

GSO Second Business Meeting October 17th, 2012

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reading and Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - a. Melissa Welshans: last month the travel grant committee actually underspend by \$900
 - b. Motion#1: accept this change to the minutes
 - c. Motion #1 carries
- IV. Executive Report
 - a. President Report (Melissa Kizina Motsch)
 - i. 1,000 Likes campaign is going very well, we're up to 778 Likes
 - 1. We will be doing an event at Benjamin's on Franklin with some great deals for grad students when we reach 1,000
 - ii. Update on pursuing locks for classroom doors
 - 1. Melissa & the Safety Committee had a meeting with key university officials
 - 2. We do have the ability currently to lock down entire buildings (almost every building)
 - 3. Melissa was also given a walk-through of the university's emergency command center
 - iii. Cal Alston (VP for Human Capital Development) asked for a GSO Rep for the Childcare Advisory Board
 - 1. We've appointed Courtney O'Dell-Chaib to be our representative on this board
 - 2. Goal of the board is how to expand childcare on and off campus for grad students and faculty
 - iv. Family Issues Committee is working on a survey, in particular regarding current policies for parental leave
 - 1. We would like to do a test run of the survey for GSO reps (if the survey is not relevant to you please try to pass it along to someone you know who has had a child while at SU, send to your departmental listserv, or try to get some information from your department on whether or not they have any maternity/paternity policies in place)
 - v. Last year we allocated \$10,000 to our 2012-2013 annual budget for an institutional gift
 - 1. Proposal: allocate \$5,000 of our allocated resources to create a stretching room in Archibold for grad students
 - 2. We would only have to play for equipment (stretching cage, floor mats, exercise balls, medicine balls, television, etc.)
 - 3. Motion #2: approve resolution 13.05 to allocate \$5,000 of university gift to this new stretching space in Archibold gymnasium
 - 4. Debate:

- a. Suggestions: consider splitting the cost with SA due to the fact that undergraduates will inevitably end up using the space
- b. Question: any other idea on what to spend the allocated money on?
- c. Other idea: to create a grant for one Smart Classroom which departments can apply for
- d. Question: will they just create this room anyway?
 - i. Melissa: probably, but it would not be as nice and will not happen as quickly; also we've been establishing a good relationship with rec services and this would help to further that
- e. Another suggestion last year was to try to get some kind of dedicated study space at the library for graduate students
- f. Suggestion: create a special committee to consider alternative options to the stretching space
- g. Suggestion: appoint a Recreation Services Liaison
- h. Motion #3: amend the resolution to say we would be providing \$2400 (no stretching cage)
 - i. Motion #4: move to end debate
 - ii. Motion #4 carries 25-4
- i. Motion #3 carries 26-2
- j. Motion #5: amend the resolution line items to \$600 for stall bars, \$750 for miscellaneous balls and racks, \$850 for stretching mats, \$400 for a television for a total of
 - i. Debate:
 - 1. Mounting & dvd player not included in television pricing estimate
 - 2. Motion #6: change television line item to no more than \$650
 - 3. Question: can the university get better deals for any of this?
 - 4. Motion #7: end debate on television price issue
 - 5. Motion #7 carries unanimously
 - 6. Motions #6 carries 14 -10
- k. Motion #5 carries 22-5
- l. Motion #2 (amended by Motion #5) carries w/one against
- vi. Request from Recreations Services to subsidize the Tennity Learn to Skate program for 10 grad students
 - 1. Motion #8: approve resolution to allocate \$500 to subsidize this program for 10 grad students
 - a. Debate:
 - i. Question: where is this money coming from
 - ii. Response: rollover fund

- iii. Question: would this apply to this semester or next semester?
- iv. Response: next semester
- v. Question: why isn't this covered from last Rec Services resolution
- vi. Response: last resolution was for just Outdoor Rec programs
- vii. Suggestion: in the future can we look into getting an additional discount on their end when we subsidize like this?
- viii. Response: this will at least sometimes be against SU fiscal policy

2. Motion #8 24-4

- vii. Melissa has all committee reports, they will soon go to Brandon who will post them on the website, where they will be available for public viewing in future years
- viii. Finance committee has unanimously decided not to approve the committee chair pay resolution, and we have also found out that it is currently unconstitutional (Article 4, Section 2)
 - 1. Two options: motion to amend the constitution (Melissa does not recommend), or bring this issue up again at the annual budget meeting in the spring

b. Comptroller's Report (Pat Dawes)

