Graduate Student Association
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2015

I. The Call to Order [6:10]
   a. The Chair called the regular meeting of the Graduate Student Association to order at 6:10pm.

II. Approval of the Agenda [6:12]
   Motion, Seconded with addition, approved (17-1-0)
   Motion made to add Section G of New Business to Write Letter, Seconded, Approved (17-1-0).

III. Approval of the Assembly’s Minutes from March Meeting [6:18]
   Motion, Seconded, approved (18-0-0)

IV. Officer Reports (can be found online under the GSA website) [6:18]
   a. The President
      i. She would like to add that NAGPS president was contacted by big US News network looking for a now graduated student who has/is:
         1. 6 digit debt
         2. Grad plus program participant
         3. Current Income not making up for debt
      ii. Look in your networks for people that fit criteria
   b. The Vice President
      i. We’re looking to increase our numbers, so help us reach out to departments to get into their orientation programs, if you’d like help contact me!

<<< Not reaching quorum, temporary break to reach quorum >>>> [6:16]

Interim Period (point at which we did not have quorum)

V. UUP Proposal for a UAlbany Food Pantry [Please see the handout] [6:20]
   a. President – we should spend $5,000.00 as a start-up fund to create this Food Pantry
      i. We want to provide the start-up so it can become self-sustaining
   b. Presentation by Greta Petry – Grievance Chair of the UUP
      i. Our UUP chapter has gotten requests for food and we don’t have an organization to handle requests
      ii. We want to give up our UUP office below LC for this
      iii. 15 SUNYs already have a food pantry by 2014 and 3 more in the works, Albany not one of them
      iv. 18,000 students and contingent faculty with no access to emergency food pantries
      v. We want to start small and avoid liability to go non-perishable only and limited hours a few times a month
vi. All Students and Faculty would be welcomed to use this
vii. We need to collaborate all across the University
viii. We’ve talked to food pantries within the city of Albany for practical rules
ix. We want to protect confidentiality as much as possible
x. Student Association is looking to help as a form of community service
xi. Our proposal is based closely off Stony Brook’s model

VI. NAGPS Report – Hirah Mir
   xii. How we can do social justice work on and off campus
   xiii. Working with Amani
   xiv. We’re working on professional development handbook specifically aimed at PhDs concerned with employment outside academia, and aimed at international students with PhDs
   xv. How to support international students
      1. Concerns over resources and visa problems and writing problems not being addressed

VII. Wages and Benefits Committee – Jackie Hayes
   i. The progress we’ve made:
      1. GA wages have begun to rise, expect in the fall semester
      2. Current students ARE included in the raise
      3. More still needs to be done
      4. Thank you to Assembly and Committee and E-Board

<<< Remade quorum>>>
ii. This is to approve both April and May budget, vote is 20-1-0

b. The Grants Chair
   i. None

c. The Programming Chair
   i. Respond to the Banquet
   ii. We have Fall Orientation all set:
       1. Assembly hall, in CC, on Monday, August 26 (12-3pm) and
          Wednesday, August 28 (2-5pm)
       2. Spread the word to your departments

d. The Equity and Inclusion Chair
   i. None

*Motion* made by President-Elect Beach to amend agenda to move the confirmation of appointees to be after the officer reports, seconded, approved unanimously.

IX. **Confirmation of Appointments (made by President Elect Beach)**

   a. Lisa Cassidy – Programming Chair
      i. Confirmed (Vote: 22-0-0)
   b. John Stovall – Grants Chair
      i. Confirmed (Vote: 21-0-2)

X. **Other Reports (can be found online under the GSA website)**

   a. The Lead Senator
      i. Division for Research
      ii. Reach out constituents to get students on this panel
      iii. New York Academy of Science has someone who has worked with
           NSF and wants to do an event to discuss how to get grants from NSF.
           1. Contact me if you’re interested
      iv. *Motion* made to amend agenda “Letters to Legislatures” to move this
           item to, seconded, approved.

b. University Council Rep. – Bryant Barksdale
   i. None

   c. UAS Rep – Lisa Cassidy
      i. None

XI. **Old Business**

   a. RGSO Guidelines
      i. *Motion* to approve guidelines as amended in the December 2014
         meeting.
      ii. See the packet for the three major changes
          1. Restructure the way we fund RGSO – See Vice President’s
             April
             a. $500 grant at the beginning of the Fall Semester for
                your events and no event-form needed for RGSOs
             b. You now use the event forms if you’re out of the initial
                $500.
c. You have to spend it within the guidelines and within our policies.

iii. **Motion** seconded from December 2014 meeting with vote postponed until this, the May 2015 meeting.

iv. RGSO guidelines approved. (Vote 21-0-2)

XII. **New Business**

a. 2015-2016 Proposed Budget (handled above as item VIII)

b. JBoard Recommendations
   
i. Term limits question about taking office on an interim basis after resignation or impeachment.
   
1. This interim basis would not count toward the term limit
2. This is a proposed change to the constitution
3. Please send their handout
   
   a. **Motion** made to amend language to change words from “year” to “term”
   
   b. Seconded, and approved

4. **Motion** made to entertain these constitutional amendments during the next election cycle, seconded, and approved. (Vote 23-0-0)

   
ii. Section on General Election Rules and Regulations
   
1. J-Board recommends adding language in by-laws about notification of nomination within 42 hours and a 7 day notification period before a candidates’ forum.

2. **Motion** to amend the by-laws to reflect the proposed language by the J-Board in their handout, seconded, and approved. (Vote 20-2-1).

   
c. Confirmation of Appointments (handled above as item IX)

   
d. Assembly Reps of the Year
   
   i. At Banquet there will be 3 Reps of the Year, one chosen by E-Board and 2 by the Assembly
   
   ii. At Banquet there will RGSO of the Year
   
   iii. Write it down today! 😊

   
e. RGSO of the Year

   
f. Introduction of new E-Board (Run by outgoing President Jaiczewski)
   
   i. Robert Beach - President
   
   ii. Kat Sly – Vice President
   
   iii. Hana – Treasurer
   
   iv. Amani Edwards – Equity and Inclusion (MCAA)
   
   v. John Stovall – Grants Chair
   
   vi. Lisa Cassidy – Programming Chair

XIII. Letters to New York Legislature about childcare in SUNY and CUNY – Presented by the Lead Senator

   a. See Lead Senator Report
b. I ask that we write a letter to the legislators to thank them for their support.

c. **Motion** to do so, seconded, and approved unanimously.

**XIV. Open Forum**

a. University at Albany voted with strongest Student Government in all 64 campuses in SUNY, graduate and undergraduate! Woot!

**XV. Adjournment**

a. The Chair adjourned the meeting of the Graduate Student Association at 7:43.