

GSO SEPTEMBER REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
MINUTES – 9 SEP. 2006

- I. **Call to Order:** Jason Lewis
- II. **Roll:** Sign-in sheet accepted as Roll Call unanimously.
 - A. *Executive Board:* Patrick Wilcox, Jason Lewis, Jane Siow, and Stephen Graves.
 - B. *In Attendance:* Dan Miller (Religion), Brigitte Fielder-Montero (English), Rufat Mahmud (MAPA), Ye Cheng (ECS), Rebecca Wienbar (Geography), Marju Purin (Mathematics), Christina Graves (Mathematics), Sotirios Gountas (International Relations), Catherine Burke-Plumadore (History), Michael Gale (Maxwell), Stephen Shafer (PA), Eric West (Physics), Coraline Falco (ESF), Elizabeth Mercer (PA), B. Caroline Kouassiaman (Maxwell Women’s Caucus), Jacquie Mogle (Psychology), Eric Wortman (Mathematics), Jessica Swan (PA), Xingyu She (Biology), David Babson (proxy for Daniel Pettit, Anthropology), Rachel Horlings (Anthropology), Kanat Bolazar (CIS), John Meyers (ISTGO).
- III. **Executive Reports:** Pat Wilcox
 - A. *Inn Complete:* The Inn made more money than previous years; but the downside is that it cost us extra. We ended up with a deficit of \$6,000. We should, over the course of this year, ask the question of whether we want to run the Inn as a business or as a public service.
 - B. *Housing Survey:* Enclosed on the last page of the meeting packet, the survey is an attempt to get some feedback on the issue of Graduate Student Housing at SU. We want to get 1000 back in response and then give data for potential building of grad-student exclusive housing; undergrads are in crisis with housing right now and we want to ride coattails of any building that the University plans for them. Currently, 202/8000 slots are set aside for grads, and roughly 100 of those are filled by spring. Pat’s asking for a volunteer to help with this.
 - C. *Day Care:* There are 2 partially funded day care options partially funded by the GSO; Bernice Wright and SU Day Care. We have historically funded them, but we are no longer able to fund them as per their needs; the hope is that the University can pick up where we leave off.
 - D. *Question to Roy Baker (Head of Greek Life):* If local area businesses are willing to give a discount to graduate students in the form of coupons or some such, are we able to put these coupons on the website, or does this violate the policy against advertising?
 - E. *OGLEL/OSL:* OGLEL has “transitioned” into the Office of Student Life, headed by Juanita Perez-Williams, former head of Judicial Affairs. While the names of offices have changed, we can expect that business will likely continue as usual.
- IV. **Special and Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**
 - A. *Open Positions:*
 - 1. 4 open positions for *At-Large GSO Senators:* Ye Cheng, Michael Gale, Christy Graves, Elizabeth Mercer, and Jessica Swan are on the ballot. Christy and Michael withdraw

from the ballot in favor of University Senate positions; the three who remain are elected unanimously.

2. 6 open positions for *University Senators*: Jane Siow (Hon. Degrees), Dylan Moore, Christy Graves(Instruction), and Michael Gale(Student Life) on ballot with preference for respective committees listed. They are elected unanimously by vote of the senate; this leaves one open position for another GSO-elected University Senator.
3. Representative to *Off Campus Student Services Advisory Council*: Elizabeth Mercer volunteers.
4. Representative to *University Neighborhood Partnership*: Jessica Swan and Rebecca Wienbar jointly volunteer.
5. Representative to *Graduate Career Services Council*: Marju Purin volunteers
6. Representative to *Division of Student Affairs Quality Control Council*: Ye Cheng volunteers
7. Representative to *Parking Advisory Committee*: Michael Gale volunteers
8. 5 open positions on *GSO Finance Committee*: Steve Schafer, Caroline Kouassiaman, Brigitte Fielder-Montero, Sotirios Gountas, and Rufat Mahmud volunteer.
9. 3 openings on *Graduate Housing Special Initiative*: Jacquie Mogle, Coraline Falco
10. 3 openings on *Graduate Day Care Special Initiative*: Caroline Kouassiaman
11. All representative and committee assignments pass by unanimous vote of the senate.

V. **Standing Committee Reports:**

A. Finance Committee: Jane Siow

Changes to Fiscal Policy for 06-07: Jane explains that the Fiscal Policy has changed somewhat; notably, it delineates the things we *don't* pay for. Specifically, we limit food spending to \$500 or 20%, with a hard cap of \$1500; no alcohol may be purchased through special programming funds; no travel away from campus; we discourage gifts/prizes; business cards, conference attendance, stationary, tuition etc.

Request for Special Programming Funds by Biology GSO for invited speaker. The request is in the amount of \$1655, and due to the timing the matter has not been reviewed by the Finance Committee. The representative from Biology (Xingyu She) allows for vote by executive board, which passes, thus granting \$1000 of Special Programming Funds to the BGSO, which is the maximum which can be granted by vote of the executive board without passing before the full senate.

VI. **Old Business:** None

VII. **New Business:**

- A. Caroline Kouassiaman asks whether there is a University-wide Committee on Safety; Pat says he'll check into it.
- B. Stephen Shafer relates that a student was refused the Walk-You-Home service by public safety, and Pat comments that **written** complaints are best, that they go further.
- C. Christy Graves asks whether the GSO web master is a paid position, which it is.
- D. During the Announcements at the end of the meeting, a discussion occurred regarding the date of the October Regular Business Meeting. The original date for the meeting was Saturday, 21

October, which would allow Rosanna Ecker fro Career Services to come make a short presentation. However, this would conflict with an SU home football game, thus disallowing parking on campus. The alternate date suggested was one week later, on Saturday, 28 October. The issues was discussed and voted, with an initial vote of 13-8 that the meeting would remain on the 21st. After some more heated discussion, the motion was put to a second vote, which carried unanimously but for one abstension to move the meeting to the 28th, with Michael Gale abstaining.

VIII. **Remarks for the Record:**

- A. Kanat Bolazar comments about the cap on food spending – several years ago, the “Turkish Club” [ed.: This may be a mistake on my part. I cannot recall which club he specified.] had to pay performers so that food would cost no more than 50%. Jane responds with the note about how GSO has been the last resort for funding, and that we’re trying to encourage groups to seek funding from elsewhere (SA, etc.). Pat comments that events have to have food, but that we were getting too high of requests for food. To get more special programming funds, we would have to raise grad students substantially; we’ve tried to keep the cost of the grad student fee down, and the price has been to cut the food spending in special programming funds.
- B. The Registered Student Organization Financial Issues Meeting will occur this Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 7 PM in Stolkin Auditorium, Geology Building, and this is a good place to learn how to fundraise.

IX. **Announcements:** Discussion as to October Regular Meeting, as noted above under New Business item D.

X. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn to Chuck’s for lunch passes unanimously.