- i. Current excess funds: \$224,000
 - 1. Question: why isn't this money earning interest?
 - 2. Response: we'd have to put it in an endowment fund, in which case it's very difficult to take funds out when we want/we would lose control of the funds; this was also attempted for many years with no
 - 3. Finance Committee is in the process of doing a revamp of our fiscal policy and will likely recommend we always have about \$100,000 set aside

V. Special Committee Reports

VI. Standing Committee and Liaison Report

a. Finance Committee (Pat Dawes)

- i. Maxwell Pride Start Up Fund Request
 - 1. Requesting \$3586.95 (year's budget, for 4 events)
 - 2. Finance Committee voted unanimously to accept this budget, with the addendum that funding for speaker honorariums would be cut from \$500 to \$250 for speakers that only attend via Skype
 - 3. Motion # 9: accept this Start Up funding request
 - 4. Motion #9 carries unanimously
- ii. Library Special Programming Request
 - 1. Requesting a subsidy of \$394.70 for "Managing Your Online Scholarly Identity" event
 - 2. Finance Committee unanimously voted to approve this amount

3. Motion #10: accept this Special Programming Request
 4. Motion #10 carries unanimously
 - iii. Paying chairs and liaison
 1. Voted unanimously against approving this resolution
 2. Creates budgeting problems b/c we often create ad hoc liaisons and special committees
 3. Suggestion: have a nice dinner at the end of the year which would be more cost effective
 - b. Travel Grant Committee (Melissa Welshans)
 - i. 31 applications for October
 - ii. Gave awards to everyone, no one received less than \$200 unless they requested less
 - iii. Well within monthly budget
 - iv. Question: would the senate like a monthly report from the Travel Grant Committee?
 - v. Suggestion: monthly give us the # of applications, awards, and total amount awarded
 - c. Library Committee (Tina Atamian)
 - i. Met and discussed issues including ILL and study space
 - ii. Library requested a newsletter informing grad students about ILL and how it works
 - iii. Example: you can have .pdf's of specific chapters and articles emailed to you from other schools
 - iv. ESF is no longer a part of the SU library system, part of SUNY – we have access but you need to use the relevant library
- VII. Old Business
- a. Travel Grant Program Expansion
 - i. Motion #11: postpone discussion of this expansion to November
 - ii. Motion #11 carries unanimously
- VIII. New Business
- a. SPIN Auction Funding
 - i. Motion #12: contribute \$1000 to this event (last year the GSO contributed \$500)
 - ii. Motion #12 carries unanimously
 - b. Reallocation of Dome Partnership to Athletics
 - i. Motion #13: approve resolution to reallocate \$10,000 Dome Partnership money to allow grad students to attend athletic events more generally
 1. Discussion:
 - a. The Dome was not willing to give us any significant discounts this year
 - b. Syracuse Crunch seems to be far more amenable to better discounts, as do the Chiefs
 - c. Clarification: this resolution just opens up the possibility of spending this money on athletic events not specifically located at the dome

- d. Comment: last year Dome events for grad students received some of the most positive feedback
 - ii. Motion #13 carries unanimously
 - c. Motion #14: create a special committee to consider the use of our rollover funds
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Seems like we could do that with the committees we already have
 - 2. Question: could the Finance Committee hold a town hall meeting that everyone could attend
 - d. Motion #14 rescinded
- IX. Remarks for the Record
 - a. New Senators – sign up for committee assignments
 - b. Agenda committee – would write end of the year reports to keep track of all resolutions, etc.
 - c. Inn Complete has limited # of tickets for Maxwell Halloween event and so they have moved the event to another venue (Metro on Westcott).
- X. Announcements
 - a. Annual GSO/Law School Halloween party will be Saturday October 27th from 9pm-1am at the Inn Complete
 - b. Halloween party will have a costume contest this year, looking into getting gift certificates from the Inn Complete for the winners
 - c. Family Funfest is on Saturday 11-2 at the Inn Complete, lunch will be served
 - d. Adam Rueben is coming to the Schine Auditorium on October 26th – he needs an opener so let Melissa know if you or anyone you know would be interested in doing this
 - e. SPIN Auction tickets can be purchased at the law school, the event is November 9th at the Palace Theater (\$25/ticket)
- XI. Adjournment

*34 Senators in attendance