

GSO Organizational Meeting Minutes
7 September, 2011, 4:30 @Inn Complete

I. Call to Order (Vice President Patrick Neary)
Patrick solicits for meeting to begin

II. Roll Call (Vice President Patrick Neary)
Motion carries to accept sign in sheet as Roll

III. Conduct of Special Business Meeting

a. **President's Report** (President Melissa Welshans)
Melissa explains her history with the GSO; Exec Board introduces themselves briefly.

Goals for 2011-2012:

More research into graduate student assistantships. Students have in the past been given little notice about when their assistantships were ending; we want to look more deeply into the way that this affects graduate students as they try to complete their degrees. We are hoping to shed light on this to see if it is in fact a problem we might be able to help assuage.

Improve relationship with the Law School. Our constitution was amended last semester to eliminate the clause that the GSO did not associate with the Law School; we are now working on making stronger connections.

Improve access to crisis management resources. We want to create a space online where grad students could go to access information about crisis management: eg. coming up against a faculty adviser; crises in housing; crises with the law, etc. It would be beneficial to pool links to this info together to make for easier accessibility.

Better meet the goals of masters' students. This has historically been difficult mostly because the senate has usually been comprised of more PhD students, but we have made progress and want to continue making headway in this area.

Continue expansion of the Travel Grant. This program is in its third year. In its 1st year, about 65 students were awarded monies; last year 120 students, so the program doubled in its second year. Looking to continue expansion, but also continuing to stress that it should only be considered a supplement to departmental funds, which should be sought first.

Continue promoting The Inn Complete. The Inn is doing well this year, but we need to continue to think about more ways to get people to the Inn and to let them know about the discounts and benefits for grad students.

Ensuring maximum benefits from the child care center. We need to make sure that grad students are benefitted by the services that are offered since we have been giving them a sizable endowment.

Continue to have a voice in the changes to the Library. In 2009, a large uprising from grads and undergrads made the administration rethink how they were going to take care of the growing needs of the library. The GSO was an integral part of this decision and will continue to weigh in on the changes happening in the SU Library System.

b. Comptroller's Report (Comptroller Jack Mayernik)

The comptroller maintains the GSO Budget, handles departmental allocations, and chairs the Finance Committee.

- Finance Committee: Tuesdays at noon, committee members commit to attend all meetings. In exchange for regular attendance, lunch is provided at meetings.
- Funding for organizations: student orgs or departments can get funding in several ways:
 1. Department Allocations: only departments are eligible to receive this funding. If you are the rep, you get \$1 per student in your program for every meeting you attend. Your dept. can spend this money any way it likes; disbursements are made in the Spring and the Fall.
 - [2. Annual Budget: student groups submit their annual budgets for approval in the Spring.]
 3. Special Programming Funds: can be applied for to cover events that annual budget or dept. allocation does not cover. You submit a proposal and the finance committee makes recommendations to the senate, who then votes.

Issue: Relocating the Meeting from the Inn Complete?

The President from MAXPAC requests the GSO to consider relocating the meetings from the Inn Complete. Cites reasons of difficult travel to this space.

Discussion ensues; others are in favor of this space because of the free parking. The Exec Board mentions that at the First Regular Business Meeting, there will be a formal car pool organized.

Vote to keep meetings at the Inn Complete 24 yay / 7 nay. Meetings will stay at the Inn Complete.

c. **Elections** (Vice President Patrick Neary)

Explanations of what will be voted for and the functions of University Senators and Senators at Large.

1. University Senators - 9 needed

- Meetings are monthly on Wednesdays 4:15 in Maxwell Auditorium; it is mandatory to serve on a committee in the U Senate. Serving on the U Senate waives the requirement to serve on a GSO committee.

University Senators 2011-2012

Joe Ralbovsky

Todd Metcalf

Amy Chaney

Tom Guiler

Brandon Milonovich

Heather Ruby

Patrick Dawes

Laura Miller

Carol Aguire

2. Senators-at-Large - 6 needed

Senators-at-Large

Carl Scruggs

Patty Giles

Tonya Lambert - (not present) nominated by proxy by Laura Miller

Ryan Martin

- Motion carries to accept those nominated as there are more open slots than nominees
- 2 more Senator-at-Large positions to be filled

d. **Committees and Liaison Assignments** (Vice President Patrick Neary)

Email Recording Secretary Melissa Kizina (gso@syr.edu) - indicate Committee Preferences in the subject line. Deadline: 21 Sept. 2011.

Announcements

- Facebook and Twitter Plug by Melissa: Like/Follow us if you haven't already!
- Guide to Parliamentary Procedure attached to packet [and available online shortly, look for the link on our website]
- Rideshare: email gso@syr.edu if you need a ride to the 1st Reg Business Meeting
- 2 mixers: one Oct 1; One Oct 8; neighborhood specific social events.

IV. Adjournment