

The meeting begins with 20 Senators and 5 Executives

1) Approval of Agenda and the February Meeting Minutes

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

The February 3rd 2009 minutes were approved unanimously.

2) Welcoming remarks and Presidential Activities Report

President Naydan informed senators that the decision of the first round of assignment of the professional retention funds has been delayed but it should be released soon and encouraged students to apply for it. She reported that the presidential search committee is committed to finding a new president before President Kenny leaves office in June. President Naydan also reported that the Stony Brook day in Albany was cancelled due to inclement weather the day before and that the 150 letters written by concerned graduate students were given to the state legislature and governor's office. She informed that given the budget cuts most departments had revised the amount of students admitted with funding into graduate programs. President Naydan also announced that the tuition waivers for teaching and research assistants was not threatened this year but could be threatened for the following year which motivated the university senate to pass a resolution on the issue

2) Stony Brook Child Care Services

A representative from Stony Brook Child Care Services, Mary Cain, explained the activities of the center and answered questions from the senators.

3) Teaching, Learning + Technology

David Ametrano presented to the Senate the plans of the division of Teaching Learning and Technology to establish a teaching assistant teaching certificate program to prepares graduate students to college teaching

4) Committee nominations

The following GSO representatives were proposed for university wide committees

Campus Safety Mellissa Eliot

Rules Revisions: Jose Colmenares-Angulo

Campus recreation center advisory board was left open

All nominations were approved unanimously

5) Budget Committee Report

Treasurer Young reported on the current status of the budget line expenditures:

Amount spent so far (budgeted amount)

Speaker series: **\$17783** (\$20000)

Cultural & Social events: **\$8177** (\$12000)

Misc. funding: **\$3350** (\$5000)

Publication Grant: **\$400** (\$2000)

Funding requests:

- Shengnan Cai from the Karaoke club requested \$750 for the Karaoke Contest to be held on March 28 2009 in the SAC auditorium at 7 pm. A Motion to reconsider the request was approved unanimously since the request had been denied in the February meeting given the absence of the Karaoke Club representatives. A Motion to approve \$500 from the cultural and social events line and another motion to approve \$250 from miscellaneous grants were approved unanimously
- Najib Aminy and Dan Woulfin from Stony Brook Press requested \$1500 for the event “Reverend Billy and the Church of Life After Shopping” , Wednesday, April 1, 2009 at 8:00pm in SAC auditorium A. The funds were approved unanimously as a cultural and social event
- Alex Salinas from the Hispanic Languages department requested \$1000, for the 4th annual Hispanic languages graduate student conference to be held on April 3-4 in the Wang center with Gracial Montaldo as the keynote speaker. Funds were approved unanimously
- A representative from Cabaret requested \$400 for the event “Cabaret Musical Review” to be held on May 9th at 8pm and May 10th at 3pm in the Staller center room 003, the funds are to compensate the accompaniment pianist. Funds approved unanimously.
- Adela Apetroaia from the Stony Brook Media Club requested funding for the screening of the movie “El Capitalismo Brutal” The funding consists in refreshments (\$150) from the social and cultural events line and the cost of the film (\$54) from miscellaneous grants line. Funds approved unanimously.
- Misty Curreli from the Sociology Graduate Student Forum requested \$1345 for the 6th Annual Graduate Student Ethnography Conference. A motion to approve \$200 from the miscellaneous grants line and another motion to approve \$1145 from the speaker series lines were approved unanimously
- Mark Rice from the History Department requested \$ 743.24 for the 8th Annual Multi-disciplinary Graduate Student Conference “Latin America: A People without Boundaries?” to be held in April 24, 2009 at Stony Brook Manhattan. Funds were approved unanimously.
- A representative from the Graduate Philosophy and the Arts program requested \$2797 for the Philosophy and the Arts Conference “Render: Yielding Narrativity” to be held March 27 and 28 at Stony Brook Manhattan. A motion to give the treasurer the authority to approve funding with a cap of \$2472 was approved unanimously. A motion to approve \$325 from the miscellaneous budget line was approved unanimously.

- Sozia Turek from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences requested \$600 for a 3 day visit by the oceanographer. Farooq Azam on March 18-20 2009. Funds were approved unanimously.
- Representatives from the Ecology and Evolution department were not present, but Senator Jessica Stanton presented on their behalf. She requested \$1200 for a talk by Tiffany Knight on Pollination ecology of introduced plant species. The talk will be held Thursday April 2nd, 2:00pm at the Life Sciences room 038. The funds were approved with four abstentions. Mark Rice (History) noted that the improvised presentation was unprofessional
- Luigi Longobardi from Hera Group requested \$500 for a talk on Sustainability, Economics, Science by John Gowdy to be held March 18th 2:30 PM in Physics room S-240. Funds were approved unanimously.

