

The meeting begins with 36 Senators and 4 Executives

**1) Approval of the Agenda**

- a. *Sen. Hamilton (Psychology)* makes a Motion to approve the agenda with the following changes:

i. Add GSEU Report to New Business

The Motion was seconded by *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* and approved by unanimous consent.

**2) Approval of the September Minutes**

- a. *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to approve the minutes with the following changes:

i. Section 8.g. shall note that *Sen. Patterson* represents the Chemistry department.

The Motion was seconded by *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* and approved by unanimous consent.

*Sen. Gupta* makes a Motion to suspend the rules stipulating that the Vice-President Chair the meeting in the absence of a Speaker and to appoint the President as the Speaker for this meeting. The Motion was seconded by *Sen. Pagano (Marine Sciences)* and approved by unanimous consent.

**3) Election of the Speaker**

- a. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* nominates *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* to be considered as the Senate's Speaker.  
b. *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* accepts the nomination  
c. *Sen. Hamilton* makes a Motion to approve *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* as Speaker, starting immediately after the Senate meeting.  
d. The Motion was seconded by *Sen. Kinney (Marine Sciences)*.  
e. The Senate goes into closed session to discuss the Motion.  
f. The Motion passes 27-0-0.  
g. The Senate returns to regular session.

**4) Wo/Men's Center**

- a. Smita Majumdar explains that the Wo/Men's Center has many services available, including the Graduate Women's Group. 1,300 students get serviced by the University Counseling Center and some of those students get referred to the Wo/Men's Center. Increasing the visibility of the Wo/Men's Center is important and it was requested that the Senate inform students of the Wo/Men's Center and to keep them in mind as we provide students with services.

**5) University Senate Environmental Committee Report**

- a. Gil Hansen, Chair of the Committee, and Bill Dethlefs were present to discuss the Committee's report. The committee was asked by the Executive Committee of the University Senate to consider the problem of smoking on campus. The Committee developed a proposal to ban smoking on campus effective September 2006. That vote has been delayed due to coalition discussions across governmental bodies and has not taken the floor of the University Senate. Dr. Hansen reminds our Senate that second hand smoke is bad for your health.
- b. The President questions the validity of Dr. Dethlefs' arguments, saying that the Committee's proposals go against University Policy.
- c. *Sen. Hamilton (Psychology)* inquires about the feasibility of implementing this policy. Dr. Hansen replies that the Committee is now considering ways to enforce and estimate the funds necessary to enforce the proposal.
- d. *Sen. Naydan (English)* asks how many of the other colleges and/or universities that have passed smoking bans have been private as opposed to public. Dr. Hansen responds that all have been public, to his knowledge.
- e. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* asks if there has been a negative impact on the enrollment numbers at universities that have passed smoking bans. Dr. Hansen responds that no negative impact has been observed.
- f. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* states that the short-term impact seems rather abrupt to go from what we have now to a total ban and questions the justification for such a ban.
- g. A general discussion occurred with the sentiment being that the current rules concerning smoking on campus should be implemented prior to any proposed ban.
- h. *Sen. Bonsra (Pharmacology)* asks about the cost that this implementation would entail. Dr. Hansen says that the Executive Committee of the University Senate has asked his Committee to look into this question and that it is on the table for the next meeting.
- i. Dr. Hansen was asked if health insurance rates for students would decrease as a result of a ban. Dr. Hansen replied that he did not have an answer to that question.
- j. The Secretary thanked Dr. Hansen for his presentation and asked him to stay for the conversation on the proposed smoking resolution that would be next on the agenda.

## 6) Smoking Resolution

- a. The President reports that the Undergraduate Student Government has passed the Resolution opposing a total ban on smoking on campus that the GSO approved in September. The proposal to be discussed now was a product of the Social Concerns Committee. The University Senate Executive Committee has expressed interest in supporting this resolution.
- b. *Sen. Naydan (English)* makes a Motion to amend the resolution so that the last paragraph reads:
 

**Be it resolved,** that twelve (12) months after the complete implementation of the above, the documented evidence of satisfaction and dissatisfaction of students, faculty, and staff should be obtained and

the results of these policies will be assessed so as to properly gauge the situation of smoking on campus.

- c. The Executive Committee considers this a friendly amendment.
- d. General discussion takes place regarding amending the proposal so that it suggests a distance of 50 feet from campus buildings.
- e. The Treasurer submits that any suggestions on making the rules more strict than they currently are will not effect smoker behavior, so we should just pass the resolution as is.
- f. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* makes a Motion to amend the Resolution so that the distance from buildings that smoking will be allowed will be extended to 50 feet.
- g. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)*.
- h. The Motion fails to get a majority, 15-12-7.
- i. It is suggested that the Resolution include a line allowing for a 50 foot policy to be considered in the future.
- j. The Executive Committee requests a 3 minute recess to discuss the suggestion.
- k. The Senate goes into recess.
- l. The Senate returns from recess after about 5 minutes and the President reads the new language, which adds at the end,  
; and if the documented results show that the majority of students, faculty, and staff are dissatisfied with the outcome of considering the fifteen (15) feet policy, then a fifty (50) feet policy should be considered before the introduction of a total smoking ban.
- m. *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* makes a Point of Information requesting clarification of the intent of the last paragraph of the Resolution.
- n. *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to approve the resolution.
- o. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Colmenares-Angulo (Materials Science)*.
- p. The Motion passes, 30-1-3.

