

GSO Regular Business Meeting Agenda
October 11, 2008

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

- accepted

C. Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Motion to save paper and not print previous weeks – accepted
- Minutes as posted accepted - unanimous

D. Executive Reports: (Don Bunk)

1. Inn Complete Report

a. Capital improvements

- i. Looking at buying an industrial strength ping-pong table
- ii. Possibly getting a jukebox
- iii. Games for Wii
- iv. Maintaining grad student interests in the inn
 - 1. Have gotten a couple new flatscreen tvs and a Nintendo Wii
 - 2. Business is down slightly – no people coming from Skytop for lunch, etc.

b. Facebook/Myspace Advertising

- i. Monica from the Inn is going to build Trivia pages on both sites
 - 1. Updating website would be helpful – students asking for it and looking for info – also answering the phone would be very helpful
 - a. We used to update the website, but management differences made it so that we just let Food services do it now
 - b. Hoping that by funneling things through these sites might help consolidate that
 - c. Possibility of the Inn Complete/graduate student listserv for the Inn that provides updates for events and such happening at the Inn
 - 2. Question about senate control of Trivia teams – cap too small
 - 3. Plea for people in the senate – could the 30 member teams stop controlling the event? Trivia is excellent, but too many people knowing the answers messes with competitiveness – it turns into trying to beat the system

c. Bus route and parking lot construction

- i. Assess feasibility
 1. Safe transport to and from campus
 2. Drinking and driving hazards
 3. More environmentally friendly
- ii. Centro doesn't want responsibility for taking out deck or cars
- iii. Looking at taking out front row of parking and moving it behind
- iv. Parking and transit interested in helping out with roads, but they don't sell parking spaces there, so they won't fix the parking lot
- v. Food and Concessions is supposed to take it up, but they don't have any money right now because of the economy, so they can't do it right now
- vi. Parking and Transit doing an assessment
- vii. Not a conceptual objection, it's just cost
- viii. JANE: does it have to be all or nothing? Why doesn't it just stop at the bottom of the hill – why have to come into actual parking lot?
- ix. ANSWER: they should be doing that now, but apparently aren't – it's ideal, but enforcing this is an option
- x. CATHY LAVOY: suggested trolleys from campus to drinking areas on certain nights – look into this?
- xi. PATRICK background: university in the past having a problem with their funding being used to encourage drinking to excess
 1. Not enough vehicles to make it work
 2. We can try it...

Don Bunk – whatever we do, it just needs to be feasible over the long-term, and we have to make sure people are actually going to use it

2. Child Care Updates; (John Stegeman)

- a. Update on creation of a board to review sciences at Bernice Wright and SU Daycare
 - i. GSO has funded these for many years – last year we instead seeded money for a grad student child care endowment
 - ii. Question of just giving money to the schools or investigating whether it was more efficient to provide money for the endowment
 - iii. Asked the schools to come in and present what they were doing with the money that we were giving them
 1. Bernice Wright was able to show how the money that we give them comes back to grad students – a stipend as part of the child education – clear benefits

2. SU Daycare couldn't show as clearly – use a sliding scale based on income for distributing funds, and it's not clear how it benefits GRAD students as opposed to other people – not interested in working with us on this
3. GSO formed committee to investigate/follow funds and make recommendations for how funds are being used and granted
4. GSO wants oversight towards forming a board – answer from BW is happy to accommodate, SUD is okay with it, but that it's not going to change much – last year, the decision to grant them money came with the caveat of forming the Board
 - a. Did we actually assess how many grad students are affected by this? BW provided them, Joan Sapiro from SUD wouldn't supply it, but Sam Rebovich (secretary last year) seems to have gotten the numbers
5. The lower tier is made up of grad students, but not all grad students are in the lowest tier
 - a. Hotly debated issue in the GSO last year – Evan gave a bit of background
6. Q: what is the cost comparison? A: difficult to say that, because one is a daycare and one is a class setting, so they have different missions
 - a. Problem with demographics of children and preferences for who gets in – infants are more expensive to care for, so they have fewer spaces and give preference to infants who have older siblings already attending
7. Q: does what we give them actually make a significant difference in their operating budget, and is it fair to ask them to do all this? A: Other than Student Affairs, GSO is the only on campus organization that funds them – the rest of their \$.5 million budget comes from their revenue = so we're not talking about a whole lot, but they still are relying on it
8. PATRICK – we actually don't have a lot of contact with these groups, so the value to us of an oversight board is to enhance the relationship and communication between these organizations and GSO
9. Q: are those who are part of it satisfied? A: yes, the problem is that not enough people get in
10. Evan: the problem is that we jumped to conclusions about things, and didn't have enough information about who and

Comment [O1]: problem is that infants are more expensive to care for, so they have fewer spaces and give preference to infants who have older siblings already attending .

