



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting Agenda
February 6, 2023
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Student Activity Center, Room 305**

**** 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).

1. Call to order

2. Announcements:

a. Introducing the new Productions Directors and Assistant Treasurers!

- i. Siri Naganoor, Productions Director
- ii. George Osei, Productions Director
- iii. Mahsa Bargahi, Assistant Treasurer
- iv. Akshay Kurup, Assistant Treasurer
- v. Chandrasekhar Thammisetty, Assistant Treasurer

3. Invited speakers:

- a. Richard Gatteau, VP of Student Life
- b. Celia Marshik, Interim Dean of the Graduate School

Sharing their idea about having professional staff hired by GSO. Presenting the position as a benefit to GSO (continuity, allowing EC to focus on leadership). Invite us to consider this option when revising our budget.

Questions and Comments

- GSO Member Saldanha: Will this professional be a student? (answer: No) Hiring a non-student full time will be a considerable amount of our budget that would not be going to students. We could hire several students and give them this working opportunity and student money would go towards students. Wouldn't it be better to invest in leadership training?
- Answer from Celia Marshik: We are trying to carve out space in your budget right now so this money would not be taking away from student positions. Also if you think that the current system is effective then we can stop this conversation right. But I think that a professional staff would allow history and continuity in your organization that would not be matched by leadership training.
- Question from Primary Economics: What is the normal procedure for handling a professional staff, what happens if they leave or quit, how would we assure continuity. This person's income would be completely dependent on our budget so what would be the consequences of that if we were to decide to cut that budget for instance.
- Answer from Richard Gatteau and Celia Marshik: People come and go in jobs so this is something to be conscious of during the hiring process and screen for people that would want to stay in the position for a while. But if you do the hiring right you have a person there for a number of years and that is already more continuity than what you have right now.
- Additional point from Richard Gateau: Across the years we haven't seen a lot of people running for office and I think that we should wonder why aren't more people running and I think part of the answer is that it is too big of a

commitment. Review those responsibilities and decided as a Senate what exactly we want the EC to do would help make those positions more appealing

- GSO member Saldanha: Asking questions about accountability, checks and balances from the EC. Asking Rick and Celia how they plan to hold GSO members accountable for this.
- Richard Gateau: Considering your status you guys are actually accountable for this. But I think this comment exactly gets to the conversation that we are having. A professional staff would provide the time and support for more professionalization in the GSO and to alleviate the
- Celia Marshik: We are advisories but we are not police, with your status you should work on those accountability issues internally and this is a conversation to have with your constitution and your bylaws. Lean into your process and if there is a problem with a process talk with the senators and get on an agenda to get it fixed.

4. Welcome!

- a. Determine quorum
- b. Approval of **Senate Meeting Minutes** (eligible for unanimous consent)
- c. Adoption of today's agenda (eligible for unanimous consent)
- Tracy : Why do we have to have elections today? There was no information on the website and it was so hard to find information about how to run for election. I do not think that this is a democratic process.
- Charles: This is an emergency election to fill up in a position so this is done by the senate as per the constitution.
- Speaker: we can talk about this when it is time to get to the vote.
 - d. Fix the time at which to adjourn the senate meeting to 2-hours after the time of the call to order (eligible for unanimous consent) **Fix the time to adjourn at 7.30**
 - 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

5. Voting Items:

- a. **Batch Vote:** Approve use of listed funding lines to fund the respective listed [event proposals](#) (approved by the Budget Committee)
 - i. **Speaker & Conference Series:**
 - 1. **Climate Changes and Human Responses Around Eastern African Rift Lakes** (hosted by the Graduate Archaeology Society) for **\$428.50**
 - a. Proposed expenses for speaker honorarium and travel

2. **Disability Studies Guest Speaker Series** (hosted by the Hispanic Languages and Literature department) for **\$1,200**
 - a. Proposed expenses for 3 speaker honorariums
3. **Turbulent Times: Living through Pandemics, Conflicts, and Climate Crisis - Graduate Student Colloquium** (hosted by the Sociology department) for **\$1,900**
 - a. Proposed expenses for food, supplies, and speaker honorarium, travel, and lodging
4. **Pay(ing) Attention: Narratives of Notoriety and Fame - 35th Annual English Graduate Conference** (hosted by the English department) for **\$2,000**
 - a. Proposed expenses for speaker honorarium, travel, and lodging
5. **How to Live at the End of the World: A Talk by Dr. Travis Holloway** (hosted by the Philosophy department) for **\$1,140**
 - a. Proposed expenses for food and speaker honorarium, travel, and lodging

ii. **General Cultural & Social Events:**

1. **Piano Project 2023: Piano Duos of the Twentieth Century** (hosted by the Music Department) for **\$1,500**
 - a. Proposed expenses for food, sheet music, poster printing, website hosting, advertising
2. **Graduate Student Meet & Greet** (hosted by the History Graduate Student Association) for **\$1,300**

APPROVED

a. Proposed expenses for food, drinks, napkins/plates

b. Spring Productions Budget

Productions Director Siri: presenting the budget

VOTE: 13 YES in person, 20 YES in chat → passed

c. Move \$20,000 from “Professional Development Fund” to “Internship Travel”

- Treasures explaining that we received more Internship applications than expected in the Internship Travel line so it is now in deficit. Would like to move from PDF.
- A few questions from Senators to make sure that we would have enough for PDF if we move those 20,000. Is there another place in the budget where the funds could be allocated from (we could but the other funding lines are a lot smaller, the DTA travel award would be another option).
- Question from Senator: is there a way to get automatic updates on the status of our applications?
- Christine: We are trying to find a way for this with FSA but it is still in progress.

