

GSO Senate Organizational Meeting

September 5, 2012

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Executive Report
 - a. President's Report (Melissa Kizina Motsch)
 - i. Introduction/some personal background
 - ii. What we've been working on over the summer:
 - 1. Website revamp & forms have been digitized
 - 2. Increased GSO presence at orientations
 - 3. Great attendance at Welcome Picnic
 - iii. Goals for the upcoming year:
 - 1. Continue working with the Family Issues committee to make sure that graduate students are getting the maximum benefits of childcare
 - 2. Assess feasibility of implementing a campus-wide family leave policy (maternity & paternity)
 - a. First, would like to do some research on how this is done at other universities & on current departmental policies (if any)
 - 3. Pursue a more comprehensive safety system for classrooms (especially look into what other schools are doing about this issue, and in particular what kind of policies schools that have experienced acts of violence have implemented)
 - a. Would like to create a special standing committee on Classroom Safety
 - b. MOTION: Create a special committee on Classroom Safety
 - i. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - 4. Implement a more robust reporting system for committee chairs and liaisons: will provide a one page description of goals early in the semester and assessment of progress at the end of the semester
 - a. Pursue implementation of stipends for committee chairs and liaisons
 - b. Approximately 11 chair/liaison positions that could be considered for stipends

- c. Total part of the budget would be approximately \$4000 (\$200/position)
- d. Suggested that all positions are equally important and should be given equal pay
- e. Main point is that Melissa believes that individuals serving in these positions should be further appreciated and compensated for the time that they put in
- f. MOTION: refer this resolution to pay committee chairs and liaisons to the Finance Committee
 - i. Point of concern: issues with who we are and are not allowed to pay by the university
 - 1. Response: Pat N. response is that we've already cleared this with our auditor
 - ii. Question: have these positions been appointed yet
 - 1. Response: No.
 - iii. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
- b. Internal Vice President's Report (Patrick Neary)
 - i. Tracking process for all graduate student organizations now goes through the GSO
 - ii. Patrick N specifically oversees this
 - iii. Graduate organizations must now:
 - 1. Fill out the registration form on the website
 - 2. Attend one training session (Patrick N will provide details about this soon)
 - iv. Representative training sessions (dates on that will be announced towards the end of the week)
 - v. Every senator is required to serve on at least one committee (ESF/Law School reps are however in a grey area this year)
 - vi. Travel Grant & Finance Committee of particular importance to get up and running as soon as possible
 - vii. Patrick N plans to meet with chairs and liaisons once a month
 - viii. NAGPS – nationwide organization of GSO's from across the nation, we are currently a member (held the regional conference here April 2012)
 - 1. Next meeting is in December, and we have funding set aside to send 4 people (Melissa & Pat N, so room for two more people, please volunteer if you are interested)

- ix. Parliamentary procedure refresher (using Robert's Rules)
 - c. External Vice President's Report (Todd Metcalf)
 - i. Biggest goal for this semester is to make sure that graduate students know about the GSO, the services we offer, and where their graduate student fee is going
 - 1. Student Legal Services, Inn Complete discount, Drumlins discounted golf & tennis rates, child care, and travel grants
 - 2. Upcoming events: Friday Beer Tasting @ the Inn Complete; September 29 Wine Tasting @ the Inn Complete
 - a. 'Like' us on Facebook if you want to stay up to date on upcoming events
 - 3. See Todd if you'd like a t-shirt from last year
 - d. Comptroller's Report (Patrick Dawes)
 - i. Call attention to graphical breakdown of our annual budget for this year (also posted on the website)
 - ii. Major issues for Finance Committee: resolution to pay committee chairs and liaisons, special programming funds, clean up some of the language in our constitution in regards to the kinds of events that can be financed
- IV. Elections of Senators
- a. University Senators (we have 11 total, currently need 6)
 - i. Fulfills your committee requirement for the GSO (but have to serve on a committee in the University Senate)
 - ii. NOMINATIONS:
 - 1. Adam Brett
 - 2. Raymond Kaniu
 - 3. Courtney O'Dell-Chaib
 - 4. Giselle Sorial
 - 5. Alexandra Elias
 - 6. Darejani Markozashvili
 - a. MOTION TO ACCEPT ALL
 - b. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - b. At-Large Senators (we have 6 total, currently need 3)
 - i. Don't represent a specific department or program
 - ii. Have voting rights here and in the University Senate
 - 1. NOMINATIONS:
 - a. Amanda Lashua
 - b. MOTION TO ACCEPT

- c. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
- V. New Business
 - a. Confirmation of Webmaster
 - i. Brandon Milanovich
 - ii. MOTION: confirm Brandon
 - iii. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - b. Law School Parking Issue
 - i. Relevant to anyone who buys a West Zone parking permit (used to include 3 lots)
 - ii. Parking services took away Stadium lot without any transparency after people had begun purchasing permits
 - iii. Asking for Parking Services to re-open Stadium lot and pave the other two
 - iv. MOTION: endorse this law school letter and efforts to improve the situation
 - v. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - c. Resolution to Eliminate Bookkeeper Position
 - i. Summary of the situation (University & IRS regulations prevent actual implementation of this)
 - ii. Pat N & Pat D have agreed to split these responsibilities
 - iii. MOTION: eliminate Bookkeeper position
 - iv. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - v. For resolution see: www.grador.syr.edu/about/resolutions/
 - d. Resolution to Alter Executive Duties and Pay
 - i. Splits the \$5000 that was going to go to the Bookkeeper between Pat N and Pat D
 - ii. MOTION: split Bookkeeper pay between the Comptroller & Internal VP for this year only
 - 1. Motion to end debate: 21 for, 1 against
 - 2. MOTION CARRIES: 21 for, 2 against
 - iii. MOTION: amend the resolution to increase the pay by \$2000 each
 - 1. MOTION FAILS: 2 for, 20 against
 - iv. For resolution see: www.grador.syr.edu/about/resolutions/
 - e. Resolution to Pay Committee Chairs and Liaisons
 - i. MOTION: present to the finance committee for review
 - ii. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - iii. For resolution see: www.grador.syr.edu/about/resolutions/
 - f. Increase GSO Office Budget by \$750
 - i. MOTION: increase office budget by \$750

- ii. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - g. MOTION: Merge Outreach and Inn Complete Committees
 - i. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
 - h. MOTION: create a one year MA student position on the EBoard
 - i. MOTION CARRIES (unanimously)
- VI. Adjournment