

Graduate Student Association Meeting

Minutes

May 9, 2013 – Butler 208 – 6:15 pm

Present	Absent
Valjeta Ahmeti Hanne Bratsberg Jeff SaintDic Kristopher Moseley Charles Mays Justin Nagy Roy Bakos Roxanne Roland Leah Dreier	Jacquie Schneegold – Excused James Lutz Kristy Bigouette – Excused

CALL TO ORDER: Vice President of GSA Hanne Bratsberg called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The Agenda was approved.

ADOPTON OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the March 14, 2013 GSA meeting were approved and distributed with two minor changes. Senator Moseley moved and Senator Bakos seconded. All in favor.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS:

Vice President Bratsberg: Welcome senators to the last meeting. As most of you know, Jackie is not here because she is having a baby. We have done a good job and have built a solid foundation for the future of GSA. We have started by offering funding and establishing committees. We have also successfully elected a new executive board. The new e-board members are: Thomas Waters – President, Vice President – Siraj Bah , Treasurer - Dinash Lal, Secretary – Alexandria Donkor. We also asked people for their opinion about the future of GSA via survey. The top two were professional development opportunities and additional funding availability. We will hold an election as soon as the semester starts in the fall, the new senators should be ready.

Remarks of the Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: We had a constituent question about the requirement of teacher evaluations. I did some research on that and all faculty are supposed to do course evaluations. I have reached out to the deans of the schools. This summer, the deans will send out course evaluations online and students will have more confidentiality. If a professor has not been doing them for a while, they will now all do it. I would like to congratulate the new e-board. The current e-board and new e-board will meet next week and go over duties and talk. The primary thing we will talk about this summer with the new e-board is the forms for the new senator elections. The elections have to happen about the same time every year, as required by SUNY. I also want to thank all of the senators. You might not feel the significance, but it is a great step forward and thank you for your willingness to make that step forward. Congratulations to all of you.

Treasurer Report: We have over \$11,000 and \$750 was just deposited into the account. I received an interest from a student that is teaching abroad and it is also

research. However, she will not be bringing back anything to the students here. Bringing back the research and give proper presentation, I was not able to fully fund them. They were also getting funding from other places. Students can get money from GSA, graduate school and each different school.

Discussion:

Vice President: Do you have the exact number of students we have funded.

Treasurer Saint Dic: Less than 20 and around \$5,000. I only almost funded one completely – the student was presenting abroad and here.

Senator Bakos: How does the communication go?

Treasurer Report: I look at it first, and then Dr. Railey looks at it from there.

Senator Bakos: Can you find out if they have received funding from somewhere else before they come to us?

Treasurer Saint Dic: I have had cases of both, GSA has been first and often last.

Senator Bakos: Can we have something where we can tell them where to go?

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: Marnie, my secretary gives them all of that information. Thus far, we have not had any complaints.

Senator Bakos: Down the line, we should have something where people know where they applied and how much they were awarded.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: It is always difficult to have a budget and figure out how to administer is fairly. It is a tricky process, but we have had some learning this year and it will be passed on.

Senator Bakos: Out of the fifty students that voted, less than half came for funding.

Treasurer Saint Dic: I was very happy to see the requests coming in and it built up as the semester went by.

Committee Reports

Senator Mays: As you can see, there are some things I have outlined. I have the names and roles listed and our committee agreed on the following. I have outlined define the roles. (put in the piece of paper)

Administrative Liaison: You should report on your committee, not on other committees. The ask was what your committee should be and do. The last one could be a motion later.

Senator Mays: For budget allocation, the current form could be used. A percentage would be taken for funding different things, for instance statement professionalism.

Treasurer SaintDic: The treasurer does that.

Senator Bakos: So, are we changing the whole procedure for a committee to take over that role.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: When he is finished with the report, it is up to you to reject it or accept it. For now, he is just giving his report.

Senator Mays: Executive board should be matriculated and senators could be non-matriculated.

Senator Mosley: You are saying one year terms. We discussed semester terms due to the lack of students interested.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: We discussed it, it was not voted on. If a student is finishing in December, they could not run now, they have to be available the whole year.

Treasurer Saint Dic: The remark says \$40% . That is way too low, a lot of students may go against that because it is not fair.

Senator Mays: That is an example; it is up to the committee next year.

Vice President Bratsberg: You are proposing the review of the constitution and budgetary usage for activities for GSA and for fellow student's request for funding.

Senator Dreier: I would rather have our constitution to stay the same and focus on helping out students.

Senator Roland: I disagree; the treasurer should have a body of people that look at things from different ways. To put it all on one person is too much, someone else needs to know the procedure.

Administrative Liaison: You approved a committee, we voted on two committees. We did not explain the charge. There is a committee in place, but there are no guidelines for who should be on it, who should be the chair and what their roles are.

Senator Bakos: The experience has been good, next year we might have money keep adding on. Right now, the treasurer is the most powerful position. That is great, but whenever you have more democracy people need to show up and that does not happen often. Maybe, as he is making those decisions, the committee can then look at it and review it.

Administrative Liaison: To clarify, the treasurer cannot fund things that are not on the constitution. That is checked by me and the Foundation. They look at the guidelines for how money is spent. A committee that could continually review the process, I think that would be important.

Treasurer SaintDic: I agree, things can happen, life happens. I do agree, but for example but often there are immediate decisions that need to be made.

Senator Roland: Well, being the chair you can make immediate decision and other decisions can go through a longer process.

Treasurer SaintDic: I do agree that a committee should be formed, but the treasurer should report exactly what is happening. At the end of the day, I do not have the last word. It has to go up the ladder. I can contact a member and say hey, I am not there can you do this?

Senator Roland: We can put this committee can meet at such and such time, opposed as putting the pