

GSO Senate Seventh Business Meeting

April 10th, 2013

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Reading and Acceptance of the Previous Minutes
 - a. Motion #1: accept previous minutes
 - b. Motion #1: carries
- IV. Executive Reports
 - a. President's Report (Melissa Kizina Motsch)
 - i. Survey
 1. Sent out, prizes will be 10 goody bags with prizes. Will be available until the end of the semester.
 2. Please send an email to your constituents advertising the survey and reminding them to fill it out.
 3. When does survey close?
 - a. April 26th
 - ii. End of the Year Picnic
 1. Other activities that can be set up besides bounce house?
 - a. Not conducive to an event with alcohol
 2. Allocate \$2,500 (from institutional gift fund) to use for picnic and inflatables
 - a. Q: who is liable if there is an injury?
 - i. Individual's liable for their own safety, or if it's an SU sanctioned event then the university is liable.
 - ii. Suggestion: would be good to have a GSO/SU policy on the books for this.
 - b. Q: what happens to extra money if we don't spend it all?
 - i. Left over funds go back into rollover
 3. Motion #2: allocate \$2,500 for picnic and inflatables
 4. Motion #2: carries 13:1 (1 abstention)
 - iii. Chair and Liaison Appreciation Dinner
 1. Happened, went to Koto, was delicious
 2. Please consider chairing a committee next year!
 3. This year's chairs should make sure to pick up their sweatshirts
 - iv. Graduate Professional Student Appreciation Week Successes
 1. Was created by the NAGPS in 1994 to appreciate grads
 2. Held a donut & coffee event, gave away GSO swag, and did wine tasting at the Inn
 - b. Comptroller's Report (Pat Dawes)

- i. Ready to discuss annual budget on Friday
 - ii. Final recommendation to come for executive pay
 - 1. President - \$18,000
 - 2. Comptroller & VP - \$6,000
 - 3. Secretaries - \$4,000
 - 4. Benefits will be allocated only to President
 - iii. This will all be debated at the budget meeting, and is only a recommendation
- V. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee (Pat Dawes)
 - i. COMPAS – Requested \$2,000
 - 1. Politics of the Middle East event. Brought a good speaker, only asking for help with honorarium.
 - 2. Recommendation: fund in full
 - a. Honorarium seemed high, but speaker traveled a very long distance
 - 3. Motion #3: accept FC recommendation
 - 4. Motion #3: carries unanimously
 - ii. TSA – Requested \$341.46
 - 1. Turkish Student Association; having end of the year event
 - 2. Recommendation: fund in full
 - 3. Motion #4: accept FC recommendation
 - 4. Motion #4: carries unanimously
 - b. Travel Grant Committee (Melissa Welshans)
 - i. 49 applications in March, awarded \$10,740, 5 rejections
 - ii. 27 applications in April, awarded \$6,455, 1 rejection
 - iii. Still have approx.. \$9,000 left for the last cycle
 - iv. Will be meeting this month to both review travel grant applications and research grant applications
 - v. Q: Will you consider awarding money to those individuals you have rejected since you have money left?
 - 1. We can consider it, but don't want to set up a confusing precedent
 - vi. Q: How many research grant applications have you received so far?
 - 1. Approx. 16
 - vii. Motion #5: change name of committee from Travel Grant to Grant Committee
 - viii. Motion #5: carries unanimously
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Resolution 13.11 – Changing term Limits of Officers

- i. Postponing to be voted upon at a special meeting before the budget meeting
- VII. New Business
 - a. Resolution 13.12 – Changing SBA Representation
 - i. College of Law are terminating their formal relationship with the GSO.
 - ii. This is notice, we will debate and vote on it at a special meeting before the budget meeting.
 - b. Resolution 13.13 – Changing Senate Representation
 - i. Discussing structural changes for the constitution – want to change how degree programs are represented to the senate.
 - ii. Changes language to say every degree granting program can send on representative
 - 1. Will help rectify under-represented programs
 - 2. Also places us in line with enrollment data the university tracks and the language through which they do so
 - iii. Q: do programs decide how senators are elected?
 - 1. A: Yes, the GSO only recommends that they be elected in free and open elections
 - iv. Q: what does this mean for university senators and at large senators?
 - 1. A: The GSO is solely responsible for them – this doesn't change their status at all or how they will be elected.
 - v. Q: MPA's and IR's are considering uniting. Does this change our representation?
 - 1. A: No. As the university recognizes your departments as separate in the eyes of enrollment, then you will be separate in our eyes.
 - vi. Q: does this affect MA's and PhD's differently?
 - 1. A: Usually they are classified by enrollment as students in one degree program.
 - vii. Q: Increasing size of body – does that make it more difficult to conduct business?
 - 1. A: We set our definition by how many attend at the beginning of the year. A big goal for next year is to increase senate outreach and participation.
 - a. Could also address this at next meeting by voting to change quorum rules.
 - c. Resolution 13.14 – Opposing Syracuse Common Council Proposal
 - i. Recently working more with undergraduates.
 - ii. Have good relationship with ESF and SBA, but little communication with undergrads.

- iii. Overlap and interests regarding common council (city's legislation) where SE University neighborhood association (people who own and live in student neighborhoods) wants to create new zoning ordinances for houses with students in them. Is major violation of privacy.
- iv. Undergrads passed resolution on Monday opposing this ordinance. Suggest that we pass one as well.
- v. Q: will this have any impact on poor quality landlords?
 - 1. A: This city has ordinances regarding this that you can find on the zoning website, so students can protect themselves that way. But they have to seek out representation from local council.
 - 2. A: Syracuse hasn't enforced its tax and foreclosure liens in over 12 years - first year they are.
 - 3. A: if you know students living in this condition, have them contact SLS.
 - 4. A: City has codes but refuse to enforce them.
- vi. Q: can SLS do anything if the landlord lives out of state?
 - 1. A: Roommate just had to go to small claims court when landlord lived out of County (but less inclined to help out when landlord lives out of state).
- vii. Q: what's the practical outcome of passing this resolution?
 - 1. A: Could be voting on this resolution in the next few weeks, helps put pressure on common council counselor to bring some pressure against voting for it.
- viii. Comment: as long as you have a local address and are registered locally, you do 'vote' for common council.
- ix. Motion #6: pass this resolution
- x. Motion #6: carries unanimously

VIII. Remarks for the Record

- a. Budget and elections meeting, and special meeting beforehand on April 24th – voting on roughly half million dollar budget, PLEASE SHOW UP!
- b. If you know any senators who didn't come to any meetings, have them come to this one.
- c. Need to have quorum to pass motions.
- d. If you're running for an officer position, please be there!
- e. Solicitation of internal VP
 - i. Q: How do you deal with taking one of these positions with your department contracts?
 - 1. A: Some people don't tell them until afterwards, some people do.
 - 2. A: you can make it summer funding.

3. A: Technically all positions other than the president are paid out during the summer (outside of stipend contract)

IX. Announcements

- a. Congratulations to Kelly for being offered a job as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Washington & Jefferson College
- b. Issue with administration and DPS regarding Heroy geology library squatters – hoping GSO can help support Geology with this
- c. Promoting Women’s Arm Wrestling – Friday night at 8pm, Metro Lounge on Westcott. Some people from Russia and special characters. All proceeds (donations requested) go to the Vera house supporting victims of domestic violence.
- d. Judie/Outreach Committee: want to throw a Kentucky derby party at the end of the year. Mint Julep special. Please help promote. Will be formal (ish). May 4th, 5-7pm.
- e. Todd will be running for Comptroller.

X. Adjournment

- a. Motion #7: adjourn
- b. Motion #7: carries