## 7) Letter to the New Governor

- a. The President introduces a letter asking the next governor to provide higher education with adequate funds for student needs.
- b. *Sen. Colmenares-Angulo (Materials Science)* asks where the money for this funding will come from.
- c. Scott Zotto (NYPIRG) responds that Albany will simply have to cut money from somewhere else as opposed to cutting from higher education, as has been done in previous years.
- d. *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to pass the Resolution.
- e. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Woulfin (History)*.
- f. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

## 8) Committee nominations

- a. *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to make the following committee appointments:
  - i. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* to the GSEU Liasion Committee
  - ii. *Sen. Naydan (English)* to Rules and Constitution

- iii. *Sen. Knapp (Psychology)* to the Social Concerns Committee
- iv. Luigi Longobardi and Chad Bender to the Lounge Committee
- v. *Sen. Leskovjan (Biomedical Engineering)* to Rules and Constitution.
- vi. *Sen. Schuman (History)* to the GSEU Liaison Committee
- vii. *Sen. Colpitts (Theatre)* to the University Senate
- b. *Sen. Christidi (Physics)* makes a Point of Information to clarify whether Chad Bender should be appointed to the Lounge Committee without his consent. The President states that Chad has expressed an interest.
- c. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Woulfin (History)*.
- d. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

## 9) Committee reports

- a. Budget Committee Report
  - i. Ron Willa, the GSO C&D agent reports on the budget during the FY ending on 30 June 2006. The budget is generally in good health. There is a difference of \$18k on Contributions income because some of the Deans who have contributed in previous years have not continued to do so. The Treasurer assures the Senate that Dean Martin has promised that this difference will be made up. When this happens, the surplus will be over \$40k.
  - ii. The Budget Committee recommends that the Senate approve \$500 for the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature Speaker Series. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to approve \$500. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
  - iii. The Budget Committee recommends that the Senate approve \$1910 for the Chinese Student and Scholar Association Full Moon Celebration. The SBCSSA representative elaborates on the importance of fully funding the event. *Sen. Moore* makes a Motion to approve \$1910 for the event. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Pagano (Marine Sciences)* and passes by unanimous consent.
  - iv. The Budget Committee recommends that the Senate approve \$2028 from the surplus to compensate victims of the Chapin fire with \$100 each. The Vice-President emphasizes the importance of such a gesture and the need that these residents face. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* makes a Motion to approve \$2028 for the Chapin fire victims. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Colmenares-Angulo (Materials Science)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.
  - v. The Treasurer announces that the Budget Committee will now meet on Tuesdays. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* reminds the Senate that all funding requests need to be in one week before the next Senate meeting. The BC meeting schedule will be posted on the GSO website and posted to the listserv.

- b. GSELF Report
  - i. *Sen. Gersch (Genetics)* reports that he has nothing to report.
- c. Lounge Committee Report
  - i. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* reports that the old manager's absence has still not been clarified. The Sunday Concert Series will continue as scheduled, but no new such events will take place.
- d. Housing Committee Report
  - i. *Sen. Woulfin (History)* has investigated the complaints about housing placement on campus for incoming students, brought up during the last meeting, and everyone who contacted him were moved to their desired apartment complex. Academic departments are supposed to send information about housing to their new students in time for the May 15th deadline. Campus Residences sends this information to Departments sometime around January and they are then to forward it to incoming students. In the interest of time, other concerns that were part of this report will be sent over the Senate list, but an issue with the Chapin mailroom is now being addressed and Chapin F now has hot water.
- e. Social Concerns Committee
  - i. Details of concerns discussed in the committee will be published in the SBGradMag. Lindy's Taxi has addressed the problem with drivers and sexual harassment, so a boycott is not necessary. Transportation will be the next issue addressed in the SCC, so if you have concerns about that, please bring it to the Committee's attention.

## 10) Old Business

- a. No old business was raised.

## 11) New Business

- a. NYPIRG Report
  - i. Scott Zotto reports that a letter has been sent to the Department of Environmental Conservation in regard to the reduction of mercury emissions in NY State.
- b. GSEU Report
  - i. Victor Rosado specifies that it is a contract year for TAs and GAs. It is important for the Senate to participate in the GSEU. It is also important for departments to participate and have their departmental liaisons appointed and active. We want to know what the key issues are in your department so that we can collect grievances. The quality of life survey will help us to this end. This will provide information to be used when we bargain with the State. The union also has a contract survey that will be distributed later on, hopefully online. It is also important to sign the membership cards. Please make sure that people have signed them. You can ask us who has not signed in your department and

we can provide that information. If you don't sign the card, you can't vote on elections and you can't vote on the contract. Members receive a 20% discount if they are Cingular wireless customers. Also, please make use of the website, located at [www.gseurankandfile.org](http://www.gseurankandfile.org).

- ii. *Sen. Moore (Economics)* expresses that the GSO is much better informed about GSEU issues thanks to both the President and Victor.

The President reminds the Senate to pick up Survival Guides that are available.

*Sen. Patterson (Chemistry)* makes a Motion to adjourn. The Motion is seconded by *Sen. Gupta (Chemistry)*. The Motion passes by unanimous consent.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Louis Esparza