Special Meeting of the GSO Assembly  
Monday, July 9th  
Campus Center Terrace Lounge

The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm EST by the GSO President. Introductions followed shortly.

At 6:04, the Treasurer discussed in detail the discrepancies in revenues projected versus collected. He then continued to discuss unaccounted expenses caused by discrepancies between the previous Executive Board’s accounting and how he was asked to process it. Additionally, he discussed in detail the level of over-expenditure that had occurred with respect to the printer and office supplies. A total shortfall from the previous year of approximately 25 thousand USD was anticipated.

At 6:10, several questions were asked. Foremost, clarification was requested on how individuals could opt out of a mandatory fee, how prominent opting out was, and how this impacted fees collected. Another criticism was that GSOs had improperly used funds.

At 6:12, the new budget for the 2012-2013 year was introduced. It’s target value was closer to 110 thousand USD, setting aside the amount needed to pay for the previous year’s deficits as well as coping for a lower anticipated income, debts left unpaid, and the fact that the previous administration had left no funding available for the GSO to draw upon (it was noted that, in prior years, the GSO had a surplus which had been expended by the prior administration). Specific measures proposed by the President included not appointing an Programming chair (to save the stipend), and the funding of Programming and MCAA events out of other funds rather than the establishment of their own.

At 6:20, questions were asked over specific allocations and shrinking them down. It was specifically noted that those events with low attendance (those of less than 50 people) are wasteful, as are others such as the Gala. There was discussion over how the Fall Picnic should be maintained as it does serve good use and is a good effect for the cost. Further questions led to a discussion on the purpose of the MCAA and how it relates to the GSO as a whole. It was suggested that MCAA Chair not be appointed or paid as well, which was answered to the effect of the MCAA Chair as an elected rather than appointed position. One individual inquired whether the stipends of GSO officers could be reduced. It was also encouraged that GSOs collaborate.

At 6:35, the President asked if there was any objective to neither funding nor appointing the Programming Chair. There was no objection.

At 6:38, the Treasurer discussed the printer and copier, noting their monthly cost exceeding 700 USD and that certain contracts were unpaid. Additionally, peak usage of the copier was well above contract limits, but in others they went underutilized. It was subsequently discussed to lower copy limits. The President and Vice President also informed the GSO Assembly of their intention to renegotiate the printing and copying contract.

At 6:44, it was asked if the Grants budget was satisfying its purpose. The previous Grants Chair (whom the President also announced as his appointee), discussed how it was required in the budget, but could
be lowered by the Assembly. He also indicated that only 100 of 150 Grants were even partially funded during the previous year as-is due to budget constraints.

At 6:48, it was asked if perhaps the Gala should be eliminated. Discussion ensued indicating a consensus that it should seek some larger, more open venue that will not be as costly per person as the current restrictive one.

At 6:50, the President proposed an increase in the Student Activities fee. A discussion ensued, with the specific points raised that the GSO will be doing so on the tail of a public financial mishap, that it might be politically unwise with the near-election on whether the fee shall remain mandatory, that the GSO may not have an alternative, but that the GSO offers an excellent value per dollar collected. There was no clear consensus on this issue.

At 7:00, the Vice President discussed issues in RGSO lapses due to MCAA or other faulting, but that a grace period would be allowed, and that a new online voucher system would make matters easier.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:02.

The recorder notes that no attendance or quorum was recorded for this meeting, but no officially binding motions were enacted.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary A. Roth,
Representative of the Nanobioscience Constellation
University Council Representative