- what was involved – what it did accomplish was bringing to light REAL issues and some things we still need to work on
- b. Distribution of funds for spring fellowship awards – procedure and timing
 - i. No way to distribute those monies this fall, but plan to select in December and checks go out in January
 1. Problem is they don't have time to solicit and go through applications on a competitive basis – most important to get the program running
 - a. Patrick gave a bit of background for the endowment – asked the university for money for it and they said no, so we started the endowment
 2. now we have 10 scholarships that represent about a 50% subsidy for 10 students as compared to schools in Onondoga County
 - a. looking at giving 1 scholarship per school; deans of colleges recommend and send recommendations to Ben Ware, who will make the decisions
 3. university is concerned about an open solicitation purely because of the work of dealing with them
 4. Q: scholarship only for childcare? A: yes
 5. Q: how is “merit” determined? A: that’s why we gave power to the schools to decide
 6. Q: will there be applications? A: working on it
 7. Q: shouldn't this be proportional per school? A: eventually
 8. Suggestion: in terms of merit, perhaps we could couch merit more in terms of progress toward degree. Response: JOHN: not enough work for a full committee just to oversee BWM and SU, BUT, if the committee also had a voice in figuring out how to establish merit and distribution, we'll have a stronger voice in the senate and graduate school
 9. Q: when giving the scholarship out, since we're endowing it, can we use this as an opportunity to get info from these people about where they're taking children and such, and as such, we can make some competition. A: please join the committee.
 - ii. someone (OIRA) is sending out a Family Needs survey to look at 5 areas of worklife concerns – comprehensive survey is on Family Care. John doesn't expect this to result in large programs or expenditures in the short term
 1. will know results of survey in February

- c. Fund raising platform – how do we grow the fund, especially in the down market?

3. **Health Care Committee Report** (Evan Weissman)

- a. Meeting with HR last week
 - i. Getting a sense of health care at SU
- b. Data available
 - i. Don't really have a sense of the grad students who are not employed
 - 1. Looking at issues for people without jobs – need info from these people
 - 2. People who have external funding also don't have access to health care
 - 3. Problem of people who have been here a while and are being pushed into adjunct roles with fewer benefits
 - a. Q: only GSO members on the committee? A: anyone welcome
 - b. Q: looking into services provided by Health Center? A: yes
 - c. Health fee is waived for grad students – some people don't know that
- c. Outline of project over the next six months
 - i. Putting together a report for Board of Trustees
 - ii. There are other options through other organizations that we're looking
 - 1. Problem is that everyone technically has access, but it's if they're willing to pay for it

4. **Graduate Alumni Club Specialty Charter** (Pat Wilcox)

- a. What it is: a club to get alumni interested and re-involved with the graduate school and university and try to get some money flowing back
 - i. Comment: there are alumni who do send money to the university, and maybe some of the importance is just pointing out to them that they can actually give it to something in particular like the GOS
 - ii. Comment: a lot of people give just to a school – so is there something we can do like that? A: deans tend to be protective of their own alumni, so don't like to share, but what's missing from that picture is soliciting funds for looking things that benefit all grad students – i.e: travel grants and child care

Q: problem with ShuttleUHome – only takes you from school, so student tried to start a student-run service for people studying at places other than school. SUGGESTION: is there any way to

provide a smaller-scale service to help with this? A: there's a senate seat open for this – you want it?

- b. Importance of fundraising and career services
- c. What it means to the overall picture of graduate education

*Discussion of Senate and University senate seats open:

- 6 at-large positions – capped in constitution at 6, but we may be able to see if we can change this – Question to senate: who is in a position and who would like/be willing to serve on them? Then, are we as a senate willing to amend the constitution to accommodate them?
 - o Q: there are committees that are specific to particular issues, so in order to serve on those committees, one has to be a senator, right?

MOTION: return to agenda - seconded

E. Special and Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- a. Open: none

F. Standing Committee Reports

- i. Quick explanation of the Finance Committee
- b. ASU – requesting \$2000 – unanimous granting
 - i. GSO can entertain proposal (even though it's from an undergrad organization) because of its potential for grad student engagement
- c. Beyond Compliance – requesting \$1500 – 2 abstentions - \$1500 granted

G. Old Business

none

H. New Business

- 1. ACTS: Alliance of Communities transforming Syracuse – Julio Urrutia
 - no Julio – if you're interested, contact Patrick

I. Remarks for the Record

None

*Going back to the GSO - explanation of seats, committees, and what they do and who

can be on which committees and such – Discussion – if you have questions, contact a member of the E-Board

Interested:

Khalil Howard – Physics – University Senate
Felipe Estefan – Maxwell and Newhouse – University Senate
Melissa Welshans – English – At-large
Laurel Ahnert – English – At-large (leahnert@syr.edu)

Motion carries – all accepted

J. Announcements

- Charles Cutshall – anyone with issues with reading the emails? No.

K. Adjournment: please join us for lunch on Marshall Street