

The meeting begins with 32 Senators and 5 Executives

**1) Welcome Remarks from the President**

- a. The President brings the important New Business to the attention of the Senate and encourages Senators to stay through the end of the agenda so that we can discuss them.

**2) Approval of the Agenda**

- a. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent with the following modifications:
  - i. Remove the Legal Clinic from the agenda
  - ii. Move Campus Media Support in place of Legal Clinic
  - iii. Add Resolution on University Traditions after Campus Media Support

**3) Approval of the October Minutes**

- a. The October Minutes were approved by unanimous consent with the following change:
  - i. In the NYPIRG Report, change the “Department of Environmental Preservation” to the “Department of Environmental Conservation.”

**4) Campus Media Support**

- a. *The Independent*
  - i. The President introduced a memorandum of understanding that would support *The Independent* with \$500 annually, first year from the surplus, and then by including it as a line item in the budget in subsequent years. In exchange, they will include GSO news more prominently than they have been doing. We already support WUSB with \$1000.
  - ii. *Sen. Naydan (English)* expresses support for the idea, but also concern about diluting the already small pool of graduate student contributors for the *Graduate Magazine* by creating this incentive for covering graduate news somewhere else. The Senator suggests that the staff of *The Independent* simply submit graduate news for publication in the *Graduate Magazine*.
  - iii. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* argues that *The Independent* focuses on investigative journalism and has the staff to do so, whereas the *Graduate Magazine* does not.
  - iv. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion for the Senate to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Senate and *The Independent* and to approve \$500 to this cause from the surplus.
  - v. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Point of Information asking for clarification about where the payment would be coming from.

- vi. The President says that the intent is to add this as a line item in the budget for the next fiscal year, but that this year it would come from the surplus.
  - vii. The motion was seconded by *Sen. Woulfin (History)* and passed by a vote of 23-0-6.
- b. WUSB
- i. A representative from WUSB tells us about what they do. They play polka, news, political shows, and announce events, including those of the University Café. The \$1000 stipend from the GSO goes to fund 6 months of Free Speech Radio News from the Pacifica Network.
  - ii. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* expresses support for this allocation for Free Speech Radio News, thinks the program is great, and that it is fantastic that our money is supporting this.
  - iii. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* stated that Public Service Announcements are also made available to any organization who would like to advertise an event or distribute information.

#### 5) Resolution on University Traditions

- a. The President reports that the SUNY Chancellor has made statements implying that certain university traditions carried out by students should not continue. The President would like the Senate to pass a resolution supporting the legal right of these traditions to exist.
- b. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* asks why the Chancellor is doing this and if there is any legal basis for his position.
- c. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that the Chancellor simply opposes them. The Senator emphasizes the importance for the GSO to back up the other SUNY campuses because their traditions involve alcohol. If the traditions are curbed, this might impact the GSO since we operate a bar on campus. We ought to resist limits on alcohol consumption.
- d. The President states that we do not want advertising of the University Café to be limited.
- e. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* would like to amend the resolution swapping the word “legislation” with the word “resolution” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> resolved paragraph.
- f. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the amended resolution. *Sen. Hall (Anatomical Sciences)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by a vote of 21-0-7.

#### 6) Committee Nominations

- a. *Sen. Hamilton (Psychology)* makes a Motion to approve the following committee appointments:
  - i. Ruchi Gupta on the University Senate Student Life committee.
  - ii. Alan Rodricks, SARA on the Housing Committee
- b. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Colmenares-Angelo (Material Sciences)* and passes by unanimous consent.

## 7) Secretary's Remarks

- a. The Secretary reminds Senators to sign the attendance sheet when they arrive. This is important to keep records of attendance and also to determine departmental RAP eligibility. He also says that if the Senate wishes, they may abolish the practice of tying RAP to Senator attendance by Senate action.
- b. The President states that Senators interested in doing this should bring it up to the Rules and Constitution committee
- c. *Sen. Liu (Biomedical Engineering)* inquires about RAP applications from the Biomedical Engineering department, which were held due to attendance eligibility.
- d. The Secretary confirms that since the department has now had a Senator at two of the last three meetings, that any outstanding RAP applications will now be processed. The Treasurer concurs.

