



Reminders:

- Nominations for next year's senate will close on March 22nd at <http://www.esfgsa.com/nominations.html>

General meeting:

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
 - o Quorum - Yes
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from February 26th, 2014
 - o Motion to Approve Minutes from February 26th, 2014: Owen Hunter
 - o Second: Scott Bergey
 - o Unanimously approved

Old Business:

1. ITS Camera Feed Issue (Jesse Crandall)
 - o There is audio/video feed in many classrooms on campus (Baker Lab and Illick, specifically in rooms set up for video conferencing. This equipment has been there for a long time and is sometimes visible, but not always. Basically, anytime there is a light blinking, video and audio are being monitored.
 - o Purpose of the cameras: Supposedly, the system is there to allow quick maintenance and for video conferencing. However, we may all have

experienced, while trying to teach a class, malfunctioning of the equipment, without such response. In fact, we have to call, be advised to re-set the equipment and, in the best case scenario, get the equipment to work much later, resulting in the class being delayed. Similarly, the video conferencing function doesn't seem to justify it. I was asked for such a set up by another institution (for which I work) and when consulting ITS about the use of this conference room to stream to this Institution, they recommended the use of Skype instead of the system they supposedly have set for this purpose.

- Access to live streaming: it is not clear who has access to this streaming. There is concern about Department Chairs potentially asking to access it. There have been comments from students who work at ITS about watching a class and having no need to attend.
- I am also concerned about our academic freedoms (I have contacted the Union Representative about it) Some important elements
 1. TAs or students disclosure of academic records, random people accessing our teaching material and disclosing this info to others (intellectual property and grades). FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) is a Federal Law that is intends to warrantee the privacy of academic information and those warrantees are being jeopardized
 2. Institutional control on the way we convey knowledge or the opinions expressed by our students The classroom should be safe and productive, where our opinions and those of our students can be discussed with freedom and without concern of being watched
- These operations are definitely unethical and, some of them, even illegal. In my opinion, there shouldn't be cameras. If we are to be monitored, we have the right to know it.
- Craig: It seems like the system is been there since 2008 and there is no recording, only live streaming
- Rigo: There is no video conferencing available, it was impossible to use this technology from campus when I requested it.
- Craig: I think it's clear that the cameras are not serving any the intended purposes
- Allison: even if they were serving a remote learning purpose, the process should be like the one used at Syracuse University, where the class is filmed, with everyone in the class being aware of it and then the record is send by e-mail to those allowed to access it

- Jesse: if there is a remote learning system available, everyone should be informed that the class being recorded and there should be full disclosure
- Ely: There are several matters of interest, such as having information, video and audio different,
- Resolution by the Faculty Governance
 1. Doug: The faculty Governance became aware of the presence of this camera. There is concern among faculty members, who mostly share the concerns expressed during the discussion. There are also additional concerns among faculty members, especially for those who are not currently tenured and may be under evaluation through this system, without knowing.
 2. Given lack of info about being monitored by staff and the lack of official procedures regulating this, the concerns about the disclosure of confidential meetings, the Faculty Governance has drafted a Resolution to ask ITS to turn off cameras and audio immediately and to start a discussion about this matter with a group of individuals representing a variety of organizations on campus
 3. The role of this group will be making recommendations to the faculty and administration regarding the use of webcams in the classroom, drafting the policies and procedures, which will be reviewed by SUNY ESF Legal Counsel, for webcams use and monitoring, should they be reinstated. Individuals from a variety of organization on campus should serve
 4. Craig: Doug Morrison (Faculty Advisor for GSA) will represent us during today's first meeting, since it's a short notice. He needs to leave now for the meeting, should we endorse the resolution?
 5. Eileen: we probably should, since it seems to represent the GSA concerns. And we should make a motion for it
 6. Motion to endorse the Resolution
 1. Motion to endorse the Resolution regarding the ITS Camera operation on campus, to be resolved by the Faculty Governance: Eugene Law
 2. Second: Owen
 3. Unanimously approved
 4. Doug Morrison (GSA representative for this matter in today's meeting) will communicate the Committee that we endorse their resolution

7. Craig: We will still need to find a representative for further participation in the Committee, anyone interested?
8. Rigo: I will be interested in representing the GSA in this Committee
9. Motion to appoint a Representative
 1. Motion to appoint Rigo Melgar as the GSA Representative in the Committee to discuss webcams and monitoring: Scott Bergey
 2. Second: Owen Hunter
 3. Unanimously approved
 4. Rigo Melgar will serve as GSA Representative for the Committee addressing the ITS webcams and monitoring topic. Contact him at remelgar@syr.edu with any further concerns

New Business:

1. GSO/GSA Integration (Craig)
 - I will have an update on Insurance in April, there will be a meeting with the insurance Representative on the 1st
 - I've been looking into getting Insurance with SU GSO instead of ESF USA, and it came to my attention that we may want to consider joining SU GSO. If we were to buy all services except for those that fund specific Departments or Schools, the total cost would be \$70 a year, and if we wanted to completely merge into SU GSO, that would be \$78, which will give us access to all their services. It may be cheaper for ESF grads to integrate fully with GSO for Student Activities
 - Would it be possible to buy additional services, but still stay separately? (Eugene)
 - It is unclear what do we currently have access to, through GSO. It seems like we don't have full access to Health Services, as an example.
 - Eugene: there is more about how fees are structured. Our access to SU Services is not only related to what we pay to SU GSO. Even if we didn't participate from SU GSO, we would still have access to other SU Services as we still pay fees to SU
 - Eileen: we pay a "SU Student Activities Fee" of \$15 that goes directly to SU GSO. Separately, we pay a "Student Services Fee" of around \$180, a part of it is the GSA fee and another part goes a variety of services that we get on campus, some of them provided by SU, such as Recreation Services

