

GSO Senate – Minutes – December 12, 2006

The meeting begins with 26 Senators and 5 Executives

**1) Welcome Remarks**

- a. The President welcomes the Senators to the final meeting of the semester.

**2) Approval of the Agenda**

- a. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve following changes:
  - i. Strike the Housing Committee Report
  - ii. Add Graduate courses in Manhattan to New Business
  - iii. Change ‘Luigi’ to ‘Miranda’ in the Lounge Committee Report
- b. *Sen. Bersamin (SPD)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**3) Approval of the November minutes**

- a. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the Nov. 7 and Nov 21 minutes with the following changes:
  - i. Change “Material” to “Marine” Sciences for *Sen. Pagano’s* department in the Nov 21 minutes.
- b. *Sen. Bersamin (SPD)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**4) GSEU letter of support**

- a. The President reports that the Executive Board would like the Senate to approve a letter supporting the GSEU bid to have the CWA Local 1104 meeting at Stony Brook University. The GSEU is doing a great job and we are very happy with the work they are doing.
- b. Victor Rosado reports that the GSEU has collected 144 surveys and that they are vibrant and doing well.
- c. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the letter; *Sen. Hall (Anatomical Sciences)* seconds the Motion; The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

**5) Elections Committee Nominations**

- a. The President asks for volunteers for the Elections Committee. This committee was difficult to fill last year and did not begin operations until April. This was very late and this committee really should begin meeting in March at the latest.
- b. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* says the committee should begin earlier.
- c. The Secretary agrees and says the committee will begin meeting in February.
- d. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve *Sen. Woulfin (History)*, *Sen. Hall (Anatomical Sciences)*, *Sen. Bersamin (SPD)*, and Victor Rosado to the Elections Committee. *Sen. Pagano (Marine Sciences)* seconds; The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

- e. The President asks if anyone wants to join Ruchi Gupta on the Student Life Committee of the University Senate.
- f. *Sen. Hall (Anatomical Sciences)* asks what the committee does.
- g. The President explains that this semester the committee has undertaken issues like the Smoking Ban and the ban on Coca-Cola products.
- h. Ruchi adds that the committee's work has been consumed recently by the Coca-Cola issue.
- i. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to add *Sen. Dilanni (Music)* to the Student Life Committee. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* seconds. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

## 6) Committee Reports

### a. Budget

- i. The Treasurer presents the audit that was done over the summer. There were several recommendations made.
  1. Financial Statements should be made available to Executives.
    - a. The Treasurer reports that this has been implemented.
  2. The University Café is a fiscal liability.
  3. There is no business contract for café.
  4. A student was given a RAP grant in excess of last year's maximum \$275.
    - a. The Treasurer notes that it is no known who this person is, but it is being looked into. The President adds that there was a time when two persons with the same name were given grants and it looked as if one person got the same grant twice. This may be what happened.

The Treasurer says all of these observations have been taken into consideration and it is no longer necessary to be worried about these.

- ii. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* asks what is happening with the rest of the Lounge line.
  1. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* says there will be no extra money in the Lounge line and hopefully it won't go too much in the red.
- iii. Speaker Series: Behavioral Ecology Group requests funding for their "Behavioral Syndromes" speaker series event. The Budget Committee recommends \$997. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the funding request for the full amount. *Sen. Woulfin* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
- iv. Graduate Linguistics Society requests funding for their two-days lecture series with Ray Jackendoff. The Budget Committee recommends \$790. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* makes a Motion to approve the funding request for the full amount. *Sen. Woulfin* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

- v. SBCSSA and CARA request funding for the Spring Festival Celebration. The Budget Committee recommends \$1,900. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* asks if the Consulate is coming and giving money. The representative from SBCSSA says they are coming, but it is unclear if they are giving money. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* asks if they can request money from the graduate school next year, since this is a recurrent event.
  - vi. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to approve \$1900 to the SBCSSA for this event. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
- b. Rules & Constitution**
- i. The Speaker reports that recommendations will be made at a later date, but the committee is reviewing the issues that have been sent to the committee from the Senate floor.
- c. Social Concerns**
- i. The Vice-President notes that the committee is working on the Quality of Life Survey. If you are interested, then you should come and help out. On the bussing issue, the committee is assessing the Chapin P Lot route. There is also talk of adding a safety seat to buses to increase safety to persons traveling with babies on the bus. If you are having problems with the bus noise at Schomberg, please report that to me. The university has installed many new stop signs around campus. One place that remains dangerous is the crosswalk between Chapin and the hospital. Also, traveling between Chapin and the campus can sometimes be dangerous for cyclists who cross Nichols Road. We want to extend the bike path across the road, but the university does not want to encourage bicycle traffic there. We are still in talks about making other arrangements.
  - ii. *Sen. Pagano (Marine Sciences)* notes that students complain about the bicycle routes between Chapin and the university all the time.
  - iii. The Vice-President continues, graduate students don't usually cycle with helmets, or front and rear lights. Lights are required by law and though helmets are not, people should use them. We are looking at bulk deals to see if we can encourage their use on campus. We've also been looking at how the committee can be more effective by using media outlets. If you feel strongly about something, talk to me and I'll point you somewhere where you can write a scathing article.
  - iv. The committee also discussed the possibility of having senate meetings go paperless. The Vice-President takes a straw poll on Senator feelings towards individual documents that are regularly brought to their attention and will make a report to the Rules and Constitution Committee about this.
  - v. The Vice-President says he is trying to make sure that all departments are represented in the Senate as well and will be contacting departments without Senators.
- d. GSELF**