## 8) Committee Reports

- a. Budget Committee
  - i. The Treasurer reports that the Miscellaneous line has been used for Executive travel but should be used for other things. The Budget committee recommends that the Senate approve a line of \$950 for Executive Travel.
    1. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* expresses general support for the idea, but is worried about how use of the line will be supervised to insure that it is not misspent.
    2. The Treasurer states that any expenditures coming from this line must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
    3. The Speaker states that creating a line for Executive Travel actually creates more oversight than there is now because it has its own separate line with defined purposes, rather than having it come from the Miscellaneous line.
    4. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* inquires about current use of the Miscellaneous line for Executive Travel.
    5. The President states that travel to the SUNY Assembly is the main source of expenditure, but occasionally other things can and do present themselves. This way, when they do, we do not have to dip into the Miscellaneous line.
    6. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve a line for Executive Travel.
    7. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* makes a Point of Information and asks for the nature of the line to be further clarified.
    8. The Treasurer states that any travel related to Executive business falls under this proposed line.
    9. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* recommends that this question be sent to the Rules and Constitution committee for a recommendation to the Senate at a later date.

10. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* makes a Subsidiary Motion to Table the Main Motion until the Rules and Constitution committee can offer a recommendation. The Subsidiary Motion is Seconded by *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)*. The Motion to Table passes 20-6-2.
- ii. Summer Ad hoc Budgetary committee
    1. The Treasurer requests that the Senate appoint an ad hoc committee to operate over the summer to interface with FSA over budgetary concerns.
    2. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that he does not see the need for this committee since we already have a Budget Committee.
    3. The Treasurer states that the Budget Committee is not as functional during the summer as it is during the rest of the year and that it would be useful to have certain people commit to doing this only during the summer.
    4. *Sen. Colmenares-Angelo (Material Sciences)* makes a Motion to approve such an ad hoc committee.
    5. The President requests to Amend the Motion by appointing just one person and adding this one person to the Budget committee. The Senator finds the Amendment friendly. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)*. The Motion passes 27-1-0.
  - iii. Audit Management Letter Responses
    1. The Treasurer reports that the recommendations from the audit have come in and that the contents of the audit will be disclosed at the December meeting. The last meeting of the Budget committee will be on Dec 12.
  - iv. CARA
    1. The Budget Committee recommends that the Senate approve \$1112 for the Tanger Outlet Trip organized by CARA. The trip is open to all graduate students.
    2. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* expresses displeasure with the CARA leadership for not asking for alternative sources of funding despite requests from the Budget Committee to do so. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* also asks questions related to how CARA uses its sources of income in relation to this event.
    3. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to approve \$1112 for the Tanger Outlet Trip.
    4. The CARA representative states that there is an additional fee related to bus transportation that has arisen since the Budget committee meeting. They are trying to get it waived, but have so far been unsuccessful. The representative asks the Senate to approve funding for this fee.
    5. *Sens. Hamilton (Psychology), Christidi (Physics), Colpitts (Theatre), Naydan (English), Moore (Economics)* and others

express displeasure with the situation and suggest that CARA charge a small fee to those who participate in the Tanger trip. Several questions were raised about the consistent ignorance that CARA representatives seem to have year after year about Senate opinion of the funding of the Tanger event.

6. The Treasurer states that he will begin keeping a record of known recurring events so that this information can weigh in on budgetary concerns.
  7. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to Amend the Main Motion by changing the funding amount to \$782.
  8. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* finds the Amendment friendly.
  9. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* Seconds the Amended Motion to approve \$782 to the Tanger event, organized by CARA.
  10. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* makes a Point of Information and inquires about the number of people going on the trip and if they are charged. The CARA representative states that there is capacity for 102 persons who are not currently charged. The Motion to approve \$782 to CARA for the Tanger Outlet trip passes 25-1-3.
- v. Psychology Department
1. The Budget Committee recommends that the Senate approve \$890 for the event on Gesture research organized by the Psychology Department and which is open to all graduate students.
  2. *Sen. Colmenares-Angelo (Material Sciences)* makes a Motion to approve \$890 for the Psychology Department event. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Foley (Comparative Literature)*. The Motion is approved unanimously.
- b. Housing Committee
- i. *Sen. Woulfin (History)*, whom Chairs this committee, states that the committee has a representative from SARA, but not CARA. Discussions took place regarding the Chapin Community Center and hopefully discussions on getting the facility built can finally move forward. An off-campus landlord survey is on track and GSEU - Stony Brook will be an equal co-sponsor. We seek a Housing advocacy organization to help with this effort. The issue of consolidation of persons at Chapin is being addressed to ensure that current policy is followed. Chapin mailroom issues have been solved. Chapin building F now has hot water. There is also a better work order system that improved maintenance.
  - ii. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* asks what is new or different about the new survey.
  - iii. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* states that travel time to school and rent amount are two new questions. It will be publicized better and the

less effective questions will be removed.. We expect to finish in April. The survey will also include improved demographic information. A better response rate is expected because the survey begins much earlier than before.