APPROVED

i. Currently, budget line is at -\$16,400

6. Actions items from the floor (if any)

- a. Douglas Marr: requiring the Senate to appoint an alternate voting member for the BoA as I have recused myself for the current investigation and we need 5 voting member. Two people interested: Mahsa Bargahi & Moinak Bhattacharya
- Senator asking to know why these two Senators are interested
 - Mahsa: I just wanted to smooth the process, i just did not want the BoA to be without a voting member, so I just wanted to help I am fine with Moinak going first
 - Moinak: I agree, I just wanted to help out and make sure the committee was full. I feel that if I am in the committee I would like to there for a while and provide continuity in the board.
 - Comment by GSO member Saldanha: Because Masha is an assistant treasurer, I think we should not have an appointed member of the GSO in the BoA because the BoA is supposed to handle internal matters the appointed member might be influenced by.
 - Mahsa: I see your point based on passed history but the BoA deals with appeals from any committee and all Senators might have such influenced
 - Tracy: I don't think it says in the bylaws that an EC member can't be a member in the BoA, can someone from the BoA confirm that. So I think technically according to the bylaws that is allowed.

APPROVED

7. Discussion Items (Non-binding Resolutions):

a.

8. Elections for President and Secretary

- a. Candidates: Only 37 active senators corum for vote is not met, the vote cannot be held.
- Comment from Interim President: comment on the collective responsibility to attend senate meeting to support the functioning of the GSO
 - Comment from Senator Tracy: Why are Senators not coming, should their funding be threatened without attendance.
 - Comment from Senator Will: reminder to speaker louder and tech issues to maintain accessibility.
 - Senator Julia Brown: We don't have a corrum to vote tonight but to Donal's point the EC has been working short of two members for several months and it is important that we get two EC members soon. Perhaps if we don't vote tonight I think we should have some kind of asynchronous online voting process before the next Senate meeting. We have been talking in other Senate Meeting about this, there was an email, a meet and greet about teh elections.
 - Senator Charles: Could the candidates statements be published and then we could have a voting process online.

- Speaker: I think that is a good idea
- GSO member Saldanha: If the election doesn't happen before next month what would be the ramification
- Gaelle: We are just stretched thin and important things are coming this semester and a full team would be important for that.
- Suggests an emergency Senate meeting at the same time next week, all on zoom invite people with "if you don't come your dept funding will be taken away". I am running and

9. Vote to keep Donal Thomas as GSO Vice President

There isn't anything in our constitution about reappointing the interim president as vice president. Last year in the same situation we had to do a vote as well because the constitution isn't specific about that.

Issue left for the emergency Senate Meeting

Committee and Officer Reports

1. **Interim President / Vice President's Report:** Donal Thomas
 - a. Attended University Senate Executive Council
 - b. Attending University Senate
 - c. Training new Production Director
 - d. Attended SBU Commencement 12/16/2022
 - e. Reserved the Spaces for Spring 2023 Events
 - f. **Production Directors' Reports:** George Osei and Siri Naganoor
 - i. Training: event organization, SB Engaged, contacting vendors
 - ii. Meeting with SEA advisor 2/8
 - iii. GSO events budget spring 2023
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Christine Wang
 - a. Onboarding/training new assistant treasurers
 - b. GSO/FSA workflow and budget planning meetings
 - i. Reimbursement processing, Campusvine
 - ii. Recreation packages, legal clinic, tax clinic
 - c. SBU Recreation Center - Memorandum of Understanding
 - d. Giving Day preparations - Graduate Student Emergency Relief Fund
 - e. Ombuds - GSO code of conduct, communications guidelines
 - f. **Assistant Treasurers' Reports:** Chandrasekhar Thammisetty, Akshay Kurup, Mahsa Bargahi
 - i. Onboarding and training (reimbursement processing, approving applications through Campusvine, budget committee meetings)
3. **Speaker's Report:** Robert Wadolowski
 - a. Spring 2022 Distinguished Travel Award - 3 left
 - b. Fall 2022 DTA Committee - Solicited volunteers
 - c. Legal Clinic

- i. December and January Clinic Held
 - ii. Expanding legal services with Community Legal Help Project
- d. Tax Clinic
 - i. Upcoming new services with Bethpage VITA and GetYourRefund
 - ii. Sprintax

4. Officer Reports

- a. Graduate Student Advocate's Report: Alexandra Checkers
 - i. Graduate Student Relief Fund
 - ii. Meeting with SASC for Introduction on 2/8
 - iii. Giving Day
- b. International Student Advocate's Report: Gaelle Aminata Colin
 - i. International Pals Program: launched the program and currently have 90 people signed up. Deadline is on Tuesday
 - ii. Food pantry collection: Food Drive will be organized from Feb 20 to 24. With at least three drop location around campus
 - iii. Graduate Student Relief Fund
 - iv. Giving Day
- c. Media & Communication Specialist's Report: Tiffany Martino
 - i. Flyers/social media posts for regalia loan program, Impractical Jokers
 - ii. GSO Newsletters

5. Old Business

- a.

6. New Business

- a.

7. Adjournment