

**GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION**  
**Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting 09/13/2008**  
**Hall of Languages Room 500**

**In attendance:**

Executive Board:

Patrick Wilcox, Evan Weissman, Jane Siow;

Senators:

Chuck Robinson [English] clrobi01@syr.edu  
James Hepokoski [Architecture] jameslucas@gmail.com  
Justin Breese [iSchool] jabreese@syr.edu  
William Ave [Psychology] william.ave@gmail.com  
Laurah Klepinger-Mathew [Anthropology] leklepim@maxwell.syr.edu  
Matthew Koehler [Philosophy] makoeh@gmail.com  
Ashley Cake [Religion] adccake@gmail.com  
Charles Cutshall [Pub Admin] crcutsha@syr.edu  
Don Bunk [Physics] djbunk@phy.syr.edu  
Danielle Cowley [Education] dmcowley@syr.edu  
Jessica Mantaro [Earth Sciences] jlmantar@syr.edu  
Julie Sullivan [Biology] jcsulliv@syr.edu  
Paul Troisi [Law] pftroisi@syr.edu  
William Suk [Anthropology - proxy] wjsuk@syr.edu  
Todd Dickey [Political Sc] tdickey@syr.edu  
Effie Scott [Geography] efscott@syr.edu  
Cathy LaVoy [Anthro] celavoy@syr.edu  
Marju Purin [Math] mpurin@syr.edu  
Kelly Kallaher [Fine Arts] kakallah@syr.edu

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**I. Call to Order:** Vice-President Evan Weissman

**II. Roll:** Motion to Accept Sign-in As Official Roll

**III. Introductory & General Remarks:** President Patrick Wilcox

- i. Patrick introduced himself and outlined how the GSO is structured and constituted as the representative body of graduate students, as distinct from the undergraduate and law school bodies. He stressed that the range of activities under the aegis of the GSO called for active participation by senators and strongly encouraged each academic department to send an elected representative.
- ii. He specifically highlighted a few initiatives and activities that called for participation i.e. the marketing of childcare scholarships, and the review of graduate student healthcare & insurance provisions.
- iii. On the latter, Evan noted that certain grant recipients are precluded from benefits and health insurance coverage under University provision. The burden falls on students

- who have to pay for anecdotally high premiums out of their already meager stipends. He stressed the need for volunteers' help in concerted data gathering and research on this issue in order to bring it before the University administration.
- iv. Jane added that such initiatives provide great opportunities for not only involvement and service to the graduate community but also present avenues for resume building. On the Finance committee specifically, she stressed the value of financial and administrative skills that could be gained in service.
  - v. Responding to a question from the floor, Patrick clarified the role of the Graduate Council in addressing issues such as TA stipend rates and other graduate needs.
  - vi. On recruitment for greater graduate student participation in the GSO, Charles Cutshall indicated that he has established contact with graduate directors in various departments but requested assistance with of contacting listserv managers and administrators.
  - vii. Following further discussion of the positions available, senators in attendance signed up for positions as summarized in the addendum to the minutes.
  - viii. The floor opened for individual introductions by the assembled. The senate welcomed alumni Dave Pacora and his wife, and thanked them for their attendance at the movie premiere of the Express the night before.

#### **IV. Old Business:** open

Senators discussed the various pros and cons of having GSO senate meetings on Saturdays. On the question of parking costs incurred for attending meetings, Patrick indicated that students could claim reimbursement from the GSO – all requests to be directed to Jane.

**V. Announcements:** Patrick invited all the assembled to gather at the InnComplete starting at 3pm where the Syracuse v. Penn State football game would be televised; catering is provided courtesy of the GSO.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

Patrick motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chuck with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.

**ADDENDUM** [as of 09/13/2008]

**SENATORS-AT-LARGE [6]**

Catherine Burke-Plumadore [History]

Laurah Klepinger-Mathew [Anthropology] leklerin@maxwell.syr.edu

Cathy LaVoy [Anthropology] celavoy@syr.edu

**U-SEN [11]**

John Stegman [History?] hjstegem@syr.edu

Charles Cutshall [Pub Admin] crcutsha@syr.edu

**SUB-COMMS**

**Grad Council [2]**

Todd Dickey [Political Sc] tdickey@syr.edu

**Finance [9]**

Chuck Robinson [English] clrobi01@syr.edu

Danielle Cowley [Education] dmcowley@syr.edu

Effie Scott [Geography] efscott@syr.edu

Matthew Koehler [Philosophy] makoeh@gmail.com

Kelly Kallaher [Fine Arts] kakallah@syr.edu

**InnComplete**

Don Bunk [Physics] djbunk@phy.syr.edu

**Graduate Employee Benefits**

Evan Weissman [Geography] eweissma@syr.edu

**Public Relations**

Charles Cutshall [Pub Admin] crcutsha@syr.edu

**Family Concerns Coordinator**

John Stegman [History?] hjstegem@syr.edu

**Housing & Off-Campus Concerns**

**Transportation, Parking & Safety**

**Student Legal Services Advisory Board**

## **SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

**Health Insurance [4]**

**Recruitment [4]**

**Child Care Grant Marketing [4]**