

GSO Senate First Business Meeting

September 19th, 2012

I. Call to order

II. Roll Call

- a. MOTION: accept sign in sheet as roll call → carries unanimously

III. Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

- a. MOTION: accept minutes → carries unanimously

IV. Executive Report

a. President's Report (Melissa Kizina Motsch)

i. 1000 "likes" campaign

1. We currently have 370 "like"s for over 5,000 active graduate students on our listserv
2. Goal: reach 1,000
3. Melissa will be sending out an email asking for feedback about what grad students would like us to do to celebrate reaching 1,000 "likes"; Two suggestions: pizza & beer at the Inn Complete, hot chocolate & donuts on the quad one morning
 - a. Suggestion: do regular events at different bars downtown (law school already does this and has had a lot of success)
 - b. Suggestion: give people who "like" the page special discounts wherever when we have the event

ii. Drumlins

1. Brief outline of our relationship with Drumlins:
 - a. Country club that we've negotiated \$20 year long (July-July) membership for golf & tennis
 - b. For several years we gave them \$40,000 for free grad student access to golf & tennis
 - c. Drumlins began charging us \$20/yearly pass
 - d. 2011 dropped our financial support to \$15,000
 - e. 2012 voted to bring back up to \$40,000 in part to help merge the law school & GSO
2. Forming a committee to research alternative options to Drumlins
3. Melissa is the current Drumlins liaison
4. Committee would look into getting more for our money (in particular golf carts, being able to use the members-only course on a low traffic day)
5. This year's numbers for Drumlins use: 117 golf, 63 tennis
6. Normal yearly passes are \$799/year for golf, \$35/round
7. Suggestion: see if we can provide discount to only the first X number of students (would that save us money?); problem: this would rule out lots of students who don't arrive until August

iii. Safety Initiative

1. Initiative: to institute a lock-down system on campus in case of a violent incident

2. Melissa recently brought this to her meeting with the Board of Trustees; SU has already done some research and been looking into this sort of option
3. Melissa has a meeting on October 5th, solicited additional members for this committee, committee will likely meet for the first time in the next two weeks

iv. Committee & Liaisons Reporting System

1. Have established new reporting procedures for committees and liaisons which can be found on our website
2. October 1st: committee goals reports due to Melissa, to be filled out by chairs & submitted online

V. Special Committees Report

VI. Standing Committee and Liaisons Reports

a. Finance Committee (Pat Dawes)

i. Special Programming: Association of Public Diplomacy Scholars

1. Large event, should reach approx. 180 grad students, has been held in the past and very successful
2. Finance committee voted to fund them \$2,300
3. MOTION: approve this official recommendation from the finance committee to fund APS \$2,300 for this event → carries unanimously

b. Travel Grant Committee (Melissa Welshans)

- i. 20 applications in September thus far, 15 of which they actually considered (5 were incomplete and will be considered again in October)
- ii. Provided \$4425 in grants out of estimated monthly budget of \$5714
- iii. New electronic model seems to be working well
- iv. New rolling monthly deadlines (on the 1st of every month through April, then one on April 15th for summer travel)
 1. Question: when should you apply?
 - a. You may apply at any time for travel at any time, request is to apply within the same semester you will be travelling to help committee with their budget
- v. Historically travel grant program has been to travel to conferences to present original work or do professional networking
 1. Would like Senate's approval to expand and begin considering research travel applications
 2. Would do this as a "soft" opening to get a sense of how this would affect our overall travel grant budget
 3. MOTION: to start considering research travel as a "soft" opening to possibly expanding the program in this way
 4. Pat Dawes: his opinion is that the soft launch is a bad idea b/c it could result into the current status of currently being able to fund most applications
 5. Can we allocate additional funding for this purpose?
 - a. MOTION: allocate additional discretionary funding for this purpose

- b. Pat Dawes: comptroller cannot answer whether or not there are discretionary funds available for this or not
- c. Should have numbers at the next meeting
- d. MOTION: postpone further discussion of the motions to expand program until next meeting when comptroller has firm numbers about discretionary funding available → carries unanimously, will consider in new business at next meeting
- e. Question: could you receive both a travel and research grant? Answer: probably not, will likely once receive one per year
- f. MOTION: end debate → carries unanimously

c. Library Committee (Melissa Welshans)

- i. Have been asked to solicit information from graduate students about what sorts of outreach on the part of the library might be effective to benefiting graduate students
- ii. Those who have suggestions should email them to Melissa Welshans

VII. Old Business

a. Parking Resolution Outcome

- i. First, going to open more spaces in Irving for people on the current waitlist
- ii. Also opening Lawrence garage for people on waitlist
- iii. Anyone with a West Zone permit is going to be allowed to upgrade their parking permit to Stadium on a first come (according to when you purchased your permit) first served basis for free
- iv. Parking Services will also make sure to improve transparency about what permits will provide at the time of purchase next year
- v. How do you go about getting upgrades? Answer: they will email those with the relevant permits

VIII. New Business

a. Election of At Large Senators (2)

- i. Duties: attend GSO Senate Meetings and serve on at least one committee (have voting privileges)
- ii. If you're already a Senator you cannot run for an At Large position
- iii. Nominations:
 1. Darci Pauser
 2. Gavin Mylrea
 3. Tina Atamian
 4. Dave Wolken
 5. Dai Newman
- iv. Current Senators in attendance: 26
- v. ELECTED: Tina Atamian & Dave Wolken

b. Resolution Concerning Recreation Services

- i. Asking for \$2,000 as a pilot program to allow Rec Services to charge the same fee to graduate and undergraduate students for Outdoor Education programs

- ii. MOTION: adopt this resolution → motion carries
 - 1. Question: is it possible to reimburse per student? Answer: yes, we would be reimbursing rec services for their reduced graduate student fees
 - 2. Question: would they be amenable to allowing spouses/partners/significant others access to these trips as well

c. Creation of Legislative Action Committee

- i. MOTION: create a Legislative Action Committee as a special committee → motion carries unanimously
 - 1. Main focus of the committee: way to represent SU to local legislative offices as issues arise (ex: open access to federally funded research)
 - 2. Can do training for actual lobbying

IX. Remarks for the Record

a. Committee and Liaison Assignments

- i. There are a few outstanding Senators who we still need committee preferences from; if you're not currently serving on a committee or a liaison then please stay after the meeting

X. Announcements

a. Relay for Life

b. Memorial Update

- i. Request for \$1500 to fund an annual award in student's name to go to a graduate student in documentary film studies who work on human rights

c. Wine Tasting Sept 29th @ Inn Complete & Sam Adams beer tasting on Thursday October 11th

d. NYS Assembly Session Internship

XI. Adjournment