

Approved by the Senate on March 5, 2024



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 7, 2024
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center, Room 306**

[Note: the Secretary was unable to attend the meeting in person and recorded the minutes virtually. However, given the poor quality of the video call for the first half of the meeting, significant parts of the Senate's deliberations were not transcribable.]

1. Speaker Caitlin Whittam called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

2. Announcements:

- a. Elections Upcoming! - Call for Nominations will go out at the end of February
 - i. Volunteers needed to serve on the Elections Committee.
- b. Officer Positions to Open
 - i. Media Manager
 - ii. International Student Advocate
- c. Graduate Student Resilience Training
 - i. Do you want to tackle your imposter fears? Are you uncertain how to build a strong network of mentors? Do you struggle to incorporate feedback into your projects? Sign up for this six-week, virtual peer discussion workshop to learn how to navigate graduate school with confidence and care. Weekly meetings begin the week of March 18.
 1. Register By March 11: bit.ly/gsrt-spr23

3. Starting Procedures

- a. Determine quorum
 - i. *With 38 senators present, Speaker Whittam determined that quorum had been met.*
- b. **Approval of Minutes:** **GSO_Senate_Minutes_December_08_2023.pdf**
 - i. *The minutes were approved without objection.*
- c. Adoption of today's agenda (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i. *The meeting agenda was adopted without objection.*

- d. Fix the time at which to adjourn the senate meeting to 7:30PM (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i. Actions items not reached in time will be tabled to the next meeting.
 - ii. Committee and officer reports not verbally presented may be read.

Action Items

1. Today's items to vote on:

- a. **Vote:** Proposal to Adjust the Distinguished Travel Award (DTA) Calendar for 2024.
 - i. *Usually Fall DTA applications are for awards granted for travel for the Jan. 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024 period (first half of this year), and Spring 2024 DTA applications cover July 1, 2024 - Dec. 31, 2024 (the second half of this year).*
 - ii. *Proposal: Since the current DTA application was not made available until the end of last semester, we are proposing that the DTA application cover the events of this current semester as well as the upcoming Fall semester*
 - 1. *Speaker Whittam called the proposal to a vote.*
 - 2. *The Senate voted to adopt the proposal without objections.*
- b. **Vote:** Budget Changes
 - i. Proposal to use \$2500 from the "Tax Preparation" budget line and \$100 from the Productions Budget to pay part of Senator Douglas Marr's legal fees from a lawsuit brought against him for actions he took while fulfilling his role as GSO Board of Appeals Chair in 2022-2023.
 - 1. *The Senate discussed the proposal and Speaker Whittam called the proposal to a vote.*
 - a. *36 senators voted in favor of the proposal and two abstained.*
 - b. *The proposal was adopted and the Senate would pay \$2500 toward Senator Marr's legal fees.*
- c. **Vote:** Event proposals
 - i. *Assistant Treasurer Mahsa Bargarhi presented the following event proposals to the Senate.*
 - ii. *Sociology Department speaker series event; Two speakers to come to SB and give a talk*

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1. Senator Tamor Khan (Primary, Neuroscience) motioned to approve the Sociology Speaker Series proposal for full amount.
 - a. Senator Julia Brown (Primary, English) seconded the motion.
 2. 27 in favor, no objections.
 - a. The event proposal was approved and the Senate would give the full amount requested to the Sociology Department.
 - iii. Music/Poetry event
 1. Senator Valentina Pucci motioned to approve the proposal and disburse the full amount requested.
 - a. The motion was seconded by Senator Daniel Waman.
 - i. The proposal was approved.
2. **Old Business:** Proposal to Fund SBU Arts and Sciences Grad Magazine Spring Events (To be presented by Mahsa)
 - a. 🗳️ Dec '23: Events Up for Senate Vote
 - b. General cultural line
 - i. Two events
 - ii. Speaker Whittam opened the floor for discussion.
 - iii. Senator Pucci (Primary, HLL) motioned to approve the funding for Plant an Herb event, doubling the amount in order to double the capacity.
 1. The motion was seconded.
 - a. 27 senators voted in favor of funding the event; none objected.
 - iv. A motion was made to approve the second event, doubling funding for second event
 1. Senator Julia Brown seconded.
 - a. 26 in favor, none opposed.
3. **Actions items from the floor (if any):**
4. **Discussion Items (Non-binding Resolutions):**
 - a. Senator Gaëlle Aminata Colin (Primary, Sociology) inquired about the release of this year's Sprint Tax Codes.
 - i. Speaker Whittam indicated that they were waiting for the GSO Controller to approve funding. Once approved, the codes will be released and made available to students.
 - b. Senator Tamor Khan raised concerns about the length of time it takes for Professional Development Fund reimbursement applications to be processed.
5. **Adjournment:**
 - a. Senator Daniel Waxman motioned to adjourn.

- i. *The motion was seconded.*
- b. *Speaker Whittham adjourned the meeting at 7:27pm.*

Committee and Officer Reports

1. **President's Report: Adithya**

- a. Meetings - EC, EC-Admin, USG President, FSA Board
- b. Termination of Media and ISA positions

2. **Vice President's Report: Stephanie**

- a. Termination of current Media personal— will be issuing applications (TBD)
- b. Upcoming event: It's All About Love on **February 15th**
- c. Attended SAB meeting to discuss comedy show ticket prices
 - i. Obtained **60 tickets** for \$22.50/ticket. Productions will fund all tickets and conduct a raffle
- d. Sending out a form for senators to vote on new events for the Spring.
- e. Production **Director's Report:**
 - i. New Production Director hired— Welcome Venkata!
 - ii. Obtaining invoice for top golf and traveling

3. **Secretary's Report: David**

- a. Reviving Dormant Committees and Re-establishing Committee Expectations and Workflow
- b. Attended Stony Brook Council Meetings
 - i. December 19, 2023
 - ii. February 5, 2024
- c. Edited and Formatted Unpublished Minutes
- d. Updates to Website
 - i. Disability Resources
 - ii. Archive of Minutes

4. **Treasurer's Report: Disha**

- a. Desk updates: Me :57, Mahsa: 0, Sekhar: 25 Akshay: 18
- b. Budget Committee Meeting held on Feb 7
- c. Send out emails to Graduate school: Closed PDF
- d. Recreation and Travel Lines will be exhausted soon.
- e. Sprintax Invoice processed
- f. Lawyer Fees for defending Senator doing his duties as a part of GSO. Payable: \$2500.
- g. Senators are advised to submit Departmental Orientation proposals on Financial NXT by 25th Feb
- h. Reviewed and suggested changes to GSO productions budget proposal for Spring, and approved the first two events.

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5. Speaker's Report: Caitlin

- a. None

6. Officer Reports

- a. Graduate Student Advocate's Report: Alexandra Checkers

- b. International Student Advocate's Report: Gaelle Aminata Colin

- c. Policy Action Chair's Report:

- d. Media & Communication Specialist's Report: Tiffany Martino

7. New Business

- a. Student Assembly Conference - April 19th through the 21st at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls, New York.