

# Reminders

* Department representatives: Please, e-mail Stacey Mack (VP of Professional Development) with info about next Faculty Meeting of your Department

# General meeting

1. President call to order
2. Roll call by Secretary
   * Quorum: 17
3. Review and approval of meeting minutes from
   * Motion to Approve Minutes: Laura Bartock
   * Second: Leanna Kirschen
   * Unanimously approved

# Old Business

1. Bylaws revisions (document attached)
   * Orientation Committee Formation
     1. Amendments for document:
        1. Add as potential chair of the Orientation Committee “any GSA member”, in case none of the incoming senators are available, an outgoing senator or a former volunteer for GSA could do it.
     2. Motion to Approve Bylaws Revisions according to the attached document with stated amendments: Alex Poisson
     3. Second: Laura Bartok
     4. Unanimously approved
   * Graduation Cords: current senate will pay for bought Cords ($14pp) as a gift for GSA.
     1. How to charge for cords?
        1. Any senator or former senator graduating can borrow a cord (for a $4 refundable deposit) or keep it for $4
        2. The Treasurer will keep an envelope with deposits and a record of who has borrowed a cord
        3. A record of current senators will be kept, for them to receive cords for free at the time of graduation
     2. How to manage cords’ funds
        1. Should each senate decide on how to use the funds??
        2. Most senators agree on the standing senate of each period deciding how to use this funds
     3. Motion to Approve Graduation Cords Bylaws amendments as attached plus discussed changes: Laura Bartock
     4. Second: Becky Fuda
     5. Unanimously approved
2. GSA Fee Increase
   * Scott: The survey results indicate that, from the people who answered the question, 68 responded yes to increase fees. However, there was a range of responses referring to the amount of the increase, with the majority around $5-10.
   * Eileen: What if we include fees’ increase in the Elections Voting? This way, we can do what the majority feels it’s fair.
   * Open discussion about whether there is a need for fees’ increases:
     1. Allison (treasurer): every year, we seem to have problems to spend the allocated money, with a couple of Committees finishing the year with extra money allocated
     2. Eileen: I think that we can get a good value from group purchases for recreational activities. There are many things that we can’t currently afford (outdoor activities, such as paintball or horseback riding), but we could with a larger budget.
   * Other fee increases (Eugene): There will be other fees’ increases next semester (coming from the school administration and related to the services we receive from SU), so this might not be the best time to think about a fee increase.
   * Most senators agree on waiting for a later period to re-discuss fee increases, after other fees are set
3. Tree Planting Idea
   * Alex Poisson: from the travel info provided by the Grants committee (Airline miles) a total of 20-25ton-CO2 of carbon emissions was calculated for one year of the Committee’s operation. This corresponds to about 600 coniferous trees. We could look into other species or other accounting metrics. Chestnuts are of interest in the area and there might be other species available on campus, so that we would not have to purchase the trees.
   * Allison Oakes: We should look into forest property to see if the school has land available for this project. There are species available on campus, which could likely be donated for this purpose.
   * Other entities, such as the city, communities in the area, or privates with empty lots could be interested in having trees planted.
   * Alex: Hayley works in the city county, she might be the right person to inquire about this
   * A couple of senators indicate that a smaller accounting could lead to an approachable goal for this year, or we could start with mitigating only a portion of the GSA’s carbon footprint for now. Most senators agree on that.

# Committee Updates

1. GSA Committees
   * Speakers (Alex):
     1. Upcoming event: “Boston Schoolyard Initiative” talk
        1. Guest speaker: Kristin Metz
        2. Wednesday, February 18th, Baker 146
        3. Theme: Partnership for STEM Education, Urban Gardens and Healthy Communities
     2. How to advertise events?
        1. Scott: listserv email, flyers, the school calendar, other calendars. E-mail Ely for posts on the GSA website and Facebook page.
   * Social: Next TG
     1. February 20th, time and place TBC
     2. We had planned this TG to be held at Munjed’s in Westcott, but they have not been very responsive. We tried to reserve Nifkin as a back-up plan, but it’s not available. We are thinking of other options, such as a bar downtown (Maxwell’s in Hannover is new, so they may have interest in offering us a good price). We want to know what Senators think and what their suggestions are.
     3. Suggestions: Suds, Danzer’s (German-American restaurant)
     4. Back-up plan: Gateway A/B, Baker 408, Inn Complete?
     5. Most Senators agree on Dinner at Gateway A/B as the best choice because of change-of-pace from Inn Complete/alcohol TGs, and the huge convenience of on-campus TG
   * Professional Development: Upcoming events
     1. Spotlight
        1. April 16-17
        2. Dept Reps: Stacey needs to attend the Faculty Meeting of each dept to fundraise for the event. Let her know when the next meeting is and whom to contact.
     2. Elevator pitch
        1. March 27
     3. All you need to know to defend: TBD
   * Grants and Awards:
     1. Good news! EFB gave $1000 for EFB grants
     2. Travel grants are open for applications
   * International:
     1. Upcoming event: International Movie Night
        1. Friday, Ferbuary 13th, 6-9pm,@ Nifkin Lounge
        2. Indian romantic comedy
2. BOT (Eugene): Good news about the budget shortages and potential bankruptcy: seems like the school will be able to solve this through a variety of measures.
   * 1. New Partnership with University of China
     2. SU Fees
        1. Negotiation with SU: reduction in services purchased from SU and leverage fees paid by ESF students with those paid by SU students
        2. There is concern about whether Students Goverments in SU and ESF will be allowed to keep negotiating directly (GSO-GSA relationship)
        3. Health Center: there might be new health services, independent from SU, coming from SUNY
     3. Economic Research Building
3. Adjourn the Meeting
   * Motion to adjourn the meeting: Laura Bartock
   * Second: Keshav Sauba
   * Meeting adjourned

