



Summary

We discussed:

- Graduate Bill of Rights
- Graduation cords
- The issue of all SUNY schools losing access to Elsevier
- Winter ball is coming up on December 12th from 8-11pm
- Biweekly meeting time will be decided sometime after New Year's

General meeting

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - Quorum: yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from 11.19.14
 - Motion to Approve Minutes: Laura Bartock
 - Second: Leanna Kirschen
 - Unanimously approved

New Business

1. Graduate Bill of Rights document updates
 - Scott Bergey: BoR did not pass; professors were against the signature part of the document.
 - One person proposed amending the title to “guidelines” to make the document less binding. Due to this change, many edits will have to be made to the document.
 - A task force will be created to amend the BoR and there will be equal representation of graduate students and faculty to do this.
 - Scott Bergey: Does anyone think the signature should remain?

1. Alison: The signature is supposed to show that the faculty member and student have both read the document, and no one should be opposed to that.
 2. The signature may also not be legal; we may have to get the campus lawyer involved.
 - The signature part remains the biggest issue, and if the college lawyer says this is not legally binding, the issue may no longer be an issue.
 1. Eugene: Can this document just be a template, rather than a contract?
 2. Alison: Make the BoR editable.
 - Becky: Try to keep the most important points in the document to not overwhelm incoming students.
 - Jay: Separate the signature from the BoR that just states that the student and major professor sat down and discussed the template in regards to their own, individualized relationship.
 - Doug Morrison: the signature makes the MP-student relationship legitimate and holds the MP accountable and the document should be fined.
 - Emily: How have other schools handles these documents and the required signatures?
 - Jay: does a local school have a graduate BoR?
 1. Scott: yes, Upstate does.
 2. Jay: Maybe we can invite someone from Upstate to come discuss how they were able to succeed with passing the document.
2. Speakers VP, EFB3, LA, ERE, and GSO3
- Speakers VP and GSO position replacements can come from any department
 - No interest in LA position yet.
 - Not sure of interest level in ERE department either.
 - EFB, LA, and ERE reps: an email needs to be sent to all members within each department to let them know of the open position.
 - Alex Poisson expressed interest in becoming VP of Speakers
 - Motion to Approve Alex as VP of Speakers and Presentations: Laura Bartock
 - Second: Becky Fuda
 - Unanimously approved
 - Scott will send out an email stating that the USA and GSO positions are open
 - Laura Gonzalez wants to be ERE representative for next semester
3. Budget update
- Alison: We have an extra \$1,850 that can be allocated now or later.
 - Scott: If you're committee is running over budget, now's a good time to catch up.
 - Scott: Unless there's anything pressing, we can keep this money in the general fund until the first meeting of the spring semester. This money can also go towards graduation cords.

4. GSA cord payment options
 - Total spent was \$393.20 for 100 cords (about \$4 a cord)
 - Options: pay out of pocket as you receive it, use it then give back after graduation, or pay as the senate and use as a “gift” for future GSA members
 - Jay: against using the funding of GSA for this because the money we have for GSA should go towards students this academic year.
 - Some students are in favor of paying \$4 to keep the cord, and some are in favor in paying \$15 each to make this a gift from the senate for incoming students in the future.
 - Alison: Use \$100 of this year’s budget for this years senate, and then pay out of pocket for the rest.
 - Hayley: Are we going to make some sort of document or deposit to use or buy the cords?
 - Scott: We will probably do a deposit system.
 - Motion to allocate \$393.20 to reimburse the P-card:
 - Second: Alison Oakes
 - Unanimously approved
 - Alison: cords are going to kept in 217 Marshall
5. GSA response to Elsevier issue
 - Scott: **all of SUNY** is losing access to Elsevier. We will still have access to some articles that are already published (prior to January 1, 2015). Our only option is to walk over to SU, go on their Wi-Fi, and access Elsevier. Anyone who needs remote access to Elsevier will not be able to use it. Try to make yourself available to friends who may need Elsevier remotely by being able to send PDF’s to friends.
6. Next semester planning
 - We need a new time to meet next semester, Scott will send out a doodle poll after New Year’s to poll senate members about biweekly meeting time.
 - We need to start thinking about elections now.
 - Ely: potentially change the title ‘Webmaster’ to ‘Communications VP’

Motion to adjourn: Laura Bartock

Second: Ely Margolis

Unanimously approved

Committee Updates

- Speaker:
 1. Speaker scheduled for 2/18/15 during college hour.
- Social:
 1. Winter ball dates were printed incorrectly and will be edited.
- Professional Development: N/A
- Grants and Awards: N/A
- International: N/A

Upcoming events

- Winter ball is on December 12th from 8-11pm

Attendance

GSA Senate

1. Scott Bergey - President
2. Jonathan Masih Das -VP Grants and Awards (absent)
3. YunYun Bi -VP of International Activities (left early at 1:03pm)
4. Stacey Mack -VP of Professional Development
5. Eileen Leon -VP of Social Activities (absent)
6. Vacant -VP of Speakers and Presentations
7. Hayley Kopelson - Secretary
8. Alison Oakes - Treasurer
9. Ian McColl - SU GSO Representative
10. Keshav Sauba - SU GSO Representative (absent)
11. Peter Kwon - SU GSO Representative (absent)
12. Leanna Kirschen - Environmental Studies Representative
13. Colin Bragg - SCME representation (absent)
14. Emily Handelman - Landscape Architecture Representative
15. Xolile Maphanga - ERE Representative (absent with a proxy)
16. Emma Putman - PBE representative (left early at 1:30pm)
17. Veronica Gonzalez - FNRM Representative (I) (absent)
18. Becky Fuda - Environmental Forest Biology Representative (I)
19. Jay Wason - Environmental Forest Biology Representative (II)
21. Vacant - EFB (III)
22. Mirian Calderon - Environmental Science Representative (I) (absent)
23. Laura Bartock - Environmental Science Representative (II)
24. Rick Joseph - Chemistry Representative (arrived late at 1:03pm)
25. Doug Morrison - Faculty Advisor
26. Eugene Law - Board of Trustees
27. Ely Margolis - Webmaster
28. Alex Poisson - USA representative

Guests

Becky Meissner as a proxy for Xolile Maphanga