



**Graduate Student Organization  
Senate Meeting Minutes  
October 6th, 2022  
Meeting @ 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Student Activity Center, Room 306**

**Meeting called to order at 5:43PM**

**Senator Attendance**

**\*\* 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.)
- 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 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.

- Introduce yourself everytime you speak: “[Name], Primary/Alternate Senator from [Department]”

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### **Dr. Richard Gatteau (VP of Student Affairs)**

- Investment in mics so we can go hybrid
- Offices overseen:
  - Health and safety
  - CAPS
  - Student services
  - Recreation
  - SASC
  - Career Center
  - Residential Life (900 residents are grad students)
  - Community standards
  
- Rick gave a background on his education his research and connection to SBU
- **TIMELY CARE**: new tele counseling telemedicine platform for ALL students, available 24x7
  - Upto 12 counseling appointment per academic year
  - GSO can help spread the word to advertise TIMELY CARE
- Bring campus back to in-person
  - Efforts are being made to rehab existing spaces (e.g. SAC third floor, SAC lobby, Pit Stop, SBU Union, Dunkin Donuts, GSO lounge, etc.)
  - University Cafe: working to get a bar on campus (probably in SAC 169, which can be reserved on 25live for events)
  - Can have GSO happy hours here
  - If students are interested in the planning of this space, please send [richard.gatteau@stonybrook.edu](mailto:richard.gatteau@stonybrook.edu)
  - Outdoor project at east side and west side dining.
  - Bar and fireplaces outside the Uniti center.
  - Patio outside the ESS building and the area outside Starbucks at the library will be undergoing multi-million dollar renovations.
  - Career center- any feedback or suggestions? Please contact Dr. Gatteau
  
- Questions:
  - Doga Oner- GSEU has a living wage campaign, base stipend is below poverty line, all of our life areas are being impacted by this- only a small percentage can say that their mental health is not affected. As VP of student affairs, what is your opinion on this and what does the admin have planned to help?
    - Rick- it's an investment made in your future, senior leadership is aware of it. We have to look at the big picture

as a University, where does the money come from? NYS has been giving little support for the past ten years, no additional revenue is being generated.

- Base Stipend was raised last year, fees were eliminated and
  - Fees were raised before the fee strike, we have heard these arguments in the past. Fees were only removed after the fee strikes.
  - Raises were not in power with inflation.
  - Living raise campaign would only be a miniscule percentage of the 3 billion dollar budget.
  - Priorities should be structured so everyone can have a humane life. We would also appreciate complete transparency of the budget.

Rick's response: where does the money come from? If you can tell us that, we can work with you on it, but right now the University has already done a lot to support Graduate Students and there are other pressing issues that deserve our attention.

- Charles Hsueh (non-senator from the music department):
  - There is a report about TIMELY CARE- on Sept 17, he went off campus to get a COVID booster and had side effects. When he spoke to TIMELY CARE MD, the doctor asked him why he got the vaccine. Why are anti-vax doctors being hired, especially when some students already do not trust doctors?
    - The only other complaint about TIMELY was one complaint about length of call.
    - The SA team will follow up on this.
    - Rick suggested getting a second opinion if you do not agree with the doctor's advice.
      - You're in charge of your own health.
      - Physicians are not supposed to give their personal, only professional opinion.
  - Nandita Kumari : There was a University liaison with campus res via CARA. Last year, there were a lot of undergrad RAs in campus housing. Grad students have trouble communicating with Res life. Can CARA be re-instated?
    - Rick: we are working with grad students to work with RAs. Let's meet if you are interested in being a part of an advisory group so we can understand what students want.
    - We are investing in the renovation of housing complexes on campus.
    - Why does the RF cap university and Post-doc salaries?
      - Rick: We have no idea

- Meeting minutes approved
- Agenda is adopted

## Action Items

1. Call to order
    - a) Meeting minutes approved
    - b) Agenda is adopted
    - c) Time fixed to automatically adjourn the meeting at 7:45
      - i) Two questions: Douglas Marr: what will happen to business that isn't addressed will it be tabled?
        - 1) Dan Waxman: Can we have more extensive reports?
          - (a) EC and Officers can send out a more extensive report virtually
2. **Invited speaker: Dr. Richard Gatteau, Vice President of Student Affairs**
3. **Welcome!**
  - a. Determine quorum
  - b. Approval of [Previous Senate Meeting Minutes](#) (eligible for unanimous consent)
  - c. Adoption of today's agenda (eligible for unanimous consent)
  - d. Fix the time at which to adjourn to 7:30 PM (eligible for unanimous consent)
4. **Voting Items- approved**
  - a. **Batch Vote:** Approve current roster of GSO [Committees](#) membership
    - i. Tracy Radvick, Senator, Psychology- What about senators who have been assigned to committees? There are people assigned to my committee who don't want to be on the committee.
    - ii. Helena van Nieuwenhuizen, Senator, Physics and Astronomy - object to the motion because I am on DAC but I want to be on budget committee and the Secretary won't let me
    - iii. Tamor Khan, Senator, Neurobiology and Behavior- why should one objection hold the whole committee certification?
    - iv. Joanne Saldanha, Secretary- I agree with Tamor, Helena signed up as a non-senator, by the deadline but has to be appointed to the budget committee by the Senate.
    - v. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology- appointing Charles Hsueh as the Chair of Board of Appeals is also pressing.
    - vi. Dana Golden, Senator, Economics- is there any committee that has requested more membership than it currently has.
    - vii. Claran Martis, President- we would like you to sign up for committees you want to sign up in, you are not required to sign up for more than one committee.
    - viii. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology- motion to approve Charles Hsueh as chair of the Board of Appeals
    - ix. Julia Brown, Senator, English: Second motion to have Charles as Chair and Helena to budget committee- approved

- x. Will McDonald, Senator, Social Welfare: I'm confused about what is happening to the committees- are we not allowed to swap?
- xi. Joanne Saldanha, Secretary- I will send out a google form giving Senators who were assigned, a chance to swap committees should they not be satisfied with their assignment.

Vote outcome: Yes- 36

- [Assignment of senators](#)

b. ~~Batch Vote:~~ Rename the following committees

- i. ~~Rename "Social Concerns" committee -> "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion" (DEI) committee~~
  - 1. ~~September Senate voted to remove DEI (merge DEI -> Social Concerns)~~
  - 2. ~~DEI is more specific~~ **This was already voted on.**

c. **Vote:** Rename "Political Action" committee -> "Graduate Civic Action" committee

- i. Tracy Radvick, Senator, Psychology- Disability Advocacy Committee is not part of this committee, how is this fair representation?

Vote outcome: Yes- 34

d. **Vote:** Approve participation in the [PhD Works](#) program as an assistant as fulfillment of the senator committee requirement.

Vote outcome: Yes- 33

e. Proposed changes to budget lines

i. **Vote:** Increase "**Previous fiscal year reimbursements**" line by **\$1,000**.

Move \$1,000 from Graduate Resident Association.

- 1. Technical difficulties, errors on our/Campusvine's end
- 2. Nandita- conference send out acceptances only 15 days ahead of time- reimbursement is not being made because expenses were made in the previous fiscal year and event happened this fiscal year
  - a. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology- bring this to budget committee
  - b. Tracy Radvick, Senator, Psychology- referred to the new application deadlines- this finicky
  - c. Claran Martis, President- the deadline is 30 days after the purchase but there is an exception right now because we opened the lines late, but the case mentioned is a further exception and should be referred to the budget committee.
  - d. Marlee Harris, Senator, Anthropology- same case in her department where someone made expenses for an event that happened after July 1st
  - e. Nandita Kumari, Senator, Geosciences- the limit for reimbursement is \$100. How does that make sense?

- i. Claran Martis, President- the last purchase has to be within 30 days of the last purchase (for gym membership and other subscriptions only).

Vote outcome: Yes- 29

- ii. **Vote:** Remove “**Graduate Resident Association**” **\$8,500** budget line. Move \$7,500 to Resource Access Project.
  1. As Chapin and Schomburg apartment resident associations CARA and SARA are being registered as SB clubs
  2. Francesca Polo, Senator, Technology and Society- she’s been part of the housing committee and has heard about the clubs, she would be more comfortable if there is a plan in place.
  3. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology- CARA and SARA used to exist, they no longer do so we need to clean up the spreadsheet to move the money elsewhere.

Vote outcome: Yes- 30

- iii. **Vote:** Create a “**Senators**” budget line for **\$15,000** to pay for committee work and departmental programming/orientations. Move \$15,000 from Resource Access Project.
  1. \$100 per active member per semester, and \$50 per senator for department programming/orientations on GSO funding
  2. Charles- point of inquiry- is it senators only or all GSO members involved in the committee?
  3. Secretary- how was the number reached upon?
  4. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology and Mahsa Bargahi, Senator, Civil Engineering (members of the budget committee) - number wasn’t decided on.
  5. Tabled until November Senate meeting

- iv. **Vote:** Increase “**Assistant Treasurers**” salary line to **\$24,000** and “**Productions Directors**” salary line to **\$14,000**. Move \$26,000 from Professional Development Fund.
  1. Assistant Treasurers: \$16/hr for ~10hrs/week, Budget Committee recommended as: (3 employees, \$8,000 stipend each)
  2. Productions Directors: \$16/hr for ~8hrs/week, Budget Committee recommended as: (2 employees, \$7,000 stipend each)
    - a. Douglas Marr, Senator, Molecular and Cellular Biology, member of the Budget Committee clarified that this vote is to create a budget line only, not to determine how much each individual person will be paid. That is pending on the budget committee to decide and present to the Senate.
    - b. Tracy Radvick, Senator, Psychology- the current wording makes it seem like one AT is getting \$24000.

Motion to add an “s”. Seconded and approved unanimously.

Vote outcome: Yes- 32

- f. **Batch Vote:** Vote to approve use of listed funding lines to fund the respective listed event proposals (approved by the Budget Committee) Vote outcome: Yes- 33
- i. **Speaker & Conferences Series:**
1. Hispanic Languages & Literature Graduate Conference for **\$2,000**
  2. 7th US-EU Conference Endogenous DNA Damage and Repair for **\$2,000**
- ii. **General Cultural/Social Events:**
1. Latin American & Caribbean Studies (LACS) Cafe for **\$760**
  2. Diwali: The Festival of Lights 2022 for **\$2,000**
  3. Graduate Student Meet and Greet for **\$666**

**Motion to extend meeting until speakers can speak - approved**

**5. Invited speaker: Olive Koren (Research Assistants Union Chief Steward) & Doğa Öner (Graduate Student Employee Union Business Agent)**

Looking for mobilizers- if interested or have anyone in the department being interested, please contact [sbugseu@gmail.com](mailto:sbugseu@gmail.com)

Living wage campaign: action being held next Wednesday, informational picketing before the address at 1 PM. TA/GA and RA contract negotiation is in progress so urge people to sign their cards (contracts expire next summer).

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**Tabled for November meeting:**

- **Vote:** Remove Policy Action Chair position and funding line
  - Position is a bit too ambiguous, technically all of GSO Senate is a policy action / social concerns committee
- **Vote:** Temporarily reduce 2022-2023 fiscal year Distinguished Travel Award (DTA) to \$20,000. Move \$20,000 to Productions.
  - Sept. Senate already voted to increase Productions from \$80,000 to \$100,000
  - Total DTA budget line is \$40,000, so \$20,000 per semester, can fund ~11 students \$1,750.
  - Next year, DTA will be \$40,000 (fund Spring 2023 awardees and Fall 2023 awardees) so that expenses fall within the fiscal year.
  - We will accrue for the Spring 2022 awardees (their conference expenses are in July - Aug. anyways). Then Fall 2022 awardees (conferences in Jan -

June) will have expenses in the spring semester to fall within the fiscal year dates.

## 6. Discussion Items (Non-binding Resolutions)

- a. Student Activity Fee Referendum: when was it last held, when does it need to be held again?
  - i. Bursar requests the fee amount by May (separate referendum for fee adjustment)
  - ii. Should be held every two years as per [SUNY policy](#)
  - iii. Referendum vote determines whether student activity fee is voluntary or mandatory
  - iv. Current fee collection is mandatory; students may opt out per semester, but lose access to GSO resources if they do so
- b. What should be done with unspent student activity fees at the end of a fiscal year?
  - i. Unspent monies are kept in a money market account (e.g., bank or credit union)
  - ii. Money is eligible to be invested in accounts that preserve the principal (e.g., Government securities), as per [SUNY policy](#)
- c. Should committees that are involved with advocacy for vulnerable groups (e.g., Disability Advocacy, DEI) be eligible for involuntary senator assignment? (if time permits)
- d. What defines a standing committee? (if time permits)
- e. Opinions on ranked choice voting? (if time permits)

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## Officer & Committee Reports

### 7. President's Report: Claran Joel Martis

- a. Meetings
  - i. University Senate EC
  - ii. Art & Sciences Senate EC
  - iii. Faculty Student Association (FSA) board
  - iv. Undergraduate Student Government (Comedy Show collaboration)
  - v. Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA)
  - vi. Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU)
  - vii. CampusVine contract negotiation
- b. New hires
- c. Off campus shuttles

### 8. Vice President's Report: Donal Thomas (and Productions Director, Gokul Ramanjaneya)

- a. Paint Night 9/15/22
- b. Game Night 10/5/22
- c. GSO-GSEU-RAU Union Meeting
- d. Karaoke Night 10/18/22

### 9. Secretary's Report: Joanne Saldanha

- a. Please sign up for office hours!
- b. ISAC meetings



- c. GSO-GSEU-RAU Union Meeting
- d. Senators and committees- assignments

10. **Treasurer's Report:** Christine Wang

- a. State of finances: budget report updates
  - i. No lines are in the negative
  - ii. Monthly admin expenses, office supplies, only processed a few 'Previous Fiscal Year Reimbursements', club/department funds, General Cultural/Social and Speaker series, GSO productions events, event managers
  - iii. Haven't been able to process most reimbursements (200+ applications now)
- b. Assistant Treasurers update
- c. Campusvine contract negotiations
- d. Senators/Club Treasurers - please sign up for office hours!
  - i. New application requirements
  - ii. Reimbursable vs. non-reimbursable expenses

11. **Speaker's Report:** Robert Wadolowski

- a. Attended SUNY Student Assembly Leadership Conference
  - i. Food insecurity is a big focus for the SUNY SA EC
- b. September Legal Clinic
  - i. New Memorandum of Understanding with legal clinician
- c. Distinguished Travel Award (DTA)
  - i. Spring 2022 DTA recipients
  - ii. Working on new Fall 2022 DTA application & submission forms
  - iii. Distinguished Travel Award (DTA) Committee needs members! Send email to [speaker@sbgso.org](mailto:speaker@sbgso.org)
- d. Rules & Constitution Committee 10/2/2022
  - i. No amendments yet to be proposed

12. **Officer Reports**

- a. **Graduate Student Advocate's Report:** Alexandra Checkers
  - i.
- b. **International Student Advocate's Report:** Gaelle Aminata Colin
  - i. Pal's program registration launched
  - ii. Emergency Relief Fund Applications
- c. **Media & Communication Specialist's Report:** Tiffany Martino
  - i.

13. **Old Business**

- a.

14. **Adjournment- 7:50 PM**