

# GSO MARCH REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

## MINUTES – 31 MARCH 2007

### **Attendees:**

Executive Board: Patrick Wilcox, President; Jason Lewis, Vice-President; Jane Siow, Comptroller; Stephen Graves, Recording Secretary.

Members and Senators: Jessica Swan, Proxy for MAXPAC; Caroline Kouassiaman, Maxwell; James Hepokoski, Architecture; Jacquie Mogle, Psychology; Catherine Burke-Plumadore, History; Lindsay Damon, Social Work; Chris Rhodes, Biology; Deke Gould, Philosophy; Patrick Wall, proxy for Bryan Sell, Earth Sciences; Elizabeth Mercer, MPA; Rebecca Wienbar, Geography; Brigitte Fielder-Montero, English; Rachel Horlings, Anthropology; Dylan Moore, VPA; Frank Mann, At-Large; Lori Klivak, University Senator;

Absentee Votes on Constitutional Changes: Christy Graves, University Senator, in favor; Marju Purin, Mathematics, in favor.

A. **Call to Order:** Jason Lewis

B. **Roll Call:** Motion to accept sign in sheet as roll-call; accepted.

C. **Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

D. **Executive Reports:** Pat Wilcox

1. *Housing:* The results of the Housing Survey have been tabulated, and it appears that, unsurprisingly, price is the most important factor graduate students consider when looking for housing. The survey seems to have given this problem the attention of the administration.
2. *Child Care:* The Child Care survey is online; a possible outcome of this survey would be to convert the current plant fund into the seed of a scholarship endowing graduate students with some form of child care allowance.
3. *White Ribbon Campaign:* In support of Vera House, the GSO Executive Board agreed to designate \$1000 of funds to the purchase of White Ribbons to support the prevention of domestic violence.
4. *Inn Complete:* For the first time in its history, the Inn Complete recorded a profit this year; however, under the new RCM budget model, nearly all the profit was paid back to the University in taxes and fees. Pat intends to consult with the board regarding some sort of exemption from RCM assessments for the Inn.
5. *Sponsored Programs:* Trish Lowney at Sponsored Programs will be running a series of presentations on changes to federal grants; this should be of particular

interest to those graduate students in the sciences who are funded through NSF grants.

6. There's a PhD candidate at Newhouse who needs 70 more respondents to get his survey results for his dissertation. This will also be announced via the listserv presently.

E. **Special and Ad Hoc Committee Reports:** The Senate's Computing Services Committee will be surveying a select population later this semester; as the survey population is targeted, please respond if you receive the survey.

F. **Standing Committee Reports:**

1. *Finance Committee:* Jane Siow
  - a. Biology GSO: Request to fund Seminar Series; total cost was \$3072, request to GSO was \$948. Finance Committee tables the request for a later E-board vote, waiting for more information.
  - b. Korean Student Association: Request for \$446.96 for full funding of the Korean Film Festival; Finance Committee recommends funding \$447. Motion to accept carries unanimously.
  - c. Philosophy GSO: Graduate Conference in Philosophy; requesting \$280 out of \$990 total event cost; Finance Committee recommends funding full \$280. Motion to accept carries unanimously.
  - d. SU Volunteer Organization: Skills for Success Program, run out of the public affairs department. Program based on a book by Prof. William Copeland, works with Syracuse City School District students to make themselves ready for college and career. Requesting \$1000 out of total event cost for lunch for the students. They have funding from numerous external organizations, but the small scale of their program prohibits external grants. SU VO comes in to fill the gap from a loss of \$1000 from last year's donation from GE. Finance Committee followed the 20% rules for food funding, and recommends funding \$880 toward the event. Catherine motions to suspend finance rule of \$500 or 20%. Motion seconded. In favor: 7; Opposed: 7. Jason invokes his ability and votes to suspend the Finance rule. Motion to fund in full: in favor, motion carries with numerous abstentions and no opposition.
  - e. Thai Student Union: Thai movie night on 20 April. Requesting \$731 out of \$1000. Finance Committee recommends granting \$500. Motion to accept finance committee recommendation carries unanimously.

