

May 6th GSO Senate Regular Senate Meeting Minutes

The Senate Meeting starts at 5:35 PM with 18 senators and all the executives present in the meeting. The agenda for the meeting is unanimously approved by adding GSEU report under the heading Committee Reports. Minutes of April senate meeting are unanimously approved by adding Andi Abedini as one of the members of the committee constituted to work on the exact wording of the activity fee referendum to be put on the ballot.

Chair of the Social concerns committee, Monicca Shanthanelson presents a petition asking for better on campus graduate housing and living conditions. She informs the president that 356 residents (approximately 50% of the graduate students in Chapin, if 90% occupancy is assumed) have signed this petition complaining insufficient heat during winter, infestation of insects and mice, problems related to over crowding. President says that she adds a fourth problem as the structure of the buildings itself and calls it as a long-term problem. She adds that a committee of graduate students can meet the housing administration and they will do whatever they can. When some senators raise the question that why are new dormitories not built for only under graduate students and not graduate students, president replies saying that there is a long waiting list for under graduate housing and any time quantity issue is addressed first before taking up the quality issue.

Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) representative requests the president to sign a letter to Governor George Pataki asking for a contract that reflects the value of quality public higher education in which they play such an integral role. The president responds by saying that she wouldn't sign the letter. GSEU representative also raise the issue that a Under graduate student is arrested by police and that the police were excessively violent with him. President replies saying that she wasn't there at the meeting and she didn't find any violence against the under graduate student in the tape she watched. The under graduates inform that uncensored version of the tape will be broadcasted on channel 30 Monday and Wednesday this week.

Bin Tang brings up the demand that the graduate students need a weekend shopping bus to Midfarms. He points out that the last year the housing rent is increased by 5% saying that there won't be any further increase this year, but again housing department has projected an increase of 5% rent this year too. He adds that there is no energy conservation in the housing complexes. President responds saying that she would be very glad to help out in the new weekend shopping bus and that the increase in the rent is collectively decided by the housing administrative staff and chapin, schomberg resident committees.

Dr. Rita Nolan, Associate dean of the graduate school comments that roughly 50% of the graduate students (especially PhD students) do not complete the degree and that the primary reason for this trend is some accidental features and not necessarily the academic reasons. She says that we all need to pay attention to this issue and she plans to setup

some workshops beginning fall. She asks all the senators to fill out a form and give their feedback.

Richard C. Reeder from Department of Information Technology (DoIT) gives a presentation as why they have proposed an increase of \$65/semester in the technology fee. He says that they plan to improve on networking, hire more student staff and purchase software. Some senators suggest that the university should switch to wireless as soon as possible and they complain that the focus of the funds generated by the increase in the technology fee seems to be more on under graduate students than graduate students. They say that not many graduate students uses windows systems, whereas the DoIT is more interested in buying windows operating system software. Senators also ask for a time frame for the release of the VPL client (For wireless access) for the Linux operating system.

Motion to oppose \$65 hike in technology fee on behalf of GSO is made and it passes unanimously.

Quorum still exists in the meeting.

GSO Budget for the fiscal year 2004 and 2005 passes unanimously (Please find the Budget in GSO website at <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/gso/budgets/budgets.htm>). Discussion on whether to close the university café over the summer is taken up by the senate and some feel that closing down the café doesn't save money.

Quorum is lost in the meeting and the meeting is adjourned at 8pm. New York public interest research group (NYPIRG) thanks all those who voted yes for referendum on GSO funding for NYPIRG. GSO Secretary, Venkat announces the elected candidates for different positions on GSO executive board (Count of Votes for each candidate contested is attached at the end) and requests all the senators to give a big applause to the new GSO executive members elected.

Position	Line	Yes	No	Grand
President:	1 Prasanna Kumar Thoguluva Santharam	419		419
	2 Write-in	69		69
	Total:	488		488
Vice President:	1 Monicca Shanthanelson	430		430
	2 Write-in	50		50
	Total:	480		480
Secretary:	1 Satprem Reddy Pamudurthy	422		422
	2 Write-in	45		45
	Total:	467		467
Treasurer:	1 Andrei Antonenko	278		278
	2 Rong Su	290		290
	3 Write-in	15		15
	Total:	583		583
Referendum #2	1 Do you wish to continue to support a chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) at its current level of funding of \$1.50 per semester per full-time student, and \$.75 per semester per part-time student, for the next three years?	369	305	674
Referendum #1	1 Do you agree to increase the student activity fee from \$20.50 per semester to \$22.00 per semester per full time graduate student and from \$6.25 to \$7.00 per semester per part time graduate student?	403	326	729