



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Minutes

November 29, 2017

Crouse-Hinds 010

5:30pm

I. Call to Order

- a. Rikki Sargent called the meeting to order at 5.44 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. 26 voting Senators were present from various departments for the initial roll call
- b. The following officers were present: Jack Wilson, Sakshi Sinha, Rikki Sargent, Joshua Fenton, Sweta Roy, Zoey

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

- a. **Present previous minutes; vote will occur at current business meeting**
 - i. Debate ended with no comments
 - ii. Minutes approved with a voice vote.

IV. Executive, Committee, and Other Leadership Reports

a. President's Report

i. Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

1. The House of Representatives recently passed a version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. This version includes changes to the tax code that would make graduate school unaffordable.
2. Will be discussed in the Special meeting on 12/6

ii. Graduate Student Housing

1. Secured a broad agreement to allow housing for students during last two weeks of July.
2. However, International student's visas activate only within 30 days of classes. So, considering the feasibility of moving program start dates forward to accommodate.
3. Also, exploring the option of having the University reserve set of apartments for international students for the first year.

iii. Off-Campus Transportation

1. Meeting was conducted and Rajesh was able to attend the meeting.

2. Concern was mainly grocery shopping. Discussed than none of the shuttle goes to price rite.
3. Trying to re-route shuttle and make announcements within few weeks.
4. East campus covers entire university area. So, trying to add another shuttle to increase its frequency.
5. 9:15am Westcott and James Street are full. Can add more buses and will be considering it.
6. Weekend shuttle will also be looked into and considered for adding more shuttle during the weekend.

b. Internal VP's Report

i. Committee Update

1. Requested all committee chair for reports and have received some of them.
2. Academic resources had 2 meetings to discuss issues like Inconsistency of classroom technology.
3. Travel grant has three meeting. They have total used \$10,324 from the budget.
4. NAGPS Committee conducted the conference, and are planning to meet again to discuss further actions.
5. Diversity committee had one meeting. General topics to utilize previous survey data to make major decisions.
6. Graduate employment had 2 meetings. They discussed about the employment issues in the university.

ii. New Non-Academic RSO: Counselors for Social Justice (CSJ) and Open Doors

1. Read about the two new RSO's CSJ and Open Doors.
2. Will be discussing their funding in the comptroller report.

iii. Sexual Assault and Harassment Training

1. Contacting several people to know details about it.
2. Most likely will require senate to complete the training.
3. Request Senate to look over the email in the break, and will be informing about the links and instructions.

c. External VP's Report

i. No Report

d. Comptroller's Report

i. PAIRA Special Programming Application

1. Finance Committee recommendation will be presented; debate and vote will occur at current business meeting
 - a. PAIRA is holding a Networking trip to DC and New York
 - b. Requesting fund (\$12,350) for trip from the Finance Committee
 - c. Amount requested includes Space rental, Gifts, Food, Mileage reimbursement, rentals, supplies.
 - d. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$6,220 to PAIRA

- e. Students attending this can apply for travel grants. Discussion with travel grant committee whether they can fund for this conference, since they are already being paid by the Finance Committee through special programming.
- f. Requested PAIRA to provide a list to the Travel grant committee with the students attending the event.
- g. 80 students have expressed their interest in this trip.
- h. Lot of students will be benefited for this trip.
- i. Debate ended and motion made to vote.
- j. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$6,220** with a result of YES: 22 Senators, NO: 2 Senators, abstain:0 Senator, the amount of **\$6,220** will be granted to PAIRA.

ii. *BGSO Special Programming Application*

- 1. Finance Committee recommendation will be presented; debate and vote will occur at current business meeting
 - a. Holding a Symposium for two days in Life Sciences.
 - b. Requesting fund (\$2980) for Symposium
 - c. Amount requested includes transportation, speaker meals, cash awards, Honorarium, Catered Reception, Fliers, Lodging.
 - d. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$2980 to BGSO
 - e. Debate ended and motion made to vote.
 - f. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$2980** with a result of YES: 27 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:1 Senator, the amount of **\$2980** will be granted to BGSO.

iii. *SATSA Special Programming Application*

- 1. Finance Committee recommendation will be presented; debate and vote will occur at current business meeting
 - a. Holding an Annual SATSA Conference.
 - b. Requesting fund (\$3080) for Conference
 - c. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$1190 to SATSA
 - d. Debate ended and motion made to vote.
 - e. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$1190** with a result of YES: 16 Senators, NO: 8 Senator, abstain:4 Senator, the amount of **\$1190** will be granted to SATSA.

iv. *CSJ Funding*

- 1. Finance Committee recommendation will be presented; debate and vote will occur at current business meeting
 - a. It is a Non-academic RSO
 - b. Finance committee recommended to provide \$150

- c. Debate ended and motion to vote.
- d. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$150** with a result of YES: 25 Senators, NO: 2 Senators, abstain:1 Senator, the amount of **\$150** will be granted to CSJ.

v. *Open Doors Funding*

- 1. Finance Committee recommendation will be presented; debate and vote will occur at current business meeting
 - a. It is a Non-academic RSO
 - b. Finance committee recommended to provide \$150
 - c. Debate ended and motion to vote.
 - d. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$150** with a result of YES: 27 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:1 Senator, the amount of **\$150** will be granted to Open Doors.

e. **Financial Secretary's Report**

- i. No Report

f. **Recording Secretary's Report**

- i. No Report

V. **Old Business**

- i. No old business

VI. **New Business**

a. **Elections**

i. *Senator-at-Large (1)*

- 1. Position discussed with the Senate.
- 2. There are total 6 At-large Senator.
- 3. They must attend all GSO Senate meetings.
- 4. Senator-at-large must be part of at-least one GSO committee.
- 5. Nominations – No nominations. Will be discussed in the next meeting.

ii. *University Senator (1)*

- 1. Position discussed with the Senate.
- 2. They represent graduate student body in University Senate
- 3. There are total 10 University Senator
- 4. They must attend all University Senate and GSO Senate meetings.
- 5. University Senator must be part of at-least one GSO committee.
- 6. Nominations – Ginger Star Peterman
- 7. After the voting with a result of YES: 27 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:1 Senator, **Ginger Star Peterman** has been nominated as a University Senator.

VII. **Remarks for the Record**

- a. Report on Daily Orange about the Unionization effort and Tax Cuts.
 - i. Need to work with the university on the issues and not oppose them.

- ii. Approximately 2 years ago, GSO's ad-hoc committee recommended to create a non-academic RSO.
 - iii. No non-academic RSO was created.
 - iv. GSO officially has no position on unionization.
 - b. Any resolution can be emailed to the GSO Executive Board and discussed.
 - c. Is it possible to have online Senate vote?
 - i. Will not be able to have debate.
 - ii. Can call a Special meeting to discuss in detail. Need to get request from 10 Senators.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting: January 24, 2018 (Life Sciences 105)

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm