



**Graduate Student Organization
Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, Mar 5, 2024
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Virtual (Zoom)**

Note: In the absence of Speaker Caitlin Whittam, Vice President Stephanie Torres presided over the meeting.

1. Call to order

- a. *Senator Maria Feiler (Primary, Anthropology) moved to call the meeting to order.*
 - i. *Senator Anastasiia Voznesenskaia (Primary, Linguistics) seconded the motion.*
- b. *Vice President Torres called the meeting to order at 5:42pm.*

2. Announcements

- a. *Effort to improve pedestrian/bike commuter safety - Chris Percival (Faculty Senate - University Environment Committee) presented on his committee's efforts to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on campus. He invited Senators to give him feedback and encouraged Senators to share a survey with their constituents.*
 - i. [Presentation](#)
 - ii. Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/goe1R4H3UPN8ksjM7>
- b. *Spring 2024 Executive Council Elections - The Call for Nominations has gone out!*
- 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*

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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/gprt-spr23

- d. 3-Minute Thesis Moderator still needed
 - i. Molly Lotz, host of the 3-Minute Thesis, is looking for 2 more graduates to partake in moderating the event. This will entail accounting students, guiding speakers and assisting in the facilitation (if needed). Please reach out to Ms.Lotz at molly.lotz@stonybrook.edu

- e. Volunteers Needed For:
 - i. Working Group to Update Student Code of Conduct for 2024-2025 Academic Year. (Deadline 03/08- Email president@sbgso.org)
 - ii. University Senate's Committee for Educational Services & Information Technology. Link: [SCEDIT](#) (Deadline 03/08 - Email president@sbgso.org)
 1. Meeting dates-
 - a. March 22, 2024 (4th Friday to avoid conflict with spring recess)
 - b. April 19, 2024
 - c. May 17, 2024
 - iii. Elections Committee (Please email secretary@sbgso.org)

3. Starting Procedures

- a. Determine quorum
 - i. *Vice President Torres determined that quorum had been met. 30 voting Senators were in attendance.*
- b. Approval of Minutes: Senate Meeting - February 7, 2024
 - i. *Senator Feiler moved to approve the minutes without revision.*
 1. *Senator Katherine Miller (Primary, Music) seconded the motion.*
 2. *The February 7, 2024 GSO Senate Meeting Minutes were approved.*
- c. Additional items to be added on the agenda -

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- i. Vote: Move remaining funds (\$2203.47) from 01-5004 International Student Advocate line into 01-5007 Media Relations Specialist Line to increase Media hours from 5 hours/week to 8 hours/week.
- d. Adoption of today's agenda (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i.
- e. Fix the time at which to adjourn the senate meeting to 7:30PM (eligible for unanimous consent)
 - i. *Senator Kurt Butler (Primary, Electrical and Computer Engineering) moved to fix at 7:30pm the time to adjourn.*
 - 1. *Motion seconded by XX*
 - ii. Actions items not reached in time will be tabled to the next meeting.
 - iii. Committee and officer reports not verbally presented may be read.

Action Items

1. Today's items to vote on:

- a. **Vote:** Presentation: [SAF Increase Proposal](#)
 - i. President Muralli presented a proposal to increase the student activity fee.
 - 1. *President Muralli emphasized the lack of reserve funds for the 2024-2025 year, which created a demand to increase the activity in order to maintain the current budget into the next academic year.*
 - 2. *President Muralli proposed that the activity fee be increased \$15 per semester for all graduate students, which would raise the semesterly fee to \$60.*
 - 3. *President Muralli warned that if the activity is not increased, the GSO operating budget for 2024-2025 academic year will have to be substantially reduced.*
 - ii. *Vice President Torres opened the floor to discussion.*
 - 1. *Senator Daniel Firak (Primary, Physics) sought clarification on the approval process. It was explained that the Senate would have to vote to approve the fee first, and then the GSO membership would approve the fee increase in a referendum on April's election ballot.*
 - 2. *Senator Andrew Nicoll (Primary, Chemistry) asked Adithya Muralli explain again the fee comparisons for those at peer institutions; Adithya Muralli explained; Andrew argued that it was not necessarily good comparisons to make given that*

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each school listed has different student populations with different needs and means

3. Andrew given another question -
 4. Katherine Miller - how to make reimbursement lines extended throughout year;
 5. Douglas Marr; pressure to have university make up difference
 6. From the Chat:
 - a. Julia Brown - a higher budget and better communication is needed to provide more reimbursements for more people
- iii. Vice President Torres called a vote to adopt the [“Proposal for Student Activity Fee Increase Referendum.”](#)
1. *14 senators voted to adopt the proposal; 10 senators voted not to adopt the proposal; 6 abstained.*
 2. *With a majority of senators voting in favor, the proposal passed. The Student Activity Fee Increase will be presented to the students in a referendum on the coming EC Elections ballot.*
- b. **Budget Vote:** Allocate Funds for the Regalia Loan Program - *Members of the Treasury requested that the Senate approve the use of up to \$3000 from 01-5310 Departmental Orientation line to fund the Regalia Loan Program.*
- i. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez (Primary, Ecology) moved to authorize the use of the requested funds for the Regalia Loan Program.*
 1. *Senator Julia Brown (Primary, English) seconded the motion.*
 2. *No objections were made, and the Senate decided to approve the allocation of funds for the program.*
- c. **Vote:** [Event](#) proposals
- i. *Assistant Treasurer Chandrasekhar Thamisetty presented the following event funding proposals for the Senate to approve.*
 1. *Iranian Student Organization - Requested \$2000 for Nowruz Event*
 - a. *Senator Douglas Marr moved to approve the funding request.*
 - i. *Senator Katherine Miller seconded the motion.*
 - ii. *No objections were made, and the Senate authorized the disbursement of \$2000 to the Iranian Student Organization for its event.*
 2. *The Graduate Archaeology Society requested \$538.15 from the Speaker Series funding line to host guest speaker Shane Weeks of the Graves Protection Warrior Society.*

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- a. *Senator Jose Msosoco Nunez (Primary, Ecology) moved to approve the disbursement of \$538.15 to the Graduate Archaeology Society for their event.*
 - i. *Senator Daniel Firak (Primary, Physics) seconded the motion.*
 - ii. *No objections were made. The Senate authorized the disbursement of the requested funds.*
3. *Graduate Students from the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature requested \$500 from the Speaker Series funding line for a guest lecture "Quadrinhos!: Comic Books in Brazil"*
 - a. *Senator Henry Ibanez (HLL) moved to approve the request.*
 - i. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez seconded the motion.*
4. *Piano Projects event -*
 - a. *Motion to amend budget for this event, and to approve ALL previous event proposals*
 - i. *Seconded by Jacqueline martin*
 - ii. *Moved to vote*
 1. *18 yes votes*
 - a. *No nays*
 2. *The Senate formally approved all event proposals.*
- d. *Senator Kurt Butler moved to extend the meeting to 7:45pm.*
 - i. *Senator Valentina Pucci seconded the motion.*
 - ii. *The meeting was extended to 7:45pm.*
- e. *Vote: Move remaining funds (\$2203.47) from 01-5004 International Student Advocate line into 01-5007 Media Relations Specialist Line to increase Media hours from 5 hours/week to 8 hours/week.*
 - i. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez (Primary, Ecology) moved to authorize this reallocation of funds, with the condition that the reallocation occur only if Vice President Rick Gatteau recertifies the budget.*
 1. *Senator Daniel Firak (Primary, Physics) seconded the motion.*
 2. *Vice President Torres called a vote.*
 - a. *15 senators voted to approve the reallocation of funds, with the condition that the altered budget be presented to Vice President Rick Gatteau for recertification.*
 - b. *4 senators abstained.*
 - c. *The motion passed.*

- b. *Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez moved to extend the meeting to 8pm.*
 - i. *Senator Kurt Butler seconded the motion.*
 - ii. *The meeting was extended to 8pm.*
- 2. **Old Business:**
- 3. **Actions items from the floor (if any):**

Committee and Officer Reports

- 1. **President's Report: Adithya**
 - a. Meetings - EC, University Admins, FSA Board
 - b. New Committee Assignments:
 - i. Katherine Miller (Senator, Music) - Elections Committee
- 2. **Vice President's Report: Stephanie**
 - a. Over 50 tickets given out for the USG Comedy Show!
 - b. Raffle is open for the April Top Golf trip (only 50 will be selected)
 - c. GSO First ever monthly event - Breakfast with GSO
 - i. Happening every LAST Wednesday of each month (fall and spring semester) – Flyers posted on GSO Site
 - d. Collaborating with AAPI Mentorship and AAPI Heritage Month to do an event (luncheon, speaker, “speed-friending”, etc)
 - e. Working with Manhattan Senators to facilitate an event in the Manhattan campus
- 3. **Secretary's Report: David**
 - a. Election Committee Update
 - i. Call for Nominations Sent
 - ii. Helping Interested Candidates
 - iii. Election Info Sessions will be Held on March 21, 2024 and March 29, 2024.
 - b. Minutes Uploaded to Website
 - c. Inactive Departments Notified
- 4. **Treasurer's Report: Disha**
 - a. Where we stand with reimbursement applications

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We have currently exhausted and closed the following lines:

Professional Development Reimbursement

- Professional Development Fund (PDF)
- Resource Access Project (RAP)

Travel Reimbursements

- Internship Travel Reimbursement

Recreational Reimbursements

- Recreation - Fitness
- Recreation - Cultural Events

The following lines remain open:

Professional Development Reimbursement

- Distinguished Travel Award (DTA)
- PhD Works Awards for Career Exploration

Departments, Clubs, and Organizations Funding

- Speaker Series/Conferences
- General Cultural and Social Events
- Student Clubs and Organizations
- Departmental Allocation

Travel Reimbursements

- Inter-University Doctoral Consortium
- Graduate Research Travel Reimbursement
- Seminar/Workshop Travel

- b. Desk updates: Me: 8 ;Mahsa: 0; Akshay: 0; Shekhar : 25
- c. Applications stuck on Connie's desk due to lack of CSV info: 54: Treasury Team sending out email reminders to everyone individually.
- d. MOUs for Childcare and Radio in progress
- e. PCLP stipends processed.
- f. Budget Committee Meeting held: 03/04/24. 4 events approved.
- g. Worked with Caitlyn to send out Sprintax code to all students.

5. Speaker's Report: Caitlin

- a. None.

6. Officer Reports

- a. None.

7. Adjournment

- a. Senator Jose Moscoso Nunez moved to adjourn the meeting.
 - i. Senator Valentina Pucci seconded the motion.
 1. The meeting adjourned at 8pm.