- iv. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* thanks the Senator and the committee for the hard work they have put in.

c. Social Concerns Committee

- i. The Vice-President reports that he met with James O'Connor to discuss noise complaints and other issues surrounding the use of buses on campus. They addressed the problem of noisy buses around Schomburg. This is because those particular buses are very noisy and very old. The issue is being taken care of. When the buses break down this winter, they will be replaced with new ones. Also O'Connor is assessing the route to P Lot on the Chapin Bus line, and whether it is necessary after the morning rush hours.
- ii. The Vice-President met with Dean Stein, Assistant Chief of Police Little, and Dr. Jenny Hwang to create a safety and traffic campus-wide open forum. They agreed though that Town meetings, when they are held, are not well attended. It was suggested that a blog be implemented instead where students can post their concerns. Also, others will be able to see the concerns of previous people posting. Perhaps some of these comments can also be published in *The Statesman*.
- iii. The Vice-President invited the senators to attend the next Social Concerns Committee if they are interested in contributing to the Quality of Life Survey that will be presented next meeting.
- iv. The Vice-President is reviewing the Campus Climate Report and will present suggestions to the next Social Concerns Committee; he invited senators interested to attend.
- v. The Vice-President reports that *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* suggested that the Senate consider ways to reduce the amount of waste produced as a result of our activities, and in particular the General Senate Meeting.

c. GSELF Committee

- i. *Sen. Walls (Ecology)* reports that the committee is currently working on thinking of ways to get eligible students to ask the committee for funds.

d. Lounge Committee

- i. Luigi Longobardi is the new Chair of the committee. Outgoing Chair, *Sen. Moore (Economics)* has helped to make it a smooth transition.
- ii. Paul, the new manager, is helping the Chair understand how the Café works. Because of the transition to the new manager, we have

lost the privilege of using the audio equipment that we previously had access to because the equipment belonged to the previous manager. This cuts into the entertainment revenue. The committee is looking for solutions to this.

- iii. The Halloween party was successful and well attended.
  - iv. There was a survey conducted that ranked food at the University Café among the best on campus, however, the entertainment is missed
  - v. *Sen. Naydan (English)* states that she has been trying to get a hold of Paul for an interview for the *Graduate Magazine*, but has been unsuccessful. She requests that the Lounge Committee ask Paul to grant the interview.
  - vi. Luigi also reports that the Lounge Committee is discussing a 21+ policy at the Café.
- e. GSEU Report
- i. Victor Rosado reports that the Professional Development Fund deadline is coming up and that applications are available on the Graduate School website.
  - ii. People are getting more involved in the union: meeting attendance is up, listserv membership is up, and union membership is up. These are positive development and put us in a good position for the future contract negotiations that are coming up.
  - iii. The Quality of Life survey seems like is getting good traction. The GSEU is also conducting a second survey, which will go online in a week or two. Check out the website, [www.gseurankandfile.org](http://www.gseurankandfile.org). Thanks for your support. The \$105 Tech mitigation fee waiver should have kicked in for TAs. If it has not, contact Victor.

## 9) Tax Clinic & Financial Planning Workshop

- a. The Treasurer reports that a new initiative is being discussed to create a clinic for help on how to play stock market and another on how to do your taxes. A draft of this proposal will be circulated later, but this idea is still in its infancy.
- b. *Sens. Woulfin (History), Walls (Ecology), and Christidi (Physics)* state that it must be investigated whether or not these services are already offered on campus. If a new service is to be started, it ought to be unique.

## 10) GSO Speaker Series

- a. The President reports that he had conversations with Associate Provost Olufemi Vaughn, who organizes Provost Lecture Series. It was discussed that the GSO may select a person to be invited to the lecture series and that it will be advertised that this person was invited by GSO. In addition to this, the President suggested that the GSO start up its own Lecture Series. If anyone has suggestion for who to invite, please contact the President.

### 11) NYPIRG Report

- a. Scott reports that today is election day and that polls close at 9pm and if you are registered to vote on campus, the polls are in SAC B.
- b. Regarding the Tanger Outlet trip, NYPIRG publishes a yearly report on store return policies to make sure stores are not milking students. We will communicate with CARA regarding this report as it pertains to Tanger.
- c. Our Small Claims Court is in operation for those who need those services. Volunteers are needed to work one hour a week. Please contact Scott if you are interested.

*Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to adjourn. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Moore (Economics)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Louis Esparza