



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2023
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

**** Reminder:** Alternate senators cannot vote if the primary senator is present.

**** Robert's Rules reminders:**

- Please provide a signal (e.g., raising a hand/placard, Zoom gesture), in order to speak at the appropriate times. Attendees will be permitted to speak in order of signaling; attendees who have not spoken yet will be prioritized.
- No one recognized by the Speaker may be interrupted except for a point of privilege (rights of attendees, e.g., difficulty seeing/hearing, comfort, technical issues, etc.) or a point of order (rules of order have been broken).
- Subsidiary motions: Motion may be: amended, substituted, referred to committee, postponed, or tabled, or have its debate/discussion time modified. This requires majority approval (eligible for unanimous consent)
- Six-Step Motion Process: Motion > Second > Speaker Restates Motion > Discussion (Subsidiary motions occur here) > Voting > Results
- For the sake of time, the Speaker may demonstrate **unanimous consent** by asking for objections to subsidiary motions. If there are no objections, we may skip the Six-Step motion process.
- Only voting members (certified GSO senators) may make motions (anyone may speak during discussion periods when recognized)

**** Senate Meeting Rules (Rob's Rules):**

- The Speaker will try to assign time limits to agenda items and discussion periods approximately proportional to the number of agenda items; generally, 2 minutes per person, 10 minute discussion time. Speaker may end discussion early with unanimous consent if there is no interest.
- We will no longer be tallying abstentions, abstentions will automatically be the difference between attendance, and affirmative plus negative votes.
- Please introduce yourself everytime you speak: "[Name], Primary/Alternate Senator from [Department]"
- The Speaker may (at any time via Point of Privilege) be asked to provide additional accommodations to ensure all attendees have fair and equal access to all meeting elements (e.g., verbal description of a poster/image).

In Attendance:

Primary Senators:

- Alex Pamfilie - Ecology and Evolution, Primary
- Ashley Barry - Women's, Gender and Sexuality, Primary
- Cormac Killeen - Material Science and Chemical Engineering, Primary
- David O'Donoghue - History, Primary
- Dmitrii Etingov - Electrical and Computer Engineering, Primary
- Doga Oner - Philosophy, Primary
- Douglas Marr - Molecular and Cellular Biology, Primary
- Haley Briggles - Music, Primary
- Jason Withorn - Chemistry, Primary
- Jessica Salmon - SoMAS, Primary
- Jose Baeza - History, Primary
- Julia Brown - English, Primary
- Kaya Turan - Art, Primary
- Lauren Palladino - Political Science, Primary
- Lucia Yang - Genetics, Primary
- Moinak Bhattacharya - BMI, Primary
- Nayla Huq - Sociology, Primary
- Nidhi Bhandari - Oral Biology, Primary
- Rachel Pincus - Occupational Therapy, Primary
- Sabina Sagynbayeva - Physics, Primary
- Salwa Anam - BME, Primary
- Tracy Radvick - Psychology, Primary
- Will McDonald - Social Welfare, Primary
- Xueting Deng - Mechanical Engineering, Primary
- Yi Wang - Public Health, Primary

Alternate Senators:

- Gaelle Aminata Colin - Sociology, Alternate
- Kate Blackwell - Ecology and Evolution, Alternate
- Yasamin Ghaedsharafi - Oral Biology, Alternate, Primary is present
- **Kristin Carline - Anthropology, Alternate - Primary is not present**

Non-Senators:

- Charles Hsueh - non-senator
- Christine Wang - Treasurer
- Chuankai Chen - Presidential Candidate, non-senator
- Donal Thomas - President

- Manjot Singh - Presidential Candidate, non-senator
- Robert Wadolowski - Speaker
- Siri Naganoor - Productions Director, non-senator

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. **Determine quorum** (25% of senators, 62 total senators, 16 senators needed) according to Section V.01(e). (Please note that a 66% quorum only applies when both the President and Vice President positions are vacant.)
2. **Vote to allow Donal Thomas, the current Interim President, to return to the Vice President position upon the election of a new GSO president.**
 - a. 21 votes of approval
3. **Vote for a new President and Secretary to fill vacant positions.**
 - a. [Campaign statements](#): open to public
 - b. Presidential Candidates:
 - i. Manjot Singh, master's student in Civil Engineering, graduating in May 2023
 1. Undergrad at SBU, president of USG, have worked with GSO in the past
 2. Felt isolated when he transitioned to a graduate student
 3. Enhancing experiences for grad students
 4. We should have more advising services for grad students
 5. Representation for masters vs phd students
 6. Will check budget - need to spread funds more equitably
 7. Trying to overall improve the structure of GSO
 8. Has a job secured for after graduation, but wants to make sure that the GSO is in a better place after he leaves
 - ii. Chuankai Chen, PhD student from Genetics
 1. Started as a senator back in 2019-2021, served on the budget committee, helped students with event proposals, proposed the internship/graduate research travel reimbursement
 2. University committees as a grad student representative: Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC, representatives from undergrads and staff from CAPS - advocated for student mental health, and during COVID pandemic, make sure students had access to resources), CAPRA (campus resource allocation and planning, undergrad, faculty) - advocated for remote learning, more flexible and benefit more students, especially masters students

3. Goals: purpose of GSO is to identify and protect grad students, provide public forum for debate and promote involvement in university affairs
 - a. Increase GSO social media presence
 - b. Don't overlap with other offices too much
- c. Q&A session: open to public
 - i. How will you integrate disability advocacy into your position?
 - ii. What is your opinion about EC stipends?
 1. Manjot - past doesn't matter, just looking towards the future! Salary transparency is important, tiered stipend in USG, but this is also student money, breakdown of workload with summer/winter - wants to look into senator stipends since USG senators are paid, equitable pay
 2. Chuankai - ultimately, stipends are up to senators. Need to focus on things that help our students - there are tasks that EC members are encumbered with, will need to rationalize and spread out the workload
 - iii. Continuity:
 1. Chuankai, 6th year PhD student, looking to graduate this semester though may not be able to
 2. Manjot, graduating in 2 months - was president of USG (also a 501c3)
 - iv. GSEU's Living Wage Campaign
 - v. Social media
- d. Secretary Candidates:
 - i. David O'Donoghue: want to provide a steady hand through the end of the year, make sure records are organized and up to date, experience in History Graduate Student Org, experience with undergrad student government
 - ii. Julia Brown: previous Secretary of GSO, previous Graduate Student Advocate - took a step back to focus on comprehensive exams this semester. We need more continued transparency between EC and senators, the role of the secretary - have that trust in between the two bodies. On the budget committee this year, Student Health Advisory Committee, other university committees, values time with the Senate
 1. 8 senators support (1 alternate)
 - iii. Q&A session:
 1. Continuity question

- a. Social Welfare - Manhattan site - how to include them?
- b. Julia is a commuter from Queens, difficult to make out to events in SBU - hold events in Manhattan/Brooklyn not only on-campus events
- c. David is a 4th year student, who may consider running again - not sure yet. Make sure resources are as available and accessible as possible, make sure communications are succinct and efficient
- 2. What will be different for Julia for this term as secretary?
 - a. Secretary Google Drive was very disorganized, hopefully be able to organize better for future people and set up the role better for transitioning
- e. Discussion and voting: closed to candidates
 - i. Voting in Google form provided and validated by the GSO Elections Committee
 - ii. Rob - asked what senators thought of remote voting (something Rules and Constitution committee may have been thinking about)
 - 1. Maybe have a time limit, don't make it too long
- f. Results:
 - i. Manjot Singh, President
 - ii. David O'Donoghue, Secretary