



### Reminders:

- First Official GSA Meeting of the Spring 2014: Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:45-1:50pm

### General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
  - o Quorum: Yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013:
  - o Motion to Approve Minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013: John Wiley
  - o Second: Scott Bergey
  - o Unanimously approved
4. Review and approval of minutes from Meeting with Joseph Rufo, held on November 8<sup>th</sup>:
  - o Motion to approve minutes from Meeting with Joseph Rufo, held on November 8<sup>th</sup>: Scott Bergey
  - o Second: Owen Hunter
  - o Unanimously approved

### Old Business:

1. Update on the Alcohol Policy (Owen)

- ESF Alcohol Policy was Updated in the past days
  - From now on, events where alcohol is served can only be held on campus with a properly licensed and insured caterer. This is the case of the Inn Complete, which we can continue to use for TGs or other events
2. Liability Insurance Payment (Allison):
- The former GSA Senate agreed to pay \$3000 for Insurance. These funds were allocated in this year's budget, but since there is no alcohol liability and TG events are no longer hold on campus, we may want to re-visit our options in terms of Insurance or re-negotiate the amount to be paid
  - Eugene: considering that USA, with numerous clubs and events, pays \$18,000 (out of a \$200,000 budget) for insurance; it does not seem fair that GSA pays about 15% of its budget
  - John: we may explore the possibility of getting our own General Liability Insurance, if that is more convenient
  - Craig will meet Laura Crandall and get more information about it. Payment is postponed until next semester, after having discussed our possibilities.

## **New Business:**

1. Outstanding bill from last semester's TGIO at the Inn Complete
- A bill for \$1000 from the spring 2013 is due to the Inn Complete. Scott: There is no urgency, the staff still allowed us to reserve the Inn Complete for the next TG events. Scott will send this bill to Allison.
  - Allison: funds for that event were budgeted; they were never spent and mistakenly rolled over. There is \$474 unallocated, which can be used to pay this bill.
  - Committee VPs will revise their budgets, by indicating their actual expenses during this fall 2013, and send them to Allison before the first day of classes. Those will be reviewed and discussed during the first meeting of the spring. Unspent funds will be re-allocated to pay the Inn Complete.
2. Listserv Access
- John: The office of communications restricts access to the listserv. . We are only allowed one access point, and it's through the President. We have looked into this in the past, and we cannot get another access to the listserv.

- E-mails to the grad listserv [ESF GRADS@listserv.syr.edu](mailto:ESF_GRADS@listserv.syr.edu) can be sent a few days in advance to be approved by a moderator. While this mechanism could help in contingent situations, all communications must be sent to the President for him to send them out as the official GSA voice.
3. Set first meeting for next semester (Classes begin Mon Jan 13th)
- College Hour Wednesday 15: 12:45-1:50pm
  - Motion to approve schedule for the First Official GSA Meeting of the Spring 2014 as Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:45-1:50pm: Rigo Melgar
  - Second: Natalia Cagide
  - Unanimously approved
  - First Official GSA Meeting of the Spring 2014 will be held on Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:45-1:50pm
4. Orientation for new students
- GSA needs to coordinate with OIGS to welcome in new Grads the week of Jan 7th (the week before classes reconvene)
  - Orientation Day will be on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 10-1pm in 110 Moon. Help is needed for the panel section (and possibly) for setting up.
  - Interested Senators: Eileen, Rigo, Forest, John, maybe Craig
5. Committee Updates
- Speakers: There was a “Noon in Moon” event held before Thanksgiving Break, besides low attendance, it went pretty well.
  - Grants and Awards (John):
    1. During the SUNY Chancellor Awards discussion, a potential award for graduate students, non-monetary, was mentioned. As GSA already has awards, an additional symbolic award does not make much sense and there is no interest in participating.
    2. There were 9 Research Grants submitted, 3 will be allocated. The Committee will be meeting on Fridays, the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to review the proposals. Volunteers to help out with this are welcome.

- Professional:
  1. Spotlight on Research: (Craig) Dr Philippe Vidon is in charge and will probably start the planning 2 months in advance. (Tom) There has already been communication about what will be the responsibilities of the GSA and which will correspond exclusively to the organization of the event.
  2. Candidacy examination: There will be a new event in the spring, where the topic of Candidacy Examination for PhDs will be addressed. Department Representatives are encouraged to contact faculty members in their departments who would be willing to collaborate (by putting together a short presentation and participating in the panel). Candidacy Examination practices and policies differ among departments. Craig: The information gathered could be used to create a document or similar for constant access, this could be done in collaboration with the Office of Graduate Studies (Suzette Vanderburg).
- 6. New President at ESF (Craig)
  - Should there be a letter from the GSA Senate to introduce ourselves to the new President?
  - Most Senators state that scheduling a meeting with the New President would be a better idea
- 7. Elections (Craig Lazzar)
  - Elections need early preparation, should start about two months before the actual election to have the poll set on time, as this needs to be arranged with the Office of Communications
  - All senators may help recruit new members for next year, especially those leaving their position
  - Craig is planning to run again for President, but he encourages anyone who's interested to run against him.
- 8. Miscellaneous
  - There is a Christmas Concert in Hendricks Chapel on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>, how could this event be promoted at ESF campus? (Natalia) Contacting Laura Crandall for her to promote it may be the best choice (Eileen).
- 9. Adjourn the meeting

- Motion to Adjourn the meeting: Natalia Cagide
- Second: Forrest Baird
- Unanimously approved

**Upcoming events:**

- TGIO (Winter Ball): December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8-11pm @The Inn Complete
- SU GSO Events:
  - Wine Tasting: Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30pm @The Inn Complete
  - Free donuts and coffee: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm @SU Quad

**Attendance:**

GSA Senate

1. Craig Lazzar
2. John Wiley
3. Natalia Cagide Elmer
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. Emily Handelman
14. Becky Meissner
15. Forrest Baird
16. Darya Karpenko
17. Rigo Melgar
18. Yunyun Bi
19. N. Scott Bergey
20. Katie Batill