$1000 would run the hospital for one month. This donation would go to the Afghan Women's Mission, a registered US non-profit organization, to be earmarked for the Malalai Hospital.

The budget committee, after seeing if there were any other suggestions, recommends this donation. The senate approved it unanimously (15/15).

Thanksgiving Dinner- (a late request) SBCSSA would like \$200 for a turkey dinner. All students are welcome. They would like \$100 for turkeys and \$100 for advertising. The event is planned to be a potluck dinner with the turkeys provided and students bringing all other dishes. It will be held on 11/20.

This was unanimously approved by the senate for \$200.

Antigone Rising- (a late Budget Request) Fall concert series at the Spot on 12/13 at 9PM. WUSB granted 2 hours of free air time in order for the band to play at a half price fee of \$1500. \$300 is needed for a sound engineer. \$75 is needed for publicity. The total budget is for \$1875. Tickets for non-grad students will be \$10 a piece. Figuring that at least 30 non-grads pay, a maximum of \$1575 is needed.

The senate voted to approve provided that any additional ticket money goes back to the GSO.

Senate: 13 in favor and 2 abstaining. PASSED.

Committee Bylaws- Tanya (RCC committee)

some changes in various committees:

Budget: A fourth member will be added in order for there to be an odd number of voters.

Election: Secretary cannot chair the committee if running for an office.

Please take the new bylaws, read them, and the senate will vote on them next month.

Graduate Council- Maureen Shaimen The Graduate Council has proposed a change in the academic probation guidelines. Currently, the guidelines allow for 2 consecutive semesters below 3.0, with a third consecutive semester leading to a student being thrown out. The total number of semesters below 3.0 has never been specified.

The Graduate Council does not want an indefinite on/off to be permitted. They want to add the stipulation that there is a maximum number of 3 semesters on probation.

Maureen just wanted to see how the senators felt about his new stipulation. Concerns about programs with summer classes (do summer semesters count) and part-time students (where it would be difficult to raise your GPA quickly if 1 or 2 classes only were taken at a time) were voiced.