

**GSO Assembly Meeting Uptown Campus – Lecture Center #21
February 2, 2007**

Minutes

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2006.
- III. RGSO recognition.
- IV. Officer Reports:
 - A. President – Maria Chau
 - i. Welcome Back
 1. See the GSO calendar on our website to stay on top of all the activities we have planned this semester.
 2. Specifically note the Campus Reading Project. We have books for free in our office. Event on March 29th.
 3. Announcement: Maria Chau will be absent from March 2nd Assembly Meeting.
 4. Change of date: April 20th Assembly Meeting is now April 13th.
 - ii. RGSO Meeting February 9th concerning policy and funding. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss how to clarify forms, procedures, etc.. All graduate students are welcome, and RGSO officers are specifically encouraged to attend. Maria Chau will mention funding changes due to be implemented.
 - iii. GSO Steering Committee: We are looking for members to serve on this committee which will do long-term planning.
 1. The 2005 Constitution should have been voted on last year, but that did not happen. We will vote on that constitution during the next election.
 - iv. GSO Election 2007 will be held in April (date TBA). Most current eboard members are graduating, so there will be many open positions.
 - v. End of the Year Gala – GSO Award Evening
 1. Maria Chau proposes that we have a more inclusive Gala event at the end of the year rather than an Award Evening.
 2. Many students raised questions and objections to the idea of the Gala. A motion was made to discuss whether this was the wisest use of GSO funds. Should not more funds go towards grants rather than a Gala? Can we insure that the Gala will be well attended and the funds will not be wasted?
 - vi. Presidential Search Committee Graduate Representative: Daniel J. Smith.
 1. the survey was distributed and explained. Survey results will help Mr. Smith represent graduate opinion on the search committee.
 - vii. Kevin Lahey is introduced as candidate for SUNY Assembly representative of the graduate student body. This position is for the purpose of summarizing council meetings on campus and presenting this information to the graduate student body. Mr. Lahey was approved by the GSO Assembly.
 - viii. Glenn Pichardo is introduced as candidate for the University Council Graduate Representative. Glenn mentioned that he will work towards securing voting rights for the graduate rep on the University Council; improve graduate student relations with the University; increase graduate stipends; increase SUNY Albany's prestige. Mr. Pichardo was approved by the GSO Assembly.
 - ix. Don Boyce is introduced as candidate for the position of GSO Vice President. Don mentioned his goals of better Communication and RGSO advocacy. He hopes to streamline

the RGSO funding process. He will have office hours on Fridays. Mr. Boyce was approved by the GSO Assembly.

1. Don Boyce mentioned again the RGSO meeting on February 9th, and the deadline for submission of RGSO budgets on February 16th.

B. Treasurer – Linlin Feng

- i. Ms. Feng was absent. The financial update was included in Assembly Meeting materials.

C. Grant Chair – Maria Lopez

i. General Update

1. Around 30 grant applications have been submitted for Spring 2007.
2. We need graduate students to serve on the Grants Review Committee. The Committee will meet on both February 9th and 16th (but you only need to come to one or the other).
3. This year, grant recipients will be invited to post their conference posters in the GSO office to allow the graduate student body to appreciate the great work that we are funding.

D. Programming Chair – Miciah Yehudah

i. General Update

1. Re: Socials, informally known as “Happy Hours,” we were only able to get Thursday nights. We will have two such “Happy Hours” later in the semester.
2. African Dance Classes are every Saturday night for six weeks. Sign-up is ongoing. Kungfu and TaiChi classes will start on March 24th and continue for six weeks.
3. The Brown Bag Lunch Series will continue this semester. Danes after Dark also continues: every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night: free massages, popcorn, billiards, etc.. There are free movies every Friday night continuing.

ii. Upcoming Events:

1. 3/14: “The Lady’s Not For Burning” @ UAlbany Performing Arts Center
2. 3/17: Shopping Trip to Woodbury Commons
3. 3/29: Social @ Noche
4. 4/12: Rent @ Proctor’s
5. 4/21: Bus Trip to NYC
6. 4/29: “The Shape of Things” @ UAlbany Performing Arts Center
7. 5/1: Alvin Ailey Dance Company @ Proctor’s
8. 5/17: Social @ Noche (it’s the last day of finals)

iii. Some questions were raised about the fairness of the “First Come, First Served” policy of disseminating free tickets to events.

E. MCAA Chair – Amirah Cousins

i. General Update

1. The MCAA Committee needs members!

ii. Upcoming Events:

1. 2/5: Soul Food Celebration @ GSO Office
2. 2/10: “Le Ballets Africains” @ the Egg
3. 2/8-2/11: “The Vagina Monologues” @ Downtown Campus
4. 2/12: Movie showing: probably “Eyes on the Prize”
5. 2/17: “Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana” @ the Egg
6. 2/18: Chinese New Year’s Event @ the Egg (starting at 2 PM)

F. SUNY Assembly Representative - Kevin Lahey

i. General Update

1. The Governance Council and the Council on Motions and Continuing Appointments have not yet met this semester.
2. The University Life Council has discussed:

- a. The bookstore looked at area prices. Ours are the lowest.
 - b. Some online journals at the library are being lost due to budget.
 - c. Computer Science Dept. has old equipment and needs newer computers.
 3. The Graduate Academic Council (GAC) discussed:
 - a. Looking at ways to improve TOEFL scores of UAlbany International Students.
 - b. Organizational Management PhD admission is suspended.
 - c. Looking at creating a Graduate Studies ombudsmen position.
 4. The Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC) discussed and voted on lowering general education requirements, including lowering the Social Sciences requirement from 2 to 1 classes.
 5. The University Planning Council (UPC) discussed that graduate student stipends have not increased in the past five years and are low compared to other institutions.
- G. Presidential Search Committee Graduate Representative – Daniel Smith
- i. Explained how he is working with Institutional Research to design and conduct the survey handed out at the meeting. RGSO survey results will be tabulated separately from the online general survey. Mr. Smith hopes to report survey results at a future meeting. Many students made comments on how to improve/alter the survey.
- H. Open Discussion
- i. Micah Ben Reuben mentioned that there are two committees that need to be set up:
 1. 2007 GSO Election Committee. To serve, contact Micah Ben Reuben.
 2. RGSO Budget Review Committee. To serve, contact Don Boyce.
 - ii. In response to an inquiry, Maria Chau explained that the new Constitution is on the website, the old one is only in paper form. Copies available at the GSO Office.
 - iii. Many students had comments about the proposed Gala event:
 1. Questions were raised about how much democracy is involved in the dissemination of GSO funds. The Eboard answered by clarifying that the budget was approved by the general assembly at the beginning of the year, but the money in the President's fund is usable at the President's discretion.
 - iv. The representative from the Chinese Students Association announced the Chinese New Year Party @ the Egg on 2/18 from 2 PM – 7 PM.
- I. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.