

**GSO Fourth Regular Business Meeting  
December 14, 2011 4:30pm @Inn Complete**

I. Call to Order - Patrick Neary

II. Roll Call: motion to accept sign in sheet as roll: made, seconded, and accepted

III. Reading and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes: motion to accept minutes as written for previous meeting made, seconded and accepted

IV. Executive Report

a. University Senate Update (Melissa Welshans)

- At the most recent meeting, the chancellor spoke about the Bernie Fine incident. There will be a committee looking into the incident and how it has been handled, and graduate students will have a voice in that committee.

b. Law School Relationship Update

- We are coming very close to finalizing the relationship between the GSO and the Law School. They will pay a fee to the GSO in exchange for the full use of the services offered by the GSO.

Q: Ryan Martin: does this mean that the Law School will pay student fees just like grad students?

A: It will be a reduced fee but it will be collected the same way as our grad student fee. The reduced fee is derived from a calculation taking into consideration the percentage of constituents, as we have done with ESF

c. Slutzker Center

- On January 12 and 13th, there is an orientation for new international students at the Sharaton from 12-5pm, Participation may include manning a table, participating in Q&A programming, and talking to new graduate students; let Melissa know if you are interested.

*Interjection:* Laminated “cheat sheets” of Robert’s Rules of Order have been passed around to help people navigate parliamentary procedure.

V. Special Committee Reports

a. Committee on Executive Board Structure and Pay (Pat Dawes)

- The committee has met several times to talk about restructuring the EBoard to make it more inclusive and to reduce the costs
  - please see committee’s report on these changes, sent out as an email attachment
- Single year masters students are underrepresented; the committee is also looking into the creation of another position on the eboard to give the one year grad students an opportunity to have a hand in the executive process.

- Email Patrick Dawes [pjdawes@syr.edu](mailto:pjdawes@syr.edu) with questions

Q: Emma Brodeur: finds it a bit troubling that benefits are being removed since the previous eboard worked so hard to get benefits.

A: VP explains that debate regarding the new structure should take place at the next meeting.

Q: Is there a “comment period?”

A: Not exactly, comments should be emailed to [gso@syr.edu](mailto:gso@syr.edu) or to the listserv. VP also wants everyone to thoroughly read the documents so that they are aware of what is going on.

## VI. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports

### a. Finance Committee (Jack Mayernik)

#### i. Muslim Student Association

- Requested \$984 to host an annual fast-a-thon; money will benefit a local food bank and will raise awareness for Ramadan. They fast for 14 hours and at the end there is a big dinner to celebrate.
- Because of the food budget (over 20% of the total budget), we are only able to offer \$898 dollars.
  - Pat Dawes: for 5/7 years we have funded this event through Special Programming. What we should recommend is to make this an annual budget item, because this kind of annual event is not exactly what Special Programming is supposed to be for.
- Motion to accept the finance committee’s recommendation is made and seconded.

#### ii. Additional Revenue Allocation Package

- We have never done this: we are going have extra revenue that we should spend this year, otherwise this would go toward our rollover, which is significant.

#### Finance Committee’s Suggestions:

- \$5,000 - Travel Grant Committee to further expand that program
- \$5,000 - a new organization startup fund: in response to several organizations created this year, haven’t been able to receive annual budget funds, so these startup funds would help them get off the ground.
- \$10,000 - grad night at the Dome. Purchase a block of tickets for an upcoming game - Georgetown game at the beginning of February, before classes have ramped up. This amount was the

maximum that the eboard felt was reasonable to spend.

Q: This 10000 would be for one night? What does the money get us?

A: Yes, and it would provide tickets for a block of graduate students.

- Concerns pop up: Could there be better ways for this money to be used?
  - Pat Dawes' masters' school did events that attempted to get a lot of different kinds of graduate students together. A game, shopping in NY, some kind of event to get students from across disciplines together in order to nurture a graduate student community.
  - Ryan Martin: should we put all of our eggs in this basketball basket?
    - Motion is made and seconded to reduce the basketball recommendation to \$2000; motion carries 12-7.
  - A motion is called for to deal with the remaining \$8000: Pat Dawes formally asks the Outreach Committee to propose other events. Senators can propose events to the Outreach Committee.
    - Amendments are discussed and made: a motion to allocate \$5,000 of the \$8,000 to the Travel Grant and \$3,000 to Outreach fails 7-12
    - Motion to allocate \$4,000 to Travel Grant and \$4,000 to Outreach carries 16-2
    - Motion to accept entire package as amended carries 22-1

b. Drumlins Liaison (John D'Agostino)

- Attended a meeting with Douglas Freeman from Drumlins about what our finding got us this year and what we might be able to get in the future.
- Funding to Drumlins was decreased from 25,000 to 15,000. They continued to offer us the same benefits but will not in the future. The hope is that with the

additional funding from the Law School, we might be able to give more funding to Drumlins; otherwise, the fees using Drumlins facilities will increase.

Q: Ryan Martin: does Drumlins do anything during the winter time?

A: Tennis.

Q: Are there cross country trails?

A: Yes.

c. Inn Complete Committee (Tonya Lambert)

- Increasing the functionality of the Inn; perhaps making it more of a cafe/bar.
- Problems: if it is more like a cafe, furniture will not be as movable; events may not be able to held here as much. The committee is thinking about sending a survey to grad students asking
- The other big thing: getting a bus to the Inn, especially in the winter. Those changes have been agreed upon, but will need to wait until the spring in order to pave the road more.
- The logo contest is still on: please let constituents know that they can submit their logo ideas.

d. Library Committee (Melissa Welshans)

- Next semester: a survey of grad students regarding what they want in a library so that we can have hard, concrete data when Melissa meets with the full board of trustees to make a statement about the new library in the works.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

IX. Remarks for the Record

X. Announcements

a. Law School Dodgeball

- Intergraduate school tournament held Feb 4th (1st Saturday in Feb).
- In the past, all of the different schools have different shirts with slogans that represent each school. When the Spring semester comes around, individual sign ups will happen - about \$5 per person; teams of 6-10.

b. Relay for Life

- American Cancer Society - 170,000 was raised last year. A Saturday in April (2nd or 3rd Saturday). It is a 12 hour event, don't have to stay the whole time. Includes live entertainment, group instruction
- [syracuserelay.org](http://syracuserelay.org)
- 15 to sign up; 20 at the beginning of next semester
- All of the money goes to research and treatment in the upstate area
- You can choose to allocate your money to other specific areas by searching for that area's Relay for Life.

XI. Adjournment