



Reminders:

- Mark your available times at the poll to determine the GSA meeting time for this Spring 2014
<http://doodle.com/6bxqhdr8swpm8435>

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - Quorum: yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from December 2nd, 2013
 - Motion to Approve Minutes from December 2nd, 2013: Owen Hunter
 - Second: Tom Taggart
 - Unanimously approved

Old Business:

1. Miscellaneous
 - Allison won't be here for this meeting, but any receipts can be deposited in the folder at the office, she will have someone to pick it up and will process your refunds. You can also e-mail her with any questions at adoakes@syr.edu
 - Craig: The Office of Students Affairs has acquired equipment (ex: microphones) that GSA senators can borrow for our events

2. Outstanding bill and budget updates

- Grants and awards (Abby): John indicated that there is no change in the committee's budget; the funds allocated at the beginning of the fall semester will be spent as planned.
- Social (Owen): After reviewing expenses from last semester, the committee can contribute \$300 to pay the outstanding bill to the Inn Complete
- International (Natalia): The committee will soon have the first meeting of the spring semester. Once the committee decides what events to host this semester, they will have a clear idea of available funds to contribute with the payment
- Professional development (Tom): the committee should have \$150-200 available, but this will depend on contributions; if the committee receives equivalent contributions to those received last year, the funds will be available. Unfortunately we won't know till the end of March.
- There were also funds available and new funds could come in from new students (Craig). There are about 15 new students (Rigo) We will ask Allison to check with the Bursar's Office.
- Scott: as the contact person with the Inn, I would like to give them a date for payment. Considering available funds from overall GSA budget (\$474 stated in GSA Official Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2013 http://www.esfgsa.com/uploads/8/5/5/6/8556102/12.2.13_minutes.pdf) and \$300 contributed by the Social Committee, we would be missing about \$300. Should we pay and expect for the funds to just come?
- Abby: The best way to proceed should be re-visiting the conversation in the following meeting, check with the International Committee. The bill can be paid and if there aren't extra funds, every committee can contribute equivalently.
- Scott: I will inform the Inn Complete that we will have a solution by next meeting.
- If Allison is not available next meeting, the President can be the point of contact for any Treasurer matters

3. Insurance Payment (Craig)

- It seems like GSA will have to pay for the Insurance as it was negotiated in the past. It's difficult to have access to the policy, so we will have to stay as it is. There does not seem to be much space to re-negotiate this payment, as apparently we pay proportionally by number of students and the administration does not seem open to a negotiation.

- Eugene: Regardless of how this payment was negotiated in the past, USA hosts many more events than GSA does and sponsors a number of clubs and associations. Additionally, this insurance payment represents a large portion of the GSA budget, which is not the case for USA.
- Eileen: Maybe the payment should be proportional to our budget instead of being proportional to the number of students
- Craig will try to re-visit this with the Office of Students Affairs, but GSA will likely have to pay this time

New Business:

1. GSA Meetings Schedule (Craig)
 - There are some conflicts with college common hour
 - There will be doodle poll to determine best meeting time
2. GSA senate has been invited to meet with the new president, Dr. Wheeler.
 - “Morning Munch” likely. There are at least 10 Senators interested
 - Craig will send out a Doodle Poll, after contacting the Office of the President
3. Upcoming elections
 - Ideas for advertising: New Student orientation. Word of mouth, Social Media.
 - It’s important to work with the timeline to make sure the process is on schedule (Abby) A Committee for Elections should be formed to take care of election matters. The webmaster should chair this Committee, as stated in the GSA Bylaws, section I.6.
 - Emily: we could form this committee next meeting, when most people will have a better idea of their schedule for this semester
4. FNRM Representative
 - Motion to approve Veronica Gonzalez as Forest and Natural Resources Management Representative: Rigoberto Melgar
 - Second: Silvia Saldivar
 - Unanimously approved
 - Veronica Gonzalez will serve as FNRM Representative for the Spring 2014 period