- i. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* reports that GSELF has been running for six months now, has received six applications, approved two and denied four.
  - ii. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* asks what the maximum loan amount is.
  - iii. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* replies that usually it is \$2000.
  - iv. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* asks why four applications were rejected.
  - v. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* explains that there is a prior knowledge clause. If the cause of economic malaise was predictable, and thus preventable, such as rent, then the application is not approved. We also do not fund the gap between when a student arrives at Stony Brook and when they being getting paid.
- e. **Lounge**
  - i. Luigi will give Lounge committee report. Luigi says there is not much more to report since the emergency meeting. The café is still running, 3 days a week, wed-fri, after 7pm and after 5pm on Fridays.
  - ii. Ron Willa says it will be 5-9pm, m-f, next semester. We'll keep it open through Dec 22 this semester. It may also open periodically for weekend events. It is possible to keep it open past 9pm if there are enough patrons.
  - iii. *Sen. Hamilton (Psychology)* asks for something to be posted over the Senate listserv when the final hours are decided upon so that students know.
  - iv. Luigi replies that this information is on the website.
- f. **GSEU**
  - i. Victor Rosado reports that the department of Psychology completed the most surveys. The Professional Development Fund has dispersed \$400 to each member who applied. One application was denied for expenses incurred while not a member. The next round will be in February and you should apply.
  - ii. The Graduate school Spring technology fee was disseminated in an unfair manner to some people and we are working on this.
  - iii. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* asks if one is a member by simply being a graduate student.
  - iv. Victor replies that you have to be a TA or GA. You pay dues automatically, but you have to sign a yellow membership card to vote in elections.

## 7) New Business

### a. Editorial Board

- i. *Sen. Naydan (English)*, Editor-in-Chief at the Graduate Magazine reports that she would like to have an Editorial Board to advise her and webmaster Rich Laffers in the strategic direction of the Magazine, in web design, to serve as a reserve of writers, to help diversify the readership, and to assist in the possible conversion to a

print format in the Spring. We would like more input and more people to be involved.

1. Leone Brown, Louis Esparza, Alton Frabetti, Elena Yarritu, Justin Hall, and Ruchi Gupta will join the Editorial Board.

**b. NYPIRG**

- i. Scott reports that NYPIRG is working on the Coat and Food drives. We will take any donations that you may have. For food, faculty and staff bring in food. Undergrads donate their points. If you can do either, please donate. We also have available a graduate internship for six credits. The intern will work on researching higher education reform, public health, good government reform, etc. We have a lot of research needed to be done and we'd like a grad student to do this. You can schedule an interview with me. Schedule is flexible. Also, regarding our campaign on return policies, be careful of the Return Exchange. When you return something, stories run your drivers license through a system so that the next time you make a return, you are potentially flagged as someone with a poor return history and thus cannot return the item. When you make a return, ask them if they are connected to the Return Exchange.

**c. Graduate courses in Manhattan**

1. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* reports that his department's graduate students have been fighting to keep graduate courses on the Stony Brook main campus. The Dean has said that mandatory classes are not to take place there and we are asserting that right. The graduate students finally prevailed and a course that was to take place in Manhattan is taking place at Stony Brook in the Spring. I would like to open a cross-departmental conversation on this issue.
2. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* applauds the efforts of the Theatre department graduate students on this issue. Reports that the USG subsidizes LIRR tickets for undergraduates and perhaps the GSO can consider this in addition to what you are doing. Also the Interdepartmental Doctoral Consortium (IDC) requires travel that is also not compensated. More people use this than GSELF, so perhaps we can divert money in this direction. Marine Sciences does provide a shuttle bus to go to Southampton, but this is a special case.

*Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to adjourn; *Sen. Moore (Economics)* seconds the Motion. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Louis Esparza