

GSO Senate Fifth Business Meeting February 6, 2013

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
 - a. Motion #1: accept sign-in sheet as roll call
 - b. Motion #1: carries
- III. Reading and Accepting of Previous Minutes
 - a. Motion #2: accept previous minutes
 - b. Motion #2: carries
- IV. Executive Reports
 - a. President's Report (Melissa Kizina Motsch)
 - i. Valentine's Day Skating Event
 - 1. Skate rental free if you wear pink or red
 - 2. \$5 admission for non-grad student partners and friends
 - 3. There will be hot chocolate and light snacks
 - ii. Mayfest
 - 1. Last year the GSO subsidized up to 350 tickets for grad students (so that grad student tickets were only \$10 instead of \$20)
 - 2. Last year 133 graduate students attended
 - 3. This year there does not seem to be as much interest in making Mayfest a more community-friendly event
 - 4. Melissa would like to inform the senate what's going on and suggest that anyone interested in subsidizing this event for a certain number of grad students again this year is welcome to make bring a motion to the floor
 - 5. If we don't subsidize then grad students will still most likely be able to purchase tickets for around \$20
 - 6. Motion #3: the GSO will subsidize Mayfest tickets for graduate students up to \$1500 (\$10/ticket for up to 150 tickets)
 - 7. Motion #4: call the question
 - 8. Motion #4: carries
 - 9. Motion #3: motion fails
 - iii. Survey
 - 1. We have been constructing a survey on standard of living, childcare needs, summer support, cost of student loans in the hopes of collecting as much information as possible about these issues
 - 2. Survey will be distributed after Spring Break
 - 3. We are incentivizing the survey with 10 \$100 Amazon gift cards
 - 4. We are working with OIRA on this
 - 5. Melissa will be providing more information about this survey as it arises – please start spreading the word and encouraging your constituents to participate in this survey so that we can get the best data possible
 - b. Internal Vice President's Report (Patrick Neary)
 - i. Grant Payment Delays

1. There are unfortunately some current payment delays occurring regarding travel grant reimbursements
 2. We found out at the end of last semester that the tax code requires that we change this process and use new forms
 3. The forms have been updated but the university disbursement office is currently under an atypical backlog
 4. We are passing paperwork along to Disbursements as quickly as possible, but delays are still occurring because of the backlog
 5. The new (paper) form for travel grant reimbursements is now on the website
 6. Travel grants are taxable, and we currently cannot use an online form because we require social security numbers from grant recipients
- c. Comptroller's Report (Pat Dawes)
- i. Organizational budgets due on April 1st, representatives will be receiving more information about budgets by the end of the week
 - ii. Combine Startup and Special Programming Funds
 1. Approximately \$4,083 left in Startup funding
 2. Pat would like someone to bring a motion to move this money to our Special Programming pool as it is unlikely that there will be further requests for Startup funding at this point in the semester
 3. Motion #5: take the remaining Startup funding and combine with the Special Programming funding
 4. Motion #5: carries
- V. Special Committee Reports
- a. Special Committee on a Master's Student Amendment (Ryan Martin)
 - i. Amendment will essentially create a sixth board member (Financial Secretary) which would take some duties of the Comptroller & Internal Vice President and pick up the duties that last year were intended to be performed by the new bookkeeping position
 - ii. Elections for the Recording and Financial Secretary would also be held in August to allow MA students to run
 - iii. Some of the motivation for the amendment: many MA students are only at SU for 1-2 years, and these positions would allow MA and other certificate students to participate on the executive board (which is currently not possible)
- VI. Standing Committee and Liaison Reports
- a. Finance Committee (Pat Dawes)
 - i. Special Programming – Grad School
 1. The Graduate School has asked for additional funding for a career services event focused on transitioning to academic and non-academic employment
 2. Finance Committee voted to approve \$1,910 for this event
 3. Motion #6: approve the FC recommendation to fund this event in the amount of \$1,910
 4. Motion #6: carries

- ii. Special Programming – IRSA
 1. Event occurring at Cornell University
 2. Joint conference in International Relations
 3. Over 100 graduate students expected to attend
 4. Provides a good networking opportunity for SU grad students
 5. The event will likely be held at Syracuse in the future
 6. Finance Committee recommends funding for this event in the amount of \$2,500
 7. Motion #7: approve the FC recommendation to fund IRSA in the amount of \$2,500
 8. Motion #7: carries
 - iii. Startup Fund – Net Impact
 1. Joint organization with membership from the graduate school and ESF
 2. Requested \$1,900
 3. FC recommends funding this organization in the amount of \$1,400
 4. Motion #8: approve the FC recommendation to fund Net Impact in the amount of \$1,400
 5. Motion #8: carries
 - b. Library Committee (Melissa Welshans)
 - i. Letter to the editor today in the Daily Orange regarding the fact that the administration needs to take seriously a variety of systemic problems with the library identified by an external reviewer
 - ii. You can find a link to the external review report on the library website
 - iii. Melissa encourages senators to read the report and pass along any particular concerns and suggestions to the Library Committee
- VII. Old Business
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Melissa Welshans – proposing Resolution 13.11 (Term Limits)
 - i. Currently there is a maximum term limit of three years for executive board members
 - ii. Proposing an amendment to extend alter this such that there is a two year limit on full time positions (president or comptroller) but no limit on part time positions
 - iii. This is official notice that we will be discussing and voting on this constitutional amendment at our next meeting
- IX. Remarks for the Record
 - a. Consider Running for a Board Position! Elections will be held in April at our annual budget meeting
 - b. Please see a member of the executive board if you are a new member or proxy so that we can provide you with access to the website and add you to the listserv
- X. Announcements
 - a. Please see Todd if you requested Crunch tickets
 - b. We will be having a series of events at the Inn Complete from 7-9PM on Fridays
 - c. March 22nd – second Crunch game event
 - d. March 23rd – St. Patrick’s Day party at the Inn Complete

- e. April 6th – wine tasting event
 - f. Looking into doing a 5K run with ESF in April
 - g. New recreation package: 250 Empire passes (\$10/student after subsidy); opti-golf at Destiny; golf in Fayetteville
 - i. Expecting to come in at least \$10,000 under what we were paying
Drumlins
 - h. Psychology department is holding a panel on school violence Monday, February 11th at 7PM in Watson Hall
 - i. Geography department holding their first colloquia this Friday
- XI. Adjournment
- a. Motion #9: adjourn
 - b. Motion #9: carries