

GSO JANUARY REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
MINUTES – 27 JANUARY 2007

- I. **Call to Order:** Jason Lewis
- II. **Roll:** Jason Lewis,
  - A. *Executive Board:* Patrick Wilcox, Jason Lewis, Stephen Graves, Jane Siow.
  - B. *In Attendance:* Roll sheet.
- III. **December Minutes:** Typographic error: “emphTransportation” (corrected in electronic version), Carried.
- IV. **Executive Reports:** Pat Wilcox
  - A. *Career Services:* Rosanne Ecker recently presented an introduction to Career Services to the IST graduate students, which was well received. She recommends this method to other organizations; in this way, she can provide tailored services to smaller groups. Also, Career Services is in the process of creating a PhD career-mentoring database.  
Also, Rosanne is still putting together both a career services listserv and a survey on graduate student career services needs. Forthcoming Career Services and other services can be found by contacting Rosanne or through the Career Services website at <http://students.syr.edu/career/gradstu/graduate.htm>.
  - B. *Housing:* The survey is up and running, we’ve had about 200 respondents. We actually need about 410 of our desired 1000 respondents. The fourth communication advertising the survey is about to be released. If necessary, there is the possibility to extend the timeline by 2 weeks.
  - C. *Child Care:* Thanks to Catherine and Caroline for hard work over Winter Break, we have a draft of the survey instrument. This will be available to everyone, including students without children. The prize will be a 23” Phillips HD-TV, which will hopefully entice students even though they’ve been bombarded with surveys this year. The survey probably won’t be released until March, as we’re now soliciting final comments on the survey; please give prompt feedback.
  - D. *Graduate Student Ages:* Over break, GEMC pulled a report of our demographic age-breakdown. We are looking to service the actual population of graduate students; the average age of graduate students is 31; the median is near that as well. This contradicts the belief that graduate students are about 23–25 years old and are merely older versions of undergraduates.
  - E. *Fall Adjustment:* The problem with this year’s fall adjustment may have been resolved — that is, we know why we “haven’t received it.” We previously received our adjustment as a lump sum. However, under RCM we receive individual transactions as they are paid. Most other accounting issues have been resolved, and we know where our money is.
- V. **Special and Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**
  - A. *Transportation, Steve Schafer:* A new bus route to run every 20 minutes, from college place to Genesee and all the way back, is in the works. This solves one of the problems (Shuttle-U-Home, for instance). No decision has been made as to when this bus will run.
- VI. **Standing Committee Reports:**

A. *Finance, Jane Siow:*

1. MAXPAC: Requesting \$556 (of \$806 total cost) for food and set-up of a faculty appreciation event on 20 February. Finance Committee recommends \$430 towards food and beverage in light of possible collaboration with Maxwell Womens' Caucus and IRSA. Motion to recommend full amount of request on floor; 10 in favor, 4 opposed, 5 abstain; motion carries.
2. Black Artist League: Request for \$7301.40 (of \$29,801.40 total cost) towards AV/setup costs of R&b Extravaganza, part of the Winter Carnival event on 23 February. This event apparently sells out, according to representative. Finance Committee recommends a grant of \$1500 and a credit of \$3000; Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries with 1 abstention.
3. Jerk Magazine: Request for \$5565 (total cost) for printing of March Issue. SA cut funding and they therefore can't afford to publish one of their per-semester three issues. Finance Committee recommends to deny funding; under consideration, the focus of Jerk seems to be more undergraduate-oriented. Also, there are corners that could be cut — for instance, black & white issues. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries with one abstention.
4. Students Advancing Sexual Safety & Empowerment: Request for \$4331 (of \$5841.50 total cost) for production of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Vagina Monologues, 16–17 February, Hendrick's Chapel. Funds for publication of programs and shirt-printing, as well as funding V-week. Finance Committee recommends \$1500. Last year's request was ≈\$3000. From Finance Committee, we're cutting back on a lot of funding as we're already running low on funds (early in January). Motion to accept Finance Committee recommendation carries unanimously.
5. Biology Graduate Student Org.: Request for \$1896 (of \$3072 total cost) towards a late February seminar series. Tabled by Finance Committee.
6. Chinese Students & Scholars Association: Request for \$1000 (of \$5500.50 total cost (apparently really \$9000)) towards annual Spring Festival event on 18 February. Finance Committee recommends \$830, which was the actual amount of their request. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries unanimously.
7. College Republicans: Request for \$2000 (of \$29,000 total cost) towards annual speaker on 27 March, at Goldstein Auditorium. Tabled by Finance Committee.
8. Cheon Ji In: Request for \$2830.50 (of \$4358.13 total cost) for SCPS setup costs for their Korean Percussion Drumming show on 24 February. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual event. They have revised the request from last submission, as per request of last semester. Finance Committee recommends to grant in goodwill \$500 as there are many pending requests for funding. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries with 2 abstentions.
9. Black Graduate Students Association: Request for \$4327.50 (of \$10,977 total cost) towards SCPS costs of their Black Lounge event on 17 February. No representative. Social event, in honor of black history month. Finance Committee recommends \$1500 in light of

economies the organization could make and in light of anticipated graduate attendance. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries with 2 abstentions.

10. Anthropology Graduate Student Organization: Request for \$2047 (of \$2992 total cost) for their Spring Speaker Series, events on 8–9 March and 19–21 April. Bring two scholars (historical archeologists) to campus; requesting travel, honoraria, and hotel funds. Finance Committee recommends \$1700 to cover honoraria and travel. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries with 3 abstentions.

VII. **Old Business — Senators may raise questions of old business:** No old business.

VIII. **New Business — Constitutional Amendments:** Due to administrative changes in the University, it may be in the interest of the GSO to write an Express Powers clause into the GSO Constitution. We must eliminate references to Office of Greek Life and Experiential Learning (as it no longer exists), and the language regarding the Fall Adjustment should be changed to reflect current RCM-related realities. We should have the powers of the GSO Senate clearly delineated (the aforementioned Express Powers) similar to Article I, Section 8 of US Constitution. Frank, Jason, Michael, and Pat will form a committee to take care of this. Also, the Inn Complete will be required to submit a budgetary proposal as does everyone else. We invite comments to the use of the Inn.

IX. **Remarks for the Record:**

- (a) Christy notes that people infrequently request funds from their respective Deans, including Ben Ware in his role as Dean of the Graduate School.
- (b) Michael Gale comments: if next year's students are getting this year's money, that's bad. Patrick responds that much of the money we allocate comes from previous years; generally from rollover money. We keep a reserve so that these types of events can happen.
- (c) Honorary Degrees committee was overlooked in the selection of the Commencement Speaker.
- (d) Lori K. speaks on behalf of the Syracuse Peace Council; in regard to the recent change in political climate, SPC is looking to petition local organizations to petition representatives to end the war and occupation in Iraq. The SPC is requesting that we take their petition to our respective organizations and academic departments, to spread the word and spread the petition. They perceive a lack of a "vibrant" local peace movement. They have a website: <http://www.peacecouncil.net>.

X. **Announcements:**

XI. **Adjournment: Join us for lunch on Marshall St.** Motion to adjourn carries unanimously.