6) Social Concerns Committee Report

Vice-President Selterman did not give a report since most of the work on the committee for the month had focused on the issues addressed in a resolution to be presented later in the meeting

7) Elections Committee

Secretary Colmenares noted to senators that the executive committee elections would be held in the week from April 27th to May 1st, and that the deadline for submitting nominations is on April 6th. He reminded Senators that candidates should present on April 14th meeting and that an open exec meeting for interested candidates would be announced.

8) Resolution on Tuition Scholarships for Stony Brook TA's and GA's

President Naydan and Vice President Selterman explained the current situation given the financial status of the university and underlined the importance of the resolutions, two resolutions were approved unanimously one for Governor Patterson (see appendix I) and another one for the University Administration (see appendix II)

9) NYPIRG

A Representative from New York Public Interest Research Group was not able to attend the meeting

10) News and Leisure

Editor Frank Petrigani requested \$200 to hire freelance writers for the publication, the motion was approved unanimously. He also suggested the possibility of hiring members of the Stony Brook Hockey team to write 10 articles for 500\$ but no motion for those funds was put on the table.

Kira Schuman (History) motioned to open the proposed 500\$ in funds to all free lance writers, the motion passed.

A request for extra 500\$ in advertisement for the publication was tabled.

11) New Business

Kira Schuman (GSEU Business Agent) announced a GSEU general meeting on March 11th in sac 226. She also reported in CWA lobby day in Albany and reminded senators that positions as mobilizers are still open for several departments

Sozia Turek (Marine Sciences) announced a meeting regarding the RA Union first negotiation session, the meeting will be held March 12 at 7 pm on SAC 227. The first negotiation session will be on Monday March 16

Speaker Longobardi reminded senators that the agenda is sent in advance so business could be included before the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jose Colmenares-Angulo
Secretary
Graduate Student Organization

Appendix I
Resolution on Tuition Scholarships for
Stony Brook Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants

Whereas Stony Brook University, to remain competitive with other top-tier Research-I universities in the nation, has consistently provided funded Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants in Ph.D. programs with full tuition scholarships; and

Whereas SUNY has increased tuition by 14% for all students, beginning in the Spring 2009 semester, but the New York State government has only allowed 10% of the tuition increase revenue to return to Stony Brook University to support the education mission; and

Whereas the budget cuts presently being proposed by the New York State government include cuts to the Stony Brook Graduate School's budget for graduate student tuition scholarships; and

Whereas increased tuition and decreased state funding for tuition scholarships severely compromises the Graduate School's ability to continue providing tuition scholarships for Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants; and

Whereas the prospect of New York State and Stony Brook University neglecting to waive tuition costs for graduate students is dramatically inconsistent with other Research-I universities and would dramatically shrink the graduate student population both by 1) diminishing recruitment of new students and 2) the flight of current students who cannot afford to pay tuition costs; and

Whereas asking Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants to pay tuition costs would drastically harm the entire university, not only with respect to graduate student education but also to research production in the arts and sciences and undergraduate education; and

Whereas the GSO considers the prospect of graduate students having to pay tuition as having severe and immediate effects on graduate student education and the university as well as having long-term and possibly irreversible effects on the quality and reputation of the Graduate School at Stony Brook University; therefore

Be it Resolved that the Graduate Student Organization strongly urges the New York State Governor's Division of Budget to allow SUNY campuses to keep all revenue (including increased tuition revenue) that they generate; and also

Be it Resolved that the Graduate Student Organization strongly urges the State of New York to support graduate student education by not approving any budget cuts that would result in the negation of tuition scholarships.

Appendix II
Resolution on Tuition Scholarships for
Stony Brook Teaching Assistants, Graduate Assistants, and Research Assistants

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Be it Resolved that the Graduate Student Organization strongly urges the State of New York to support graduate student education by not approving any budget cuts that would result in the negation of tuition scholarships; and also

Be it Resolved that in the case that the State of New York cuts the budget to graduate student tuition scholarships, the Graduate Student Organization strongly urges Stony Brook University to allocate discretionary funds to the Graduate School to maintain the policy of providing full tuition scholarships for funded graduate students.