

# Minutes

## GSO Regular Business Meeting

November 11, 2015

Life Sciences 105

5:30 pm

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Executive Reports
  - a. President
    - i. SPSS
      1. Five out of six board members
    - ii. Academic Integrity
      1. Making academic integrity more important
      2. Informing students and teacher
      3. The committees are working on it
    - iii. Grad Awards
      1. There is an employment concerns committee
      2. There are different types of grad awards; there are concerns by students that colleges are taking advantage
      3. The info was collected, but there are errors
      4. There is a meeting on Monday between Can and administrators; it will then be discuss
    - iv. Free Speech
      1. There was a resolution with SA, SBA 15.06; change to the Harassment policy
      2. The chancellor formed a work group to work on this last year(Amy and Zach)
      3. A report was finalized in September; it was to be shred with us
      4. Can received the report yesterday, he will email the report to the Senate
      5. This report will serve as discussion about free speech and policies will be informed
      6. The chancellor with GSO and SA will come together to make changes to the policy
    - v. SU/SUNY Gov. Council
      1. At NAGPS, there were things discussed with other GSOs across the country
      2. At other colleges there were governments that came together
      3. GSP, SA, will be coming together to work on issues effecting students
      4. There was a meeting last night
    - vi. Student Health Insurance
      1. There is still confusion; the committee is still doing work on this

2. There are no estimates, which is hindering the process
  3. We asked for estimates soon; the university is not making decisions without Can's knowledge
  4. Question: The insurance company won't tell us the estimates?
    - a. Can said that they cannot
  5. The data are premiums and rates at which the insurance is being used
  6. Patrick informed us that data is hard to obtain and estimate
  7. This data will be detailed; # of visits, in network, out network, etc.
  8. SU doesn't carry this data, because it is confidential information; Health services does, but cannot share that information
  9. There are a lot of new administrators; that is also delaying the process
  10. Can we get a letter that stabilizes that no students will be moved off the healthcare?
  11. Motion to receive a letter that states students will not be moved off of employee healthcare
    - a. Motion carries unanimously
    - b. Report back on December 9<sup>th</sup>
  12. One proposal is a blended rate; blending domestic and int'l
    - a. They can reduce the premiums this way (\$1100); but this will raise the domestic rate (\$2400)
    - b. They are considering opening up to other companies as well
- vii. Possible GSO restructuring
1. At the NAGPS conference; there are GSOs that have different structure than the one that we currently have
  2. The Board will discuss in the future
  3. Anyone can contribute to the conversation
- viii. Letter to Mizzou
1. Almost all of the senate read the letter GSO sent to Mizzou
  2. When the events occurred, and Sam opened up to the Board and the Senate, and drafted the letter
  3. Sam explains that he was made aware of the problem at the university, Sam and Can drafted a letter
    - a. There was positive feedback; there were problems with phrasing which was refined in the letter
    - b. It was then sent to Mizzou
    - c. Everyone was happy with the response
- ix. Report on Budget Surplus
1. There is a \$100K surplus for the GSO for 2015-2016
  2. We have a surplus from the annual budget,
    - a. Monies are allocated to RSO; sometimes they do not spend all of the money
    - b. This leads to a surplus
    - c. Last year the board used a portion of it; Each student is paying \$80 per year in fees
    - d. \$173K that's the projected carryover into next year if we spend every single dollar; the fiscal policy states that we can only have \$97K left over

- e. Clarification of the history; there was conservative spending over the last 2 years
  - i. 2 or 3 years ago there was a misrepresentation of the number of grad students; the comptroller at the time disliked this, that lead to a more conservative spending budget
  - ii. The money is kept in a bank account
  - iii. We cannot invest this money in stocks
  - iv. Going over the budget, while there is no penalty, it is against the fiscal policy; SA also had this problem
  - v. If we want an interest account, it would be combined with the University's monies, and we would never get that money back
  - vi. The error was found on the 2013-2014 year, that lead to conservative spending
  - vii. The fiscal policy was changed; effective Feb 2016
- f. If there are ideas of ways to spend the surplus let Can or Jose know
- g. The Board had a discussion on how to spend \$100K on projects for grad students; they have to be sustainable
- h. The Board would like feedback, program options, but that wouldn't be one-time programs, and would benefit grad students for the coming years
- i. We reached out to Career Services and another department, and they proposed a few ideas; the Board will collect all Ideas and present to the student
- j. We are open to community service ideas
- k. Can and the board will set up a form on the website, with parameters on what the money can be spent on
- l. The monies can be allocated, not spent
- x. Request from Career Services
  - 1. We received a funding request from career funding for the Linked In Live event; they cannot request special funding b
  - 2. \$300 to support grad student on Feb 26<sup>th</sup>; it attracts grad students
  - 3. Bringing professional photographers, and
  - 4. Question: would there be a negative effect if delayed funding
  - 5. Motion to move to the next meeting
  - 6. Move to vote
    - a. All in favor; Motion carries
- xi. Request from Slutzker Center
  - 1. Funding for 20 grad students to attend a salsa night (the dance); taking a class
  - 2. They opened it to Undergrads, and grads
  - 3. \$1020 funding; split into transportation (off campus)
  - 4. Move to defer to the finance committee
  - 5. Motion to vote on deferment to finance committee
    - a. All in favor; motion carries
- b. Comptroller

