

**GSO 1st Regular Business Meeting
September 30, 2009**

I. Call to Order (Vice President John Stegeman)

John calls meeting to order at 4:00.

II. Roll Call (Vice President John Stegeman)

John: *I call for a motion to accepted circulating sign-in sheet as attendance roll.*

Paul: *If you aren't on the list, please legibly add yourself using an ad-form that I will circulate. Do sign in on the sheet though—as a write-in*

**Motion made to accept sheet as role, motion seconded, motion unanimously carries

III. Executive Report (President Evan Weissman)

a. University Senate

Evan: *First time we've filled all but one of our seats. Already we've had compliments on this. That said, we do have one seat open on the University Senate. Hopefully everybody has a committee assignment.*

b. Board of Trustees

Evan: *I will be putting my reports online, so that you will know what I will be saying to the Board of Trustees. I have to clear my speech with the secretary. So far, the board is very happy. Particularly with some of our new initiatives. If we get the board's support, [pretty much we can do anything]. The undergraduate body is successful in working with the board.*

c. Regular Meetings with Chancellor and Dean of Graduate School

Evan: *New this year I will be meeting regularly with Chancellor Cantor and Dean Sandy Hurd to discuss graduate student issues. If anybody ever wants to attend, I'd be more than happy to have you come. More importantly, let me know if you'd like an issue brought to my meetings. I will take questions from this meeting. Both the Chancellor and the Dean are excited about new leadership in the GSO and what we will be doing.*

d. Working Group on Sustainable Benefits and Total Compensation

Evan explains that an e-mail went out that a Chancellor's group was formed. *There was a line for a graduate student representation. I asked that the graduate student body select its own representative through the GSO. Tith Chancellor had in mind that I would do it as GSO President and the representative to the Board of Trustees. But, we have been empowered to self-select our own representation. I welcome thoughts on whether of not you should decide if I should do it, or if we want to elect someone else?*

Q: *Do you have time to do it?*

A: Evan. *Yes, based on their call, I have time to do it. Also, it's going to be a rushed project. The first meeting is next Wednesday and a report prepared in December so that that can be incorporated into the work of next year's institution budget.*

Q: *I recommend that we have someone who has had benefits experiences.*

John: *Evan was on that committee. I ask if we should address whether it be Evan or someone else? I propose it seems to me our voice would be louder if it's one person.*

Q: *What's the timing? Maybe if you want to leverage your connections, maybe you should do it.*

Evan: *I am willing to do it. But I wonder if you have other thoughts.*

**Motion made to select our President as representative, Motion Seconded, Motion Carries unanimously.

John calls for motion to move item VII to new Business, IV. This is because Evan needs to leave sooner than the meeting's end to attend the Board of Trustees induction ceremony.
***Motion made, motion seconded, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Special Committee Reports

a. Graduate Program Comparative Study (President Evan Weissman)

Evan at length details a proposal to change the stipend structure. Evan: *What became clear when we assumed leadership of this organization. It was not equal: the comptroller did the lion's share of the work. I'm asking that someone motion to correct disparity in pay between workload and position, and to reduce the insurance portion as the cost is actually lower than what is allocated. I am also asking for a motion for the Secretary and Vice-President to be upped to the lowest possible pay per graduate student for one semester. This reflects administration of new issues and duties. Plus, we all have continued seats on senate committees. The secretary and vice-President's positions are also doing work that has never been done before. Together the proposed increase is more than covered in our operating budget (as explained in detail in handout A).* Evan outlines handout A. *Hopefully, though a GSO reorganizing, these things will be fully institutionalized for future year.*

Evan: *I open this for discussion.*

Evan: *I also want to point out, I'm giving you the annual budget. This year the budget process is way more transparent. This might give you a little bit more of a sense of where this might fit in.*

Q: *Decreased spending on the website.*

Cathy: *we are lowering by 1/3 the pay for webmaster.*

Evan: *we think we can maintain and improve the website for less money.*

Q: *I'd like to know more about the 6.5% enrollment increase and how this plays in.*

Evan: *that's a great question. That number comes directly from the graduate enrollment center. They set a goal at 2%, but it is much higher due to the financial crisis this year. They do have a goal of increased enrollment. For two years, they've met their goal. This year, they by far exceeded it. Also you can see that we pass a relatively conservative budget every year. While the way I wrote this out, it looks like it's covered in enrollment, but in fact we have 60-80K rolled over as well.*

Cathy: *We were concerned last year because we did not know how the financial situation would roll out, but our concerns were not needed. We now have this very low budget. We anticipated a loss, but we have a gain.*

Q: *Is the budget negotiable?*

A: *Most items have already been paid out.*

Budget explained..... 5 minutes. Cathy, Paul, Evan all comment on procedures for passing the budget for the next year, and what parts, i.e. special programming, we can still vote on but the categories are set unless a vote is to change a category as is currently proposed.

Q: *The sort of bottom-line this, if someone proposes to accept this change as, are we going to be OK [fiscally]?*

Cathy: *We would still have a roll-over to \$60,000.*

Q: *Are we voting on pay increase this year or next year?*

Evan: *This is something we would have addressed last year if we knew about it. Before this, it was not disclosed this early the exact compensation for board members like disclosed to you in the organizational meeting.*

Q: *This is the first year we've had a whole new e-board. By increasing the pay, we would be able to recruit better people?*

Evan and Paul: *Yes, that's part of the reason we're asking for this.*

Paul: *Going in knowing secretary paid only \$2000 for this much work, I was essentially volunteering my services, and I appeared to be the only one willing to do it for this year.*

Q: *how does the website play into this?*

Evan: explains website will be separately addressed but that we've reduced the web management payout (which was not disclosed last year) from almost \$700 a month from what we can tell to the constitutionally approved \$250/month.

***Motion made to retroactively institute (to July 1 2009) the pay for the e-board as proposed.

Motion seconded, Approved.

***Motion to pass recommendation for payment with retroactivity made and seconded

John: clarifies pay allocations and motions.

Motion vote: 2 abstentions. Motion carries to modify for retroactivity with all "yeses" except two abstentions.

i. Graduate Enrollment Management Center

Evan explains new roles for interacting with this unit.

ii. Participants Needed (interested in employment issues, benefits, costs, etc.)

Evan explains that participants are needed for this new group.

Evan leaves for Board of Trustee induction.

V. Standing Committee Reports

a. Finance Committee (Comptroller Cathy LaVoy)

i. Turkish Student Association

Finance committee: annual friendship dinner. Cathy: *They asked for \$3159 to cover food and beverages. We recommend we deny with one person suggesting 20% for the food. Cathy explains the same proposal with the denied from last Spring. It's a private sit-down dinner, not open to all graduate students. They weren't trying to cut costs from last year when they were denied.*

Q: *Did we fund them before?*

Cathy: *No, they have \$2000 dollars in their internal account*

Q: *We just want to know more about it. Are graduate students invited? How many?*

Cathy: *We do not know its affect on graduate students from their proposal.*

Q: *Can we ask for more information?*

Cathy: *Yes, but the event is Oct 10th.*

Q: *Do we give feedback when we deny?*

Cathy: *My though is that we will this year, not knowing how it was done in the past.*

Q: *If the bulk of the cost is food, even by our own standard, we'd only give 20%*

Cathy: *Correct*

Q: *They were awarded the least amount out of everyone. Why don't we give them 15% just to tell them they(should try???) harder next time?*

Cathy: *The reason they are the lowest amount is because they only ask for is because they aren't hosting an academic event. Cathy in further question clarification explains that they are funded as an organization separately, and have about \$2000 of GSO money to use from that.*

***Motion to deny per the finance committee's recommendation, Motion seconded

2 oppositions

5 abstained

Rest vote yes.

Motion carried.

ii. Association of Public Diplomacy Scholars

Cathy: *Finance committee recommends \$1264.37. They are not asking for the full amount. They went to several organizations for money. They are asking for less than 20% for food. Open event geared towards graduate students. Total cost of the event \$4048. Asking for \$1264.37.*
Motion to reduce amount.

Q: *why not reduce the amount? If we spend this much here, will we have enough money for later?*

Q: *one thing Jane provided last year is did they come to the meeting, etc. Can you give us this this year.*

Cathy: *Yes, we can work on that.*

...5 minutes discussion of procedures of this block of the budget, the roles of the finance committee recommendations. Senators ask for more detailed explanation of recommendations in the future.

John clarifies multiple motions and calls order.

***Motion to reduce amount given:

3 vote yes

2 abstentions

Rest vote no

Motion rejected

***Motion to Accept finance committee recommendation and award recommended ammt.

Motion Seconded

Vote: 6 abstentions

Rest vote Yes

Motion Carries

b. Travel Grant Committee (Comptroller Cathy LaVoy)

Cathy: *We've awarded 2 so far. 4 in the pot for the next meeting. It's going great.*

c. University Senate and/or Other Committee Reports

i. Report on Anything of Importance and/or Solicit Input

Cathy, John and Paul: Ask that people serving on university senate committees keep files. Keep confidential what needs to be confidential.

ii. This year we ask that folks keep files and notes to submit at the end of the year with a written summary report for the next cohort

VI. Old Business (Secretary Paul Preczewski)

a. Committee Assignments

Paul: *We have many committees that need people, and we expect every senator to serve on at least one committee. I will have committee sign-up sheets at the end of this meeting. Regardless of what you indicated last week, due to handwriting issues, please enter your name again. Also, please don't forget about my add forms here for newly elected people or people not on the list.*

b. Open Seats – 1 open seat for both Senator-At-Large and University Senate

c. Questions on Committee Work?

Q: *Do we need to sign up again if we signed up last meeting?*

Paul: *Yes.*

d. Evan and John will be making sure committee assignments are squared away in the coming week

John explains that Evan wants to spearhead a committee analyzing cost and pay and benefits for graduate students in combination the Graduate School and other stake-holders.

VII. New Business

a. **Stipends (President Evan Weissman)** covered earlier

b. **Website Redesign and Maintenance (Secretary Paul Preczewski)**

Notes not actively taken here as Paul lead the discussion. Lengthy discussion about how to pay for a redesign of the web site and who should oversee it. Paul asked for an approximate amount of \$1500 to hire a graduate student to do this. This was tabled per a motion to assign this duty of finding a person to overhaul the web site and design a logo for the GSO be assigned to the outreach committee.

Motion made to do this. Motion seconded. Motion carries unanimously.

c. Budget Overview (Comptroller Cathy LaVoy)

Q: how do the groups obtain the funds?

Cathy: *It depends on what they want to do. It depends on what we decide with Paul and whomever else is on this committee for the website. Most of it is done by reimbursement, but the organization can come to me and give me a bill for campus catering for instance. We have vouchers for non-university business, but not all organizations will take that. They don't get paid until afterwards, though, so many won't do it. This is why we say six weeks in advance. TO get all the paperwork and to get things done is very time-consuming. Please don't use campus mail—it seems slow. Please walk it over to Bowne hall.*

John calls for more new business:

Darius Richardson. President of COMPS. Is interested in empty senate seat. University senators. Dontré Conerly expresses interest in the same seat. John calls for speeches so that votes can occur. John also calls for a closed ballot. Paul prepares impromptu ballot as speeches by both are given.

Vote for University Senate Seat:

Darius Richardson: 6 votes

Dontré Conerly:13 votes

(1 abstention) [Paul counted and announced this]

Mr. Conerly now University Senator. (applause)

Darius expresses interest for at large GSO senate seat.

Motion is made for this. Motion seconded. Motion carries unanimously without abstention.

VIII. Remarks for the Record

Remark: *I think in the future we need more (what?) that Cathy can give to us regarding budget votes.*

Cathy: *We will do that.*

IX. Announcements
None

X. Adjournment