



## Summary

GSA Senators met with Joseph Rufo, Vice President for Administration, on Friday, November 8th. Some of the topics discussed during the meeting were: Alcohol liability and Special Event Insurance, Sponsorship for GSA attendance to the SUNY Conference, Mechanisms to finance Grants and ITS Services. Mr. Rufo was very receptive to all the topics addressed by the Senators.

## New Business

1. SUNY Student Assembly: The GSA was invited to the SUNY Student Assembly Conference, but it was impossible to allocate funds for it, as the invitation was received long after the annual budget allocation
  - o The President's Office could fund the participation of a GSA Senator in the Conference during the spring semester, only for this time as the invitation was received after the budget allocation. In the following years, GSA will have to allocate funding for this item if it's interested in sending a representative.
2. ITS: There is a constant issue with signing out equipment (microphone) from ITS. This procedure needs to be linked to an account, for which a faculty member needs to sign it out. Doug Morrison (GSA Faculty Advisor) currently takes care of it, but a mechanism for the GSA to sign out equipment directly would be a better choice.
  - o Access to equipment by GSA: a link to GSA account could be a possibility; this is something that the administration will look into.
  - o Service by ITS: the administration is aware of extensive issues with ITS services and is working towards improvement.
3. Alcohol Liability: At the beginning of the fall 2013, it was brought to the student's attention (GSA and USA) that we do not count with alcohol liability in our general

liability insurance. Because of this, TG events (where alcohol is served by students) can no longer be held on campus. In this matter, the GSA Social Committee faces: 1) The necessity to hold these events at the Inn Complete 2) Increased costs in food and drinks 3) Reduced choices in terms of food and drinks; and it has been looking for potential solutions.

- Alcohol liability Insurance: The Office of Student Affairs has been in contact with the current Insurance Company, but they have been unable to provide a quote for including alcohol liability in the current insurance policy. In this aspect, Mr. Rufo will meet with Dean Lombard to find a permanent solution for the issue or explore other insurance companies, if necessary.
  - Special event insurance: For the end of the semester TG, the Social Committee would like to purchase “Special event insurance”, which corresponds to General Liability Insurance (including alcohol liability) for a single event. This has a cost of \$250 and will solve the issue only for this occasion. Mr. Rufo agrees to this option, as long as this works within legal boundaries.
  - Waiver: For some other events, held at SU, students are required to sign a waiver to participate. This reduces liability on the part of the University and GSA wonders if this could be an option to solve the issue. Mr. Rufo indicates that this could be a good idea, as it would protect the GSA and the school in case of any issues, but it does not replace alcohol liability insurance.
4. Grants: The Grants and Awards Committee provides Travel and Research Grants throughout the year, which are normally received through a refund mechanism. The committee would like to explore other possibilities, such as having an account to which grantees can bill their expenses (e.g. tickets)
- The administration will look into it, to see if there is any possibility for such a mechanism.
5. Euclid Bike Lane: There is a community initiative to implement a Bike Lane in Euclid
- The administration is in favor of it, as it will increase safety for drivers and bikers, and is glad that it's being brought to the awareness of the city.
6. Fossil Fuel Divestment: As part of a fuel divestment campaign ongoing in schools around the country, the USA approved a Fossil Fuel Divestment Petition, addressing the College Foundation, requesting efforts to divest from Fossil Fuel Investment. The GSA Senate has discussed this initiative, but there is concern among senators about the applicability or real impact that such action may have.
- The administration and most people at SUNY-ESF agree on the necessity to divest from fossil fuels. However, such efforts are not applicable, as the College Foundation is an independent organization. Moreover, the Foundation invests in full portfolios of stocks and it would be difficult (if not impossible) to ask for a

section of a portfolio and leave out fossil fuel based companies. A more applicable approach would be suggesting investment in non-fossil fuel based companies.

**Attendance:**

GSA Senate

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|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Craig Lazzar       | President                   |
| 2. John Wiley         | VP of Grants and Awards     |
| 3. Eileen Leon        | Secretary                   |
| 4. Allison Oakes      | Treasurer                   |
| 5. Eugene Law         | USA Representative          |
| 6. Jonathan Masih Das | Syracuse GSO Representative |
| 7. Doug Morrison      | Faculty Advisor             |