

# GSO Senate Meeting Minutes

September 13, 2001

May 2001 minutes approved unanimously

## Welcome Remarks

**Pegine Walrad** - GSO President

Welcomed the senators for the 2001-2002 academic year. The recent terrorist attacks were discussed. She mentioned that we are all victims, it has changed the entire world, and we must remain unified in order to cope.

**Lawrence Martin** - Dean of the Graduate School

Welcomed the new senators and also discussed the recent events.

- The Tragedy is preventing individuals from being focused. We must pull people together again.
- When the GSO is active, the campus community benefits. The GSO has the ear of the administration and voices graduate concerns.
- The GSO should react to the current crisis, especially to the currently growing anti-Islamic sentiment.
- The university has responded by increased police patrolling.
- The GSO has responded well by setting up a tolerance forum.
- The UN cancelled its conference; therefore, the visit of Nelson Mandela on 9/22 to SBU is either postponed or cancelled.
- The Tuesday bomb scare rumor is untrue.
- The rumor that some international students were celebrating the attack is also untrue.

Sherrye Glaser (Secretary) then introduced the idea of an open forum to discuss tolerance and healing in the aftermath. This event is being arranged in conjunction with the Graduate School, and the Provost's Office. Since the forum idea was in its beginning stages, there was no proposal or budget for the event.

The **GSO executives** introduced themselves.

Pegine Walrad- President

Tanya Smith- Vice-President

Jasmina Sinanovic- Treasurer

Sherrye Glaser- Secretary

Senators then followed suit and introduced themselves.

The rules of order were then briefly introduced to the senate.

## **Committee Reports**

GSEU Liaison Committee Report - Ben Hirsch (bthirsch@ic.sunysb.edu)

There is no real union representative for SBU. On 9/24 at 6PM, there will be a meeting to discuss this. Anyone interested, should contact Ben.

Housing Committee Report - Masa Prodanovic

The committee is currently working on improving the policy of lease termination. (See the housing bulletin board for details.) Contact Masa if you would like to join the committee. (massa@ams.sunysb.edu)

Budget Committee Report - Jasmina Sinanovic

The audit has not been completed yet. At the next senate meeting, the total expenditures of the GSO last year will be presented.

The constitution requires three people on the committee besides the Chair. They are currently one person short.

Election Committee Report - Sherrye Glaser

The Mandatory/Voluntary Election is coming up soon, and volunteers are needed for this committee. This election will occur hopefully in October and will determine whether or not the GSO will continue to receive funding from the Student Activity Fee. It's very important for the GSO to get a Mandatory consensus.

Grievance Committee - a Chair is needed!

Lounge Committee Report - Jasmina Sinanovic

Several events are going to occur at the Spot. On 9/22, the welcome bash will take place and on 10/13, the Queer Alliance is sponsoring a Drag Show.

Social Concerns Committee - Tanya Smith

The committee is organizing a survey for the senators to fill out at the October meeting to determine what concerns there are in the graduate community.

Survival Guide Report -

The budget committee had no rules or protocol for compensating work done on the survival guide and could not ask the senate because it was the summer time.

Masa Prodanovic suggested that the new Survival Guide should be placed online (currently the 1998 edition is online).

Pegine Walrad suggested that extra copies be available for incoming students for the Spring Semester.

News and Blues Newspaper - Marc Dempsey

Reminded senators to deliver the paper to their departments and requested that any interested individuals submit articles for the paper.

Pegine Walrad reminded all clubs requesting money from the GSO that along with a budget outline, they must also advertise their event in the paper and write a review of the event.

### **Period of Discussion and Debate**

#### **Old business**

Senators must participate in the various committees. The committees are not only supposed to be attended by GSO executives! Please volunteer for committees that interest you.

Board of Appeals

Chair - Scott Graves

Members- Audra VanWart

Mustafa Siddiq

Patrice Donaldson

Multiple committee slots were discussed. All volunteers were told to submit slips, which will then be processed.

It was suggested that the updated committee list be placed online and then senators could fill any remaining slots with student volunteers from their departments.

#### **New business**

#### **New Speaker**

Masa Prodanovic volunteered herself

Patrice Donaldson was nominated

Kostas Pentikousis noted that many senators present had not yet submitted their signature sheets for the year. The senators with current sheets voted to allow the senators who did not yet submit sheets to vote for speaker.

Masa Prodanovic was elected speaker (12/8).

Meagan Reeve of **NYPIRG** introduced herself and briefly went over the mandatory/voluntary vote. She noted that if voluntary was chosen by the graduate community, it is likely that the university will obtain those fees under some other title, but the graduate students would lose control.

## **Graduate Student Advocate - Maureen Shamen**

She introduced herself and explained her services, which include mediating difficulties with housing, administration, and faculty.

### **Budget Issues**

KGSA would like to sponsor a welcome party, originally set for 9/15, but now postponed due to recent incidents. They are funding \$1000 by themselves for food, and would like the GSO to fund an additional \$700 for snacks, gifts and decorations.

Approved 24/24

IGSA sponsored an Indian Welcome, or Swagat, on 9/8/01 at the Spot. Total expenses were \$1450. IGSA funds covered \$840 in food. They asked for \$610 for a DJ, refreshments, decorations, flyers, and photography.

Approved unanimously

The Queer Alliance would like to sponsor a Drag Show for 10/13 at 9PM at the spot. \$3000 for professional entertainment (drag queens) will be covered by other organizations. (\$1000-\$2000 will be covered by the commuter student association. LGBTSA, FMLA, and the Wo/men center have also been contacted.)

They would like the GSO to contribute \$1200 for the non-professional portion of the event. The GSO voted on \$950 sponsorship towards the non-professional portion.

Approved 20/20

SCCSSA, CARA, and CSGSA are sponsoring the Moon Festival on Sat. 9/29 at the Student Union Ballroom. The total budget is \$1400, with SBCSSA funding \$300 for publicity, \$500 funded by CARA for food, and the GSO asked to fund entertainment (sound, lights, DJ, prizes) for \$600. The Budget committee received the proposal after their last meeting, but since the event will occur before the October senate meeting, they recommended that it be presented today. 400-500 people are likely to come.

Approved unanimously

### **Relief Fund Donations**

The exec. committee and the budget committee both feel strongly that the GSO should contribute some money to the relief funds for the victims of 9/11/01. A donation was voted on with unanimous consent to the Red Cross in the amount of \$1000 immediately. An additional donation of \$1000 as a starter fund for longer term relief will be arranged by the budget committee. Masa suggested that the GSO open an account for donations. It was agreed that this would be too time consuming to make the money available quickly for relief efforts.

## Survival Guide

Over the summer, the survival guide was updated. The subject of editor compensation and expenditures was originally supposed to be discussed at this senate meeting, but due to time constraints, this topic was bumped to the October meeting.