- i. Fund HGSO: Publication Tips from the Publishers - \$380
  - 1. History department; funding for small conference-money for food and honorarium
  - 2. Talking about the issues faced in publishing
  - 3. Recommendation from the finance committee
  - 4. Two former employees of the Syracuse press are who are invited
  - 5. Vote for funding
    - a. 28 in favor; motion carries
- ii. Fund WGSO: Diwali - \$400
  - 1. Whitman GSO holding a Dwali, tonight in Goldstein (Indian festival of lights) tonight-funding the food cost
  - 2. Recommendation from the finance committee
  - 3. The Rep states that the organization decided to go another route; they dropped the ticket price to drive up attendance, which made them overextended in catering cost
  - 4. Because Diwali is religious, catering can be ordered off campus; there is a charge for a myriad of test and regulation
  - 5. Vote for funding
    - a. 27 in favor; motion carries
- c. External VP (Outreach)
  - i. Last Saturday was a Karaoke; a lot of people attended- there will be another one in the Spring
  - ii. Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>-Paint to Distress at the Inn Complete
    - 1. The painting is decided through social media
    - 2. The charge is \$8 per student
- d. Internal VP (Sam L.)
  - i. Note to Senate about Upcoming legislation
    - 1. Vicki Wang, service to faculty and staff, communicated that FSAP director is retiring, there is no plan to replace her.
    - 2. There is a worry of the shutting down of this office
    - 3. Grad students have used this in the past
    - 4. Sam will send a resolution later this week
  - ii. Election for University Senator
    - 1. The next meeting
      - a. There are US that are delinquent in their position; there will be elections next meeting
      - b. Sam will send out the announcement next week
      - c. Can and Sam are trying to verify attendance; the number of senators will be announced

#### IV. Old Business

- a. Report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Unionization
  - i. Marie was the Chair of the committee
    - 1. The committee is suggesting that unionizing in the summer is not sufficient
    - 2. The GSO support cannot happen right now
    - 3. Based in info gathered it could take a year to compile student feeling s on unionization
    - 4. Once that is down, it will be brought to the Senate

5. The ad-hoc committee decided to disband, and create a RSO for this issue
6. Question: Did the committee talk to other university NLRB?
  - a. No. The NLRB doesn't recognize private universities
7. Question: Benefit of establishing a RSO?
  - a. Becoming registered with the GSO, it could be easier to apply for funding, and talking with the GSO, and add legitimacy to the group
8. Question: Talk to Students?
  - a. IT was hard to do this over the summer
  - b. Many students feared retaliation by the university; it has happened in the past. It also may be bad for students that are paid at a higher rate than others.
9. There is also concern for the int'l students and their employment status
10. If there is movement forward it will be reported
11. If there is a halt in forming, the students will try next year
12. The GSO cannot dissolve the organization; this is a fear
13. Question: What happens to the \$5K allocated?
  - a. Since the committee fulfilled their charge, the monies goes back into the pool of dollars-they can apply again
14. Senate recommendation vote:
  - a. Approval of the recommendation in the report
    - i. 15 in favor; 3 opposed
15. Talk to Sam if there is interest in forming this group again

#### V. New Business

- a. Report on the NAGPS National Conference – Rajesh Kumar
  - i. NAGPS is a service organization that represents the interest of graduate and professional students; there re 90+ members in the organization
  - ii. The agenda is; F1 visa renewal in the US; when a visa expires the student must go back to their home country-
  - iii. Access to publicly funded research; students shouldn't have to pay for articles
  - iv. Extension for exchange students; extension should be 24 months instead of 17 months
  - v. Four Syracuse GSO senate members attended
  - vi. At the conference was a discussion with other GSOs at other universities; there were other structures that were taken into consideration to make the GSO more efficient
  - vii. There was a discussion about how to get more Outreach with the university committee
  - viii. Travel Grants-U of Maryland gives \$1K awards, and those who received on f these awards have to volunteer at events
    1. The board will be taking this into consideration
  - ix. Career services was discussed; MIT has a department for grad student career services, and companies are brought to the university-there is talks of taking this into consideration by the board
  - x. Healthcare; There is a difference between state and national policies, and state and private university policies
  - xi. NAGPS is having a massive restructuring-there were positions eliminated

1. The advocacy board was restructured; they will deal with advocacy issues for the students-different from Legislative concerns
  - xii. These are available online
  - xiii. Here was a Director of Legislative Affairs implemented
  - xiv. Dan from Carnegie Mellon is the new Regional chair
  - xv. There is also a push for public school students are included in discussions and representation
  - xvi. Regional meeting in March 2016 at Stonybrook University
  - xvii. The STEM research proposal is open for discussion, decision will be made in February
  - xviii. Any concerns and questions can be directed to Rajesh and Peta
- VI. Announcements
- a. Upcoming Events
    - i. Call to Congress Day on Wednesday November 18<sup>th</sup>, all day
    - ii. Anyone who wants to volunteer, please see Peta
    - iii. There will be call sheet available online and scripts
    - iv. American Association of Medical School is a partner in this endeavor
  - b. This Friday Graduate student organization will be hosting a grad research forum
    - i. Different professors from Upstate NY will be attending
    - ii. Info on IRB and other things
  - c. Next Senate Meeting – December 9, 2015 at 5:30 pm
- VII. Motion to adjourn; seconded
- VIII. Adjournment