



Reminders:

- Next Official GSA Meeting will be held on **December 2nd**, after Thanksgiving Break

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - o Quorum - Yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from October 28th, 2013
 - o Motion to Approve Minutes from October 28th, 2013: Owen Hunter
 - o Second: Ingrid Brofman
 - o Unanimously approved

New Business:

1. Meeting with Joe Rufo (Craig Lazzar):
 - o GSA Senators met with Joseph Rufo, Vice President for Administration, on Friday, November 8th.
 - o 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.

- Details about the meeting can be found in the document “11.08.13 Minutes – Meeting with Joe Rufo”.
2. Financial status (Allison Oakes)
- Final numbers for the GSA budget were received from the Bursar’s office. The estimate made at the beginning of the semester differs from the real number in \$475. These additional \$475 will be set in “miscellaneous” to be allocated later.
 - The GSA procurement card was received by the treasurer and it’s under her name. If any Senator needs to use it, will have to sign it out with Allison, carefully save all the receipts and return it with the receipts.
3. International night (Natalia Cagide)
- Besides some small technical issues with the music, International Night went really well, with about 80-120 attendees.
 - Expenses for the event account for a total of \$745, of which \$80 were spent on decorations, \$360 in Indian food, \$230 in Middle East food, \$100 in cookies and pastries, and \$45 in a belly dancer.
 - Additionally, the OIGS co-sponsored the event with a collaboration of \$250
 - Allison Oakes: Original Budget for International Night was \$1500
 - Natalia: savings from the original budget, of about \$750, will be used for a new event “Chinese Night”, to be held in the spring.
 - Craig: For future events, it may be recommendable to have an idea of how many guests (non-ESF grads) attend this event, and maybe consider a sponsorship (from USA or SU GSO) or a ticketed mechanism. This will help cover expenses and will make it fairer for ESF grad students who pay the student fee. Additionally, that extra income will allow better access to food, drinks, etc. Is there any accounting for SU Students (Ingrid)? There isn’t any real count on that (Natalia)
4. Committee Updates
- Speakers and Presentations (Matt Regan): There will be a Noon in Moon event: Anna Ebers will present on Nov 22nd. Adaptive peaks, speakers at EFB will have Paige Warren, urban ecologist. Matt has been in contact with people in the Biology dept. at SU and the Committee will meet before the end of the semester to plan for the spring.
 - Social (Owen Hunter):
 1. November 17th 5-7 Nifkin, Harvest Potluck with Movie & Games.

2. Insurance

1. The Social Committee was authorized to purchase Special event Insurance for \$250 for the TGIO event at the end of the semester. This would allow the Committee to have the event on campus and to buy items for the event at a better price. The Committee requests this amount from the GSA Budget, as its own was already cut during the budget allocation for this academic year.
2. Motion to Approve \$250 for Special Event Insurance: Stacey Mack
3. Second: Matt Regan
4. Unanimously Approved

5. Student Life Committee:

- ESF will nominate students for the Chancellor award of SUNY; only undergrads will be eligible for nominations because the school can only nominate 2 students.
- They will like to discuss the possibility of creating an award for grad students. If GSA wants to do this, they would help, but it would be a non-monetary award. Options for selection process could be: nominated, self-nominated, nominated by GSA.
- Allison will take this idea to the Grants and Awards Committee.

6. Chancellor Award for Excellence in Teaching (Eugene Law)

- There were two faculty member nominations on the part of GSA Senators: Dr Chuck Kroll (ERE) and Dr Shijie Liu (BPE)
- The Board would like to have only one nominee from the GSA
- Ely will set-up a poll and an e-mail will be sent out to the grad student body for them to vote, if they want to support any of those nominations. The Faculty with more support will be posted as the GSA nominee

7. Qualification Policy (Allison)

- There is a new Policy in development, some important elements included in it are:
 1. Final Examinations: It will no longer be allowed to have an examination, a presentation & a project during the exams period. Therefore, instructors will have to decide to have only ONE of those during that period. Others can be requested, but the due date should be earlier in the semester. This will reduce the work load for students during that hectic period.

2. Repeating Courses: There has been discussion about whether failed courses records should be kept in the Transcript or not.
8. Benefits from SU GSO (Scott)
 - Drumlins Country Club: It came to our attention that there are no benefits for ESF grads at the club, only SU students receive benefits. This is a new policy, ESF grads were entitled to equal benefits than SU students until last semester. There is no clarity on whether the re-negotiation of our benefits included the Country Club or not.
 - This topic will need follow up from the SU GSO Representatives
 9. Adjourn the Meeting
 - Motion adjourn the meeting: Forrest Baird
 - Second: Becky Meissner
 - Unanimously Approved

Upcoming events:

- Potluck Sunday, November 17th, 5-7pm, Nifkin Lounge
- Noon in Moon with Anna Ebers: November 22nd

Attendance:

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar
2. Natalia Cagide Elmer
3. Owen Hunter
4. Matt Regan
5. Eileen Leon
6. Allison Oakes
7. Ely Margolis
8. Eugene Law
9. Melisa Keskin
10. Emily Handelman
11. Becky Meissner
12. Stacey Mack
13. Forrest Baird
14. Darya Karpenko
15. Ingrid Brofman
16. Rigoberto Melgar
17. Yunyun Bi
18. N. Scott Bergey
19. Doug Morrison