- Owen: Could we get our insurance through them without having to merge into SU GSO?
 - Craig: There is also that additional concern about grants, if we bought all the services, MPS Students could have access to them through GSO
 - Eileen: I don't think merging into GSO is the most cost-effective option for GSA, according to what I've seen of their budget. If we were to think of paying \$10 extra, that would be a total of more than \$4000 a year, which we (GSA) could use to have those grants or any extra services, exclusively for ESF Students. As I e-mailed to the President, it would be important to know exactly what extra benefits would we get and for how much, to have a better idea of what is our best option
 - Allison: I can find out the details about this
 - Silvia: It'd be great if there was more transparency about SU GSO Services, students are unaware of what exactly are we eligible for at SU GSO
2. Ongoing discovery of budget deficits (Allison)
- We have spent around \$2000 from the GSA procurement card and we have no receipts for that. I received some receipts today earlier, but I need to present them all by tomorrow, otherwise, we will lose the card
 - It came to my attention that about \$4000 spent from the procurement card last year remain unpaid
 1. In the budget report from last year everything was indicated as paid, but the payment apparently was not processed.
 2. I recently met with Michelle, my contact at the business office and we found these issues
 3. Ely: Is there any paperwork with records of those operations?
 4. Allison: There is paperwork of all operations until March, but nothing from April or May.
It's possible that the money was allocated, but never spent and when viewed in the account as available, it was mistakenly rolled over and included in this year's budget. I wonder whether we should try to gather the funds to pay for this or pass the debt on to be paid next year.
 5. Eileen: I believe we should have a special meeting, to discuss this issue exclusively. Ideally, current senators, anyone available from last year's GSA Senate and members from the business office should be present at the meeting. Given the large amount of funds involved, I don't think we

should make any decisions until we gather all the information and we have clarity about how and why this happened.

- Tom: I need to leave early, but I'd like to give a quick budget update before. I have \$250 that can be re-allocated if needed.
- Inn Complete
 1. There were two unpaid bills at the Inn, both from last year's TGIO (last TG of the semester) The first one was sent to this year's Social Committee and funds to pay for it were allocated. The second bill, for \$425, was sent to me. I would like to propose that these funds do not come from the Social Committee
 2. Allison: should we proceed to make a decision about the Inn Complete's outstanding bill of \$425?
 3. Owen: The Grants and Awards Committee has \$500 from a rejected Research Grant
 4. Craig: Is there anyone from the Grants and Awards Committee present to corroborate this information or should we wait until next meeting when John is present?
 5. Silvia: I am in the Committee and I think using the funds will be fine if John stated that they are available
 6. Allison: I am in the Grants and Awards Committee and I don't think we should postpone this payment any longer.
 7. Craig: Then, I request a motion for this
 8. Motion for payment of outstanding Inn Complete's bill:
 1. Motion to approve a payment of \$425 from the Grants and Awards: Owen Hunter
 2. Second: Allison Oakes
 3. Unanimously approved
 4. The Treasurer will process the payment of \$425 to the Inn Complete from outstanding funds of the Grants and Awards Committee
- 3. Elections (Ely)
 - A number of positions still remain without nominees

1. VP of International Activities
 2. VP of Social Activities
 3. Secretary
 4. Environmental Forest Biology Representatives (2)
 5. Environmental Science Representatives (2)
 6. Environmental Studies Representative
 7. FNRM Representative
 8. USO Representative
 9. SU GSO Representatives (3)
- Becky: If someone is graduating in December, would that person be eligible to nominate themselves as a GSA Senator? Eileen: There is no such reference in the GSA Bylaws, so that should not be a problem, a second person could take over once the first one graduates. Craig: Perhaps if someone is in that situation, they could include it in their statement with their nomination
 - It could be useful to add e-mails from current senators in the promotion for nomination, a message like "If you want to know more about this position, contact Natalia Cagide at nicagide@syr.edu" (Natalia)

4. Adjourn the Meeting

- Motion to adjourn the meeting: Rigo Melgar
- Second: Owen Hunter
- Unanimously approved

Upcoming events:

- Saint Patrick's TG: Friday, March 21st @The Inn Complete, TBD

Attendance:

GSA Senate

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| 1. Craig Lazzar | President |
| 2. Tom Taggart | VP of Professional Development |
| 3. Natalia Cagide | VP of International Activities |
| 4. Owen Hunter | VP of Social Activities |
| 5. Allison Oakes | Treasurer |
| 6. Eileen Leon | Secretary |
| 7. Ely Margolis | Webmaster / Communications |
| 8. Chris Foelker | Board of Trustees Representative |
| 9. Melisa Keskin | SU GSO Representative |
| 10. Jonathan Masih-Das | SU GSO Representative |
| 11. Emily Handelman | LSA Representative |
| 12. Becky Meissner | ERE Representative |
| 13. Stacey Mack | FNRM Representative |
| 14. Silvia Saldivar | EFB Representative |
| 15. Ingrid Brofman | GPES Representative |
| 16. Rigoberto Melgar | GPES Representative |
| 17. N. Scott Bergey | Chemistry Representative |
| 18. Doug Morrison | Faculty Advisor |

Guests

Jesse Crandall (Chemistry)