

GSO Senate Meeting – September 13th, 2011 – Minutes

I. Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Charilaos Papadopoulos

- Thirty-five senators present.

II. Approval of Agenda, and May Senate Meeting Minutes, including the ICP and constitution changes

- Agenda and minutes approved.

III. President's Report

- The fight for keeping fees low last year was successful, Technology Fee increased by only \$9 instead of the proposed \$77.5 while Transportation Fee increased by \$2 instead of \$20.
- Unfortunately for our pockets, NY SUNY 2020 was approved, it entails up to \$300 increase in tuition per year during the next 5 years for in-state students and 10% increase per year for out-of-state students. While there is TAP which helps low-income undergrad students, grad students are not eligible for it.
- Shared Service Centers, consolidating administrative staff from different departments according to geographical location (only one set of staff doing everything for the whole building: One person in charge of all budget, one in charge of all hiring, one in charge of all class scheduling...). We as a senate should have a position on this, as different governance bodies are discussing the topic. More on the VP's report.
- Meeting with President Samuel L. Stanley
- Graduate Students' Voting for the New Recreation Center  
Senators must ask students on their departments whether they would like to pay the recreation fee or not. We will invite Sue for next meeting, so we have better information.
- New Provost, Dean Assanis. There was no real consultation, except for Dylan Selterman, member of 2009-2010 EC, appointed by the administration. He never reported or shared any information on this with previous EC. Now School is searching for two VP's, the VP of Finance and the VP of Research. Pres. Stanley will select a student representative from a 3-4 groups of volunteers from GSO senate.
- RAP usage has increased in the last years. RAP these first months is greater than last year. Got more funding for RAP from Pres. Stanley and Graduate School. We should also increase our Student Activity Fee in order to increase RAP funding.

IV. Vice President's Report

- Survival Guide: Designed and updated 2011 Survival Guide. Printed 1200 copies. Printing was about \$1000 more expensive than projected on budget but also ad solicitors sold more advertisements and gathered over \$1000 more than previous year. In total, the SG is self-sustainable and it could cover the honorarium paid to the editor and even get net revenue. Remark: This is the only publication on campus that generates any sort of

revenue, undergrad publications like the Stony Brook Press or The Statesman are heavily subsidized by school. Since there has been an interest on reviving the Grad Magazine for a couple years now, it would be a good idea to follow the business model of SG for accomplishing this goal. There is a line on our budget for \$2000. This could be used as a starter and most likely it will be returned to GSO funds with gains. The long term goal would be creating some sort of club that takes charge of the magazine and continues editing it independently of the EC (but still reporting to the full GSO senate).

- Shared Service Centers: In the Arts & Science EC there has been a discussion during the summer about SSC's. The main concerns are about implementing a corporation-like model in a university, which is essentially different than a corporation. Every department has a different dynamics and blending all administrative functioning into one will force all departments to work in one and the same dynamics, which could be painful in some cases. Attention to students will likely get poorer, since one person working for five or more different departments will not be able to know everything about pensums, changes, swaps, etc. The A&S-EC warns that this SSC merging is a slippery slope towards department mergers.
- PhD Comics movie event will be held in October and is waiting for confirmation from Staller Center.

## V. Speaker Nominations

The EC has got three nominations via e-mail:

Catherine Salussolia  
Esam Al-Shareffi  
Jia Zhu

Before voting for them, it was asked if anyone else from the senate wanted to run for Speaker. No one volunteered. Microphone was open for Speaker candidates' statements.

Catherine made a point on her experience for three years on GSO as well as a (med students senate) which also applies the Robert's Rules of Order. She offered to modify Rules and ICP in order to offer "Super RAP" (Distinguished Travel Award) twice a year instead of once.

Jia offered no previous experience but showed high excitement about becoming the Speaker, besides needing the job.

Esam also made a point about experience and knowledgeability of Robert's Rules of Order and emphasized on making a more efficient senate.

Microphone was then open for questions/comments from senators. No questions.

Candidates were requested to wait outdoors while senate voted.

Two senators made remarks on support of Catherine Salussolia. Results were as follows:

Catherine Salussolia, 25 votes

Essam Al-Shareffi, 1 vote

Jia Zhu, 9 votes.

Catherine proceeded to administer the remaining of the meeting.

## VI. Committee Nominations

See attached committee file.

## VII. Report from GSA

Kassandra Hartford is the new Grad Student Advocate. She is the person to go for helping in solving all kinds of problems. If she cannot solve a problem, she knows who can and will direct students to the pertaining office. She is also organizing the Grant Writing Workshops:

Sep. 28th, 1-2 pm, Humanities 1006: “Organizing a Proposal”, Profs Robert Crease (Philosophy) and Michael Hadjiargyrou (BME)

Oct. 5th, 1-2 pm, Humanities 1006: “Getting a GRant and Getting the Most Out of Your Research”, by grad students who have won grants from Anatomical Sciences, History and Music.

Oct. 12, “How to Write a Grant Budget”, Jin Bentley (OVPR, office of vice president of research). Preparing an accurate budget for your project.

## VIII. Budget Committee Report

## VIII. RA Union Report

## IX. GSEU Report

## X. Production Manager’s Report

## XIII. Meeting Adjourned

- Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Selin Gonen, GSO Secretary.