5. Committee Updates

- Professional Development: The committee is preparing 6 or 7 events for this semester. So far, there are only 3 members. If anyone has some spare time to help out, please contact Tom (tptaggar@syr.edu). The Committee will be meeting on Thursdays at 2 pm in Gateway, every other Thursday, beginning this Thursday the 23rd. E-mail Tom when interested in attending to make sure there will be a meeting that week.
- Social: Upcoming events
 1. Grad student appreciation week (Sponsored by SU GSO), April 6-11
 2. "5K Flannel run" (co-sponsored by GSA and SU GSO): date TBD, possibly Sunday, April 6th
 3. Mayfest: Potentially subsidized for graduate students
 1. What is: A block party held yearly @Walnut, where there is free food, beer, and live music. The non-subsidized cost for grads is \$25.
 2. Rigo: Do we have available funds to subsidize it?
 3. Owen: no, but this could be arranged as a sponsorship from SU GSO
 4. Ingrid: Probably students will be interested, but is expensive
 4. Presentation on Healthy Food and Eating
 1. Jo Anne C. Ellis, Associate Librarian at Moon Library, brought this idea to the Social Committee and we will be co-sponsoring it. She will have a presentation and we will buy some healthy snack and help with setting up
 2. Scheduled for February 10th, at 5:30pm in Moon 110
 3. This could also be a recurrent event, maybe potluck style, possibly on Mondays. Maybe Friday or weekend is better (Craig). Snacks is better than potluck (Emily)
 5. Dunkin Donuts from Shine Center
 1. The SU GSO is organizing to receive a weekly donation of leftover donuts. They were thinking about a Scavenger Hunt among grads. We could do something similar for ESF. Someone will have to pick them up around 7pm and we could leave them at a location with general access.

2. Matt: Panera donates their leftovers and they are distributed by Hendricks Chapel, on a first come and first served. Maybe Scavenger Hunt is not a good idea.
2. DREAM Project Speed Dating Fundraiser
 - DREAM stands for Dominican Republic Education and Mentoring, detailed information about it can be found at: <http://dominicandream.org/>
 - A group of graduate students are interested in having a fundraiser to collaborate with the Dream Project. This event would be held on February 14th for Valentine's Day either at Moon Library or Nifkin Lounge
 - This would be a Speed Dating event for grad students, LGBT friendly. The event will consist of 10-20 minutes for mingling, an hour of speed dating and spare time in the end. The plan is to charge an Admission Fee, which will proceed to the DREAM Project.
 - This group would like to co-sponsor with the GSA. Possible collaboration from GSA: help with organization, booking a space for the event, promotion and legitimation.
 - Owen will contact Laura Bartock (lkbartoc@syr.edu) to help out with reserving a space
 3. Eugene Law: There will be a Morning Munch next Wednesday, to meet and greet new president 8-10am, organized by USA, open to campus. This is different from Morning Much with GSA Senate.
 4. Adjourn the meeting
 - Motion to adjourn the meeting: Natalia Cagide
 - Second: Owen Hunter
 - Unanimously approved

Upcoming events:

- January 24th : First TG @The Inn Complete 5:30 to 7:30pm
- February 10th : Presentation on Healthy Food and Eating @Moon 110, 5:30pm
- February 14th ; DREAM Project Speed Dating Fundraiser
- Date TBD:
 - 5K Flannel Run
 - Mayfest

Attendance:

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar
2. John Wiley (Absent with a Proxy)
3. Natalia Cagide
4. Tom Taggart
5. Owen Hunter
6. Matt Regan
7. Eileen Leon
8. Ely Margolis
9. Melisa Keskin
10. Hope Ansanelli
11. Jonathan Masih Das
12. Emily Handelman
13. Stacey Mack
14. Forrest Baird
15. Eugene Law
16. Silvia Saldivar
17. Ingrid Brofman
18. Rigo Melgar
19. N. Scott Bergey
20. Doug Morrison

Guests

Abby Larkin	FNRM
Veronica Gonzalez	FNRM
Laura Bartock	ES