



Reminders:

- Research Grants applications due: November 15
- Contact Rigo remelgar@syr.edu with comments about the Fossil Fuel Divestment Resolution

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - o Quorum: Yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 14th,2013:
 - o Amendments: Date for the “Harvest Potluck” event was changed to ‘to be determined’ and information about “Fright Night” tickets availability was added.
 - o Motion to Approve Minutes from October 14th,2013: John Wiley
 - o Second: Scott Bergey
 - o Unanimously approved

Old Business:

1. Budget Report (Treasurer)
 - o Total available budget

New Business:

1. Grants and Awards Committee Update (John Wiley)
 - Travel grant applications closed last week: 10 applications were received.
 - The decision about which applications to fund will be made next week, before the close for Research Grants.
 - 5-6 applications will be granted, if there are enough applications fulfilling the requirements. If there are not enough quality applications, non-granted funds will be used for travel grants to be awarded in the spring semester. Those will close around March.
 - Research grants will close on November 15. Any graduate at ESF is eligible, including GSA Senators. Research grants fund up to \$500. All GSA Senators are encouraged to help promote these grants among the community
2. GPES Survey (Craig)
 - Andrew Hayman is developing a Survey to be answered by students in GPES.
 - No action other than help with promotion was required from the GSA Senate. GPES representatives are encouraged to spread the word about it.
3. Graduate Student Resolution on the Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign
 - The Proposed Resolution was developed during the last year by the USA, and approving it at the GSA will support and continue the USA course of action. The purpose of the resolution is for Colleges and Universities to take leadership in divestment from fossil fuels, by divesting investment from fossil fuel based business. This action would finally pledge for divestment and is expected to trigger a similar response from authorities. An important observation, at the end of the document, it is indicated that divestment should be implemented only if it does not have negative effects on the finances of the school.
 - Additionally, the resolution is meant to ask to divest from fossil fuels, but not to tell the Board of Trustees where those funds should be reallocated (Owen Hunter).
 - Where did the document come from (Craig)? This is the document approved by the USA, similar documents have been used in other schools (Rigo).
 - What actions are expected (Eileen)? Pass it and have the students support it, to make a statement. The letter will be sent to the College Foundation, for their investments can give preference to non-fossil fuel based business (Rigo).

- The College Foundation does not invest directly; they just purchase mutual funds, so this could be applied by asking to their funds' managers to take divestment into consideration (John).
 - John: how to manage your funds can be difficult to determine, for example: you may invest in an energy company, 20% that investment may go into green renewable energy, another piece of it may be going into banking, banks may be investing a portion of that in non-fossil industries; therefore, it is hard to say how much is effectively divested.
 - Scott: Regarding the document, major improvements are needed, from wording to references
 - Owen: College Foundation should divest from fossil fuels, without hurting the student's lifestyle
 - We will work on this document a little longer (2+ meetings) to have time for everyone to read it and comment on it
 - Today's discussion may be incorporated into the document
 - We may look into investments, how and where to divest
 - Point of contact: Rigoberto Melgar, let him know if any other comments
4. SUNY Student Assembly
- Craig: Do we carve a chunk out of our budget to send a voting delegate to the Student Assembly (\$230)?
 - Student Life and USA were contacted, but have not responded. Need to pay for the registration and accommodation, without travel expenses is \$230.
 - Eugene: Hotel Room may be available through USA.
 - John: Budget for next year possibly and check the agenda and see if it's worth to attend.
 - Eugene: In the past, they sent out a list of all the business to be voted ahead of time for people to discuss in their organization and decide how to vote on this.
 - We will follow-up with the agenda and decide if it's worth to finance for someone to attend during next semester. If it is, this item will be included in the budget
5. Round-table updates from Committees
- Committee updates will be added to all the meetings' agenda, as suggested by John

- International (Natalia): The International Night is in 2 weeks, one of the performers won't be present, hopefully a replacement will be found soon. It's all planned but not necessarily completed. You are still on time to suggest any performance.
 - Belly dancer wants to have a booth to sell their merchandising, would this be possible? Would an authorization be necessary?
 - Eugene: shouldn't be a problem cause people
 - Craig: check with the business office
- Professional Development (Tom):
 - There have been 2 successful events this semester. The first one was "All you need to know to Defend", to which 20 people attended. The second event was an informational session about Grants, where GSA grants were showcased and guidelines about the Pivot database were given.
 - Potentially, there are two events coming in the fall, one about Candidacy Examination and one about Research Software. A large amount of information will need to be retrieved to put together the first event, as there are three different formats for candidacy exams and within the same format, requirements vary among departments.
- Social (Owen): The Halloween TG went really well. Beverages lasted until the time set for the end of the event. Also, a large amount of people attended, about 130. Upcoming events:
 - Sunday 17th Harvest Potluck 5-7 at Nifkin. BYOB
 - December 7th, Winter Ball. Location: TBD.
- Speakers (Mat): The committee is currently recruiting students for Noon in Moon. Additionally, it's looking for State speakers and has contacted Heather Engelman from women in science. SU speakers or events contacts are appreciated:
 - Owen: the Central New York chapter of the Air and Waste Management Association (CNY AWMA) has speakers in every monthly meeting. They will be having their next meeting on November 19th.
 - Craig: OCC: Sweet lecture series.
- Treasurer:
 - Citi Bank credit card: It's been processed, but the physical card has not been received.

- Budget: Allison will e-mail person in charge to figure out if they have an exact number for GSA budget.
- o Craig: GSO has been directed to the Bursar's Office to arrange how to receive the fees paid by ESF Students
- o Ely: Can we please print fliers in color? There is a GSA account for copies and posters. Allison: maybe we can get color copies with that account. There is confusion about how to get copies and posters. For details, senators may review the document "GSA Process and People to know"
- o USA: Eugene was invited to Faculty Governance awards board.
 - GSA members are asked to nominate faculty members for the award of excellence in teaching. Send an e-mail to Eugene to nominate

6. Miscellaneous

- o Instructional Quality and Academic Standard (Allison)
 - Grading policy: a document with everything related to grading is being developed, feedback and ideas from students are welcome
 - Example: Sometimes professors do not submit grades and the grade appears as (NR). With the new Policy, the department will take care of this kind of issue.
- o Elections (Craig): all GSA Senators are encouraged to start with the promotion of the elections and recruit GSA members for the positions.
 - Reminder: Every Senator needs to be in a Committee
- o Union Association
 - Sign up for it: TAs & GA
- o Final note on the Divestment Document: senators will read the document, gather information and provide inputs. In the following meeting, we will discuss if we are ready to vote or we need further discuss the topic.

7. Meeting close

- o Motion to adjourn the meeting: Natalia Cagide
- o Second: Owen Hunter
- o Unanimously Approved

Attendance:

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar
2. John Wiley
3. Natalia Cagide
4. Tom Taggart
5. Owen Hunter
6. Matt Regan
7. Eileen Leon
8. Allison Oakes
9. Ely Margolis
10. Christopher Foelker
11. Eugene Law
12. Melisa Keskin
13. Hope Ansanelli
14. Jonathan Masih Das
15. Emily Handelman
16. Katie Batill
17. Becky Meissner
18. Stacey Mack
19. Forrest Baird
20. Rigoberto Melgar
21. N. Scott Bergey
22. Yunyun Bi