



Reminders:

- Next Meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 20th 12:45-1:45
- A new EFB Representative is needed to take Brent Johnson's place.
- The Speaker Series Committee is looking for help with their events if anyone has the spare time.
- Put your committee's events on the GSA calendar to keep from having overlapping events!

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
3. Review and approval of Constitution Amendment meeting minutes from 1/16/2013
 - o Motion to Approve Minutes: Abbie Larkin
 - o Second: Scott S
 - o Unanimously Approved
4. Review and approval of meeting minutes from 1/23/2013
 - o Changes made to write bylaws uniformly throughout, David Dzwonkowski's name spelling, 'by that' was changed to 'by' and minor structural/grammar edits.
 - o Motion to Approve Minutes: Jes Bouchard
 - o Second: Stacey Mack
 - o Unanimously approved

Old Business:

1. Update on GSO-GSA graduate student fee issue (Scott Sveiven and Jess Bouchard, GSO Reps)
 - After the last meeting a message was received from the GSO President to revisit the issue. The overview is attached. ESF fees only go toward Service Provider Payments mentioned in graphs while the \$80 that SU students pay goes toward other things such as Grant Funding, Dept. and Org. Allocations, Executive and Contractor Compensation and Benefits and GSO programming. The fee has not changed in 10 years, giving us equivalent access to the benefits of membership by only paying \$15. The law school pays \$30 per academic year and GSO would like us to increase our fees to that same amount. Graphs show that even if we pay the \$30 and double our payment we are still receiving much more in services than what we would pay, so there may be no reason to attempt to adjust our price below \$30. ESF students have the opportunity to access the grant funding etc. that SU offers to its students but only if fees are further increased beyond the \$30. The mechanism to increase this fee is still unclear. The trail for that money goes from the ESF to SU Bursar's office and then into the GSO account. It may be difficult to negotiate specific services that we want and do not want. We have the option of discontinuing the services and fee all together or negotiating a fee between \$15 and \$30 as well. Another negotiating point may be to have a set number of years that this new fee will stay in effect. Will find out from David Dzwonkowski if more money from the student fees ESF students already pay can be used toward the increase in GSO fees. This way students would not actually need to pay more.
 - The food discount (%20) at the Inn Complete is the main service students use that is offered through the GSO services (Scott). The Inn Complete would run at a deficit without the money provided by GSO, which is why priority is given to graduate student events (Todd).
 - The information on services provided by GSO is listed on our website but not provided in any other formal way. In the survey 71% of students stated that they were aware of the services provided by GSO fees. The lack of promotion of these services could very well be why they are under utilized. Informational emails every semester would be a good way to inform students of these services, as well as information being handed out at Graduate Student Orientation.
 - Another problem is that ESF students have a difficult time signing up for GSO events (via Orange Link) and that will need to be addressed along with the fee issue.
2. GA Stipends (Kapil Mandrekar and Erica Tauzer)
 - Met with Bruce Bongarten and Dean Shannon on Monday, they are well aware of the issue and want to increase student stipends as well. The main issue is that there is no money to pull from to give to these stipends. Money is extremely tight across the SUNY system. They are very interested in helping us and supporting the survey. Brenda Greenfield is running a campaign that will hopefully lead to

donations that can be allocated toward stipends. Dean Shannon is organizing a meeting to get feedback from the faculty. The decisions of how TAs are played out are decided at the department level. We would like to have the survey submitted this month and out to students this semester, we do not yet know if the stipend increase is a need for the entire graduate student body.

- Any further edits needed to the survey, please send them. An overview of the survey was passed around and will be attached with the minutes, this will make it easier to review the topics of the survey in question. Experienced survey writers will be consulted to ensure that the questions asked will yield the information needed.

New Business:

1. Appointment of Vice President of Speakers and Presentations-Brent Johnson
 - Whitney LM proposed appointing Brent as VP
 - Unanimously agreed upon
 - Anyone looking to be an EFB Representative, please let us know because we have a vacancy now that Brent is Vice President.
2. Amendments to Bylaws: Review of Part I, Introduction of Part II.
 - All suggested changes are in a document and will be sent out later. At the next meeting we will discuss changes to Part I as well as changes to Part II.
 - Comments on Part II should be submitted by Monday, February 18.
3. Overview of Website Changes
 - The general website format was unchanged but the new format of committee sections was updated on the website. Lindsey tried to take out any unnecessary info. All committees will have tabs for past events so that students will have an idea of what to expect in a semester and new GSA Senate members will know what is expected of them. Would like the committee sections to be uniform, please look through your own committee page to be sure there is no information missing.
 - Right now there is a forum under the 'Social Committee' but it is not overly used. The Facebook page is used in the same way and more people utilize it, a link to the FB page will be added in place of the forum. Committee tabs will be adjusted to be easier to use on smaller computer screens.
4. Discussion of BYOB events with Dean Lombard
 - Dean Lombard needs to know about the event to give verbal approval if you cannot get the appropriate alcohol forms to Doug Morrison two weeks beforehand, forms will still need to be turned in prior to event. BYOB will be