**Upcoming events**

* International Movie Night 2/13
* Dinner TG 2/20

**Attendance**

*GSA Senate*

1. Scott Bergey President
2. Yunyun VP of International Activities
3. Eileen Leon VP of Social Activities
4. Alex Poisson  VP of Speakers and Presentations
5. Allison Oakes Treasurer
6. Eugene Law Board of Trustees Representative
7. Zach LaFaver USA Representative
8. Keshav Sauba SU GSO Representative
9. Becky Meissner SU GSO Representative
10. Sarita Bassil SU GSO Representative
11. Sara Reinstein Landscape Architecture Representative
12. Leanna Kirschen Environmental Studies Representative
13. Jay Wason Environmental Forest Biology Representative (I)
14. Becky Fuda Environmental Forest Biology Representative (II)
15. Laura Bartock Environmental Science Representative (I)
16. Miriam Calderon Environmental Science Representative (II)
17. Rick Joseph Chemistry Representative
18. Doug Morrison Faculty Advisor

Approved Bylaws amendments:

V. Meetings

* 1. Final Meeting of the Academic Year
     1. The meeting time for the Final Meeting of the Academic Year shall be selected such that a quorum of both the outgoing and incoming Senates can attend the meeting.
     2. The outgoing President shall preside at the final meeting.
     3. All Executive Reports shall be presented by the Vice Presidents and compiled by the President and Secretary, and then archived by the Webmaster.
     4. A final executive summary of the budget shall be presented by the Treasurer.
     5. If necessary, the apportionment of department representatives shall be updated through an official amendment to the Bylaws under the current GSA Senate.
     6. The incoming GSA Senate shall be introduced by the Faculty Advisor, thereby initiating the transition of all GSA Senate positions and the transfer of important documents and references.
     7. The current President will then formally transfer power to the incoming GSA Senate.
     8. The Orientation Committee Chair will be appointed by the incoming President with approval of the incoming Senate.
     9. The incoming Senate will allocate a minimum of $300 from their General Fund to Orientation Activities.
     10. The final meeting shall be adjourned by the incoming President.

1. Committees
   * 1. Standing Committees
     2. Special Committees
        1. Election Committee
        2. Orientation Committee
        3. The Orientation Committee shall be responsible for organizing and executing graduate student orientation activities during the week of Fall Semester New Graduate Orientation (traditionally the week prior to the Fall semester starting).
        4. The Orientation Committee shall be chaired by a Senator who will be on/around campus in August to coordinate the organization and execution of events (preferred order: Social VP, other VPs, President, other Senators; due to similarity of responsibilities for regular duties).
        5. Orientation Committee chair and members shall be determined in the Final Meeting of the Academic Year. As with all committees, members of the GSA who do not hold positions in the GSA Senate can participate in the Orientation Committee as well.
        6. Orientation Committee members should plan to attend the Graduate Student Panel during Orientation if possible.
        7. Activities planned by the Orientation Committee should seek to introduce new graduate students to SUNY-ESF and the local community and promote camaraderie among the incoming class of graduate students as well as returning grads, such as,
           1. Ice cream social with lawn games on the ESF quad
           2. Syracuse Chiefs minor league baseball game
           3. Dollar Bowling (Wednesday) at Flamingo Bowl in Liverpool
           4. Empire Brewery social night
           5. Bicycle tour of local amenities
           6. Tour of downtown/Armory Square
        8. The Orientation Committee shall be responsible for the management of the $300 allocated for orientation activities each year. Any funds not spent on orientation activities shall be returned to the General Fund.

C. Additional committees can be proposed by the President and approved by a vote of the GSA Senate to address specific needs of the GSA Senate.

1. Graduation Cords
2. 100 graduation cords were purchased out-of-pocket by the Spring 2015 GSA Senate as a gift to future graduating Senators.
3. Any student walking at graduation who served on the GSA Senate for at least one semester is entitled to wear a GSA graduation cord during the ceremony as recognition of his/her service
   * 1. Graduation cords can purchased from the existing supply for $4 each, or they can be rented for graduation weekend for a refundable $4 deposit (Note: Members of the Spring 2015 GSA Senate are exempt from the $4 payment because they already contributed $14 each for the initial purchase of the 100 graduation cords)
        1. To ensure that GSA does not run out of graduation cords, 30 cords will be kept as for-rental-only. If there are only 30 cords left, the current GSA Senate shall decide whether to purchase additional cords to replenish the supply or move forward with rental cords only.
        2. Because cords that are taken home are purchased for their full face value, once the initial batch of non-rental cords have been purchased and taken home, there will have been an influx into the General Fund since the time of initial procurement which can be used to replenish the cord supply.
     2. The GSA Treasurer shall be responsible for coordination of graduation cord payment, rental cord sign-out, and rental cord collection and deposit refund.
4. Duties of the Executives
5. The Treasurer shall:
   * 1. Coordinate payment and rental of Graduation Cords and manage collected graduation cord funds
     2. Attend regularly scheduled meetings of the GSA Senate or identify a proxy.
     3. Serve in at least one Committee per semester.
     4. Prepare an Officer Report prior to the final meeting of the academic year, to be delivered to both the President and the incoming Senator for the following academic year, documenting and assessing responsibilities, resources, challenges and recommendations.