



## **GSO Senate Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2010**

### **Meeting called to order at 5:40PM**

34 Senators in Total Attendance and 5 Executives Present.

**Approval of Agenda** – A motion was made to correct the agenda. Motion to correct the agenda – seconded, motion passes 16– 1 – 1

**Approval of March Meeting Minutes as Corrected** – A motion was made to approve the March minutes as corrected (revision by Senator **Matthew Aiello-Lammens**). Approved 16-2. November minutes approved as corrected (RCC Report included) 18-2-1.

**Presidential Welcoming Remarks and Activities Report** – Doctoral Caps and Gowns changed back to the blue ones. Met with President Stanley. Graduate Student Bill of Rights. Motion to approve the document as is by J. Ortiz. Seconded. Motion to table passing grad student bill of rights by Mark Rice until next month. Passed Unanimously.

**Discussion on PHEEIA lead by President Selterman.** Read the Resolution out loud. Questions: Senator Obiorah – Are SUNY Board of Trustees (BOT) responsible to NY Senate? President Selterman: Yes. Control in BOT, but they are held responsible to the State Senate. Comments on the BOT. BOT not answerable can't be voted in or out. They do not always come from an educational background, not often professors administrators. Senator Young – No one has ever been removed before. Possibility of state funding going down. Whenever tuition goes up, state funding goes down.

Potentially make a separate resolution that that is directed to the administration. Survey? Why move forward on this without knowing how students feel. Motion to extend the debate 5 minutes. Approved unanimously. Timeline? No one knows when state legislators are voting on this. Senator McGrath – do the admin know anything about when we can stop borrowing against the money? D: 1-2 years. How will that affect graduate tuition, stipends, faculty hiring, etc. Lila Naydan – BIR clause. What negative consequences will we have for the GSO not supporting PHEEIA. Motion to extend the debate 5 more minutes (6:20pm) Senator McGrath – passed. Senator Colmenares – motion to adopt the resolution.

Senator Aiello-Lammens – Want survey completed before resolution is adopted. Asked a lot of people in department and they want the survey done first. Senator Aleyasin - Could we have an emergency meeting after the survey is completed.

Senator McGrath (6:26pm) – motion to table the resolution until May until a survey is sent out to all grad students. Motion fails 6 – 15. Motion to extend debate 5 minutes. Majority votes yes.

Motion in favor of adopting resolution 22-4. Resolution adopted.

GSEU Business Agent Disconzi – April 15<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> survey. 4 people have actually read the bill. Many Graduate students don't have stipends. We are deciding for everyone,

Motion to extend the debate 15 minutes (6:32pm) - Speaker Greenstein. Passes

Lila Naydan: GSO is the only organization that represents Masters students. Stroll poll – 5 MS students present. We need their feedback since this will dramatically affect you and your peers. MFA: support PHEEIA. Lila – what about MS students who pay their own way? Senator Salussolia: MS students pay an enormous amount of tuition. Medical students – hike gone up 10%. MD rather know how much it goes up each year. Adopt something about MS students? Senator Kalandra (MS student) - No problem as long as the money goes back to the school. Another Senator thinks MS students are completely not taken care of. Being squeezed into classes. Their advisors are abroad. Their tuition is going up a lot more.

Motion to extend debate 10 minutes. Motion fails 13-13.

Motion to adopt Dereks Resolved clause into the resolution. Motion passes.

Motion to change the third whereas clause, seconded. Vote in favor of making this amendment. Motion passes, 19-1, 2 abstentions

Vote to adopt this resolution. Motion passes. 23-3, 2 abstentions.

**Vice-Presidential Report** (6:57PM) –Bowling Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>. 16 lanes available for 96 people. Concert coming up this Thursday. Barbara Chernow – receptive to implement changes.

**Rules and Constitution Committee Report** (7PM) – Speaker Greenstein. Proposed changes, and vote counts. See attached documents for related language.

#### Proposed Changes to the ICP

- D. If funding is requested . . . Reimbursements for e-tickets will be made only on submission of the original boarding pass stub or **baggage claim check**. If the boarding pass stub is unavailable, a copy of the credit/debit card statement showing the expense must be submitted along with the receipt.  
32 vote in favor of 6.3.5.D PASSED
- **C. The maximum amount of reimbursement shall not exceed the price of the LIRR pre-board round trip peak ticket between Port Jefferson and Penn Station.**  
29 for 6.3.7.C PASSED
- **A. Fitness Class Punch Cards: Students may apply once each semester to be reimbursed for one fitness class card purchased during that semester by submitting a Recreation Fee Reimbursement Form with the receipt attached. During winter or summer intersession, one must be enrolled in classes for the following semester to qualify for reimbursement. At the beginning of each semester Budget Committee will**

**determine the cap on the amount of reimbursement for fitness class punch cards. Students are eligible to receive up to three (3) reimbursements during a fiscal year.**

32 vote in favor of 6.3.8.A PASSED

- **K. No budget request may allocate more than \$300 toward the purchase of food. The total amount reimbursed for food will not exceed \$300.**

31 vote in favor of 6.3.2.K PASSED

- **I. No funds shall be released prior to the event.**
- **J. If a group is willing to apply for . . .**

29-1 vote in favor of 6.3.2.I/J line items PASSED

- **A. (supersedes 6.3.2.D) The funding request shall consist of a completed Event Funding Request Form that can ...**
- **B. (supersedes 6.3.2.K) No budget request may allocate more than \$300 toward the purchase of food. The total amount reimbursed for food will not exceed \$300 for a sponsored event. In the case of an event spanning multiple days, a Senator may motion to amend the proposed budget request to provide an additional \$100 per day for a maximum of two (2) additional days, totaling \$500.**

29 in favor and 1 abstention for 6.3.3.A and B PASSED

- **G. RAP funds are directly tied to a department's senator's attendance at GSO Senate meetings. All departments are considered active before the regularly scheduled October GSO Senate meeting of the fiscal year. After the October GSO Senate meeting, the following rule applies: if a senator has missed either two consecutive meetings or two out of the last three GSO Senate meetings of the fiscal year, the department changes status to inactive. Failure to attend the emergency GSO Senate meeting shall not trigger the department inactive. RAP funds are only available to active departments. Departments represented by GSO employees paid through GSO payroll automatically qualify for RAP.**

26 for in favor of 6.3.5.G PASSED

- **6.3.1.3 Clubs formed at Stony Brook satellite campuses are entitled to full club funding. Members of a club that exists at two or more campuses may only count towards the total membership of one club.**

33 vote in favor of 6.3.1.3 PASSED

- **Departments at Stony Brook satellite campuses are entitled to the full departmental allocation. Members of a department that exists at two or more campuses may only count towards the total membership of one location.**

28 vote in favor of 6.3.4 PASSED

- **L. No single prize or giveaway item may exceed \$50.**

30 vote in favor of and 1 opposed 6.3.2.L PASSED

- **F. The Treasurer shall report all funding requests in this category to the BC and the Senate. The BC will advise the Senate whether or not they recommend funding for the event and to what level. In order to request any funding, the Treasurer must be notified of the intent to request funding 24 hours in advance of the Senate meeting.**

28 for and 1 opposed for 6.3.2.F PASSED

- **A. In order to request any funding, the Treasurer must be notified of the intent to request funding 24 hours in advance of the Senate meeting.**

31 vote for and, 1 abstention for 6.3.3.A PASSED

- **D.3. The GSELF Committee**

**I. All members of the GSELF committee, including the chair, shall remain anonymous.**

Senator McGrath - Motion to change D.3.I. Revised by Senator Young, past GSELF chair. Remain anonymous to all grad students except for members of the GSO senate and EC. Senator Colmenares – Motion to table this. Unanimous approval.

Proposed Changes to the Elections Committee Bylaws

- **Section 2. Election Deadlines**
- **A. The elections committee must meet at least once before the call for nominations.**
- **B. Call for nominations must be made at least one week** before the March Senate meeting.
- **C. The Elections Committee is responsible for setting and extending the deadlines for submitting the nomination forms, candidate statements, and creating materials for publicity including but not limited to Official GSO Elections Guide to be distributed during the elections.**

Vote Counts: 25 for 2.A,B,C. PASSED

- **Section 4. Campaigning**

- **No GSO list serve or website may be used by or on behalf of candidates to disseminate campaign material; no organizations who receive graduate student money may disseminate campaign material by or on behalf of candidates for GSO elections.**
- **D. Candidates must disclose the following information to the elections committee for publication at the time of nomination form submission.**
  - **i. Number of semesters as a GSO senator**
  - **ii. Number of semesters as a GSO committee member**
  - **iii. Number of semesters representing the GSO on a university committee**

23 for and 5 opposed to 4.A and D. PASSED.

Proposed Changes to the GSO Constitution

New Article IX – Conflict of Interest – cannot vote on.

**ARTICLE IX – Conflict of Interest**

**No officer or person receiving remuneration from the GSO shall accept any appointment, position, or remuneration which is in conflict of interest with her or his duties as a member of the Senate or GSO sponsored committees. The Board of Appeals shall interpret the specific application of this by-law on a case-by-case basis.**

Joe Ortiz – Motion to close the meaning. 5 in favor, 13 against. Meeting stays open.

Motion to extend debate. Seconded. 13 for, 9 against, 1 abstention. Motion passes.

**Elections Committee Report**

Motion to strike Jose's requirements for this election (involving disclosure) 13 for 9 against 4 abstain. Motion passes.

Motion to extend time 13-9-3, motion passes.

Motion to amend the agenda to put budget committee before candidates statements. 5-8, Motion failed.

### Candidates Statements

Motion to extend. Seconded. In favor of hearing all candidates. 8 vote yes.

Motion to only allow senator to ask 3 questions passed. Motion to rescind 3 question limit. Will allow for as many questions as possible. Motion is not passed.

Motion to put budget committee next. Motion Passes.

### Budget Committee Report

Motion to approve funding requests by unanimous consent. Motion Approved.

- Buddhism Practice Group: Talk on Buddhism and yoga, \$40 from Speaker Series, Approved.
- Buddhism Practice Group: Retreat and meditation with 2 speakers, \$715 from Speaker Series, Approved.
- SARA: Ping Pong Tournament, \$270 from Social Events, Approved.
- SARA: End-of-year Party, \$600 from Social Events, Approved.
- HERA: Stem cell lecture, \$200 from Speaker Series, Approved.
- Trivia: End-of-year Food, \$300 from Social Events (amended from \$250), Approved.

8:46pm - 15 senators are present. Quorum is here

### Audit Report: Treasurer Young

Audit report available electronically.

Lila – MS students don't ever get RAP.

Elisha - Idea to allow people who attend conferences but not present be eligible for RAP money.

Motion to adjourn – voted in favor 8. Motion passes, meeting adjourned.