- f. SU Volunteer Organization: Franklin Magnet School of Arts Community Showcase at Goldstein Auditorium on 1 May. Costs are non-food, pertaining to t-shirts for volunteers, renting of Otto, etc. Dylan asks what the direct connection back to Graduate Students. Jason counters by suggesting that sometimes we ought just consider our grants as philanthropy. Conversation ensues about funding food, and also funding based upon involvement of graduate students. In this specific case, Franklin Magnet lost some of the grant funding which they've previously enjoyed, and we're being asked to help cover that loss. The request is to grant \$452.50, Finance Committee recommends to fund \$452.50. Motion to accept carries unanimously.
- g. The deadline for budget proposal submissions is passed. If a group has not been granted an extension by the Comptroller, they may not submit a budget for 07-08. Groups may still submit Special Programming Requests during 07-08. Also, please remember that groups must submit receipts, otherwise they will not be reimbursed!

#### G. **Old Business:**

1. Over Spring Break, an online vote was presented with the following questions:
  - Do we wish to allow someone who is not currently a GSO member to run for any executive office?
  - Do we intend to bar non-members from holding senate positions but allow them to run for executive office.

The response to both these questions via email vote was "No," by 19-1 vote of senators. For purpose of verification, we vote again, unanimously, to confirm the outcome of the e-mail vote.

2. At our last meeting, changes to the GSO constitution were submitted for comment by the Senate. We ask at this time that senators submit any modifications for debate and discussion.

After discussion, the following substantive changes have been made from the previous constitution:

#### **Article I**

- Sec 1: Revised to "As of Jan. 1 2007, any graduate student registered on main campus..."
- Sec 3: Revised to "Each degree-granting unit will be allotted one Senate Seat. Degree granting units..." Strike the first sentence.
- Sec 7: Combines former sections 7-8.

- Sec 8: Express Powers, Clauses x-xiv are new. These powers are an attempt to spell out the traditions of the GSO in order to provide continuity.

### **Article II**

- Sec 1: This now mandates experience within the GSO Senate of at least one year prior to serving on the E-board. Also, we reserve the right to have 3% or parity raises to keep with University minimum stipend. These are addressed within clauses iii and v. Recommendation to section v: "Stipends shall increase annually at a rate of not more than 3% and shall also maintain parity with rates consistent...". Clause vi adds insurance coverage for the Comptroller. Recommendation to strike clause vii.
- Sec 3: Clause xiii determines that the President shall be the graduate representative to the Board of Trustees.

### **Article III**

- Sec 1: Revise to "A Graduate Student Court *MAY* be established..."

### **Article IV**

- Sec 1: This is new. Loss of student status need not imply loss of GSO status. This removes the former section 5.  
Before running for the e-board, please be aware of your department's requirements for your positions – some disallow outside employment

### **Article IX (Miscellaneous Statements)**

- Sec 2: GSO Officers are NOT university employees in their capacity as GSO officers.
- Necessary Powers and Enumerated Powers clauses. These essentially give us a 9th Amendment as has the US Constitution.

Motion on the floor to accept these revised changes and all grammatical, stylistic, and typographic revisions; acceptance will require a second, and a 2/3 majority of senators in attendance. Any Senator voting on this constitution has the right, by noon on 13 Friday, to raise objection against any changes.

Motion is passed unanimously. We have a new constitution.

## **H. New Business:**

1. Election instructions have been posted on the website. There are a number of open positions for 2007-08 and we encourage you all to come back and stay involved.

- I. **Remarks for the Record:** Regarding the Family Counseling(?) program, the position of the e-board is that all students who are in progress on a PhD be allowed to finish their degrees.

J. **Announcements:**

- We are planning a end-of-year picnic for 5May.
- 11 April is the Social Justice Award from Social Workers United, and the recipient is the only male who actually works at Vera House.

K. **Adjournment:** Adjournment carries.