difficult on our end to be sure that people are not drinking more than one drink per hour. We are currently writing up a proposal with Dean Lombard to allow BYOB for gatherings under 50 ppl and for Graduate students only. She is looking into whether or not this can officially be done, hopefully we will know by the end of this week. Potentially the Chili Cook Off event would be the test run of this idea.

- Dean Lombard would like us to be regulating not only the amount but the rate at which students are drinking. We do not want all TG events to be BYOB because we would need many people to run events in terms of GSA Senate volunteers (Dave).

5. Academic Grievance Policy Revision

- This will not have a huge impact on grad students but we should be informed. There are more steps in the process now, some things can now be dealt with at the department level. Is simply changing the procedure, not who can bring grievances against whom etc. It has been written into the proposal that the pool of students to participate during proceedings would be members of USA and GSA Senate. This may be difficult considering all of the other obligations GSA Senate members fill for different committees. Whitney LM would like to comment that they should extend this pool to all GSA and not just the GSA Senate because of all the other committee obligations we undertake.

6. USA Representative Updates

- Owen Hunter is currently attending a student forum with Bruce Bongarten about changes to the number of credits ESF students are allowed to take at SU for ESF prices and credit.
- Laura Crandell is on Maternity, Katherine Miller is her replacement for the time. USA wants to be more involved with GSA, one thing they would like to accomplish is having a representative of USA at the GSA meetings.

7. Committee Updates

- Speaker: Had a successful event yesterday.
- Social: Dave will be able to help set up for the TG this Friday
- Professional Development: Will need at least 6 volunteers for Elevator Pitch/Research Mixer Event in Gateway because it will be more difficult to serve alcohol in the larger space, especially considering that Prof. Dev. Committee members will have other obligations during the event.
- Grants and Awards: Will be requesting \$150 added to the GSA budget; \$50 for food during a grant research workshop to be held on February 27th at 3:30pm and \$100 toward food and drink for the grant review committees during review hours. There may be money left after these events and we can adjust our budget accordingly in future semesters.

1. Motion for \$150 to be allocated to Grants and Awards Committee from the Miscellaneous Fund: Steve Balogh
 2. Second: Scott S
 3. Unanimously approved
- International: Need volunteers to put up fliers for the international panel.

Upcoming events:

- Friday February 8: TG in Nifkin Lounge (Social)
- Feb 13-Graduate student Emily Gates, "Taking Notice: Making the Landscape Visible, the Role of the Museum." 110 Moon at 12pm with light refreshments to follow.
- Tuesday, February 19: 5-6pm –International Student Rights Panel in Nifkin
- Wednesday, February 20: 12:45-1:50pm. GSA Senate Meeting.

- Feb 21-Dr. Patricia Wright from Stony Brook University, Adaptive Peaks talks are at 4pm in Illick 5.
- Sunday Feb. 24: Chili/Cornbread Cook-off (Social)

- Wednesday February 27, 12:45-1:50 Preparing Your Defense, Capstone, or Candidacies (Prof. Dev.)
- Wednesday, Feb. 27th at 3:30pm in Moon 19, Research Grant Workshop.
- Friday, March 1: Travel Grant Applications Due.
- Friday, March 1: Ice Skating at Tennity Pavilion and TG at the Inn Complete

Attendance:

GSA Senate

Whitney Lash Marshall
Stacey Mack
David Schmidt
Lindsey Perez
Ari Engelberg
Prajakta Dongre
Jes Bouchard
Matt Regan
Abbie Larkin
Scott Sveiven
Michelle Heirholzer
Kelly Ramos Bancroft
Emily Hughes
Whitney Carleton
Brent Johnson

Alex Levine
Steve Balogh
Tom Taggart
Doug Morrison
Craig Lazzar

Guests

Erica Tauzer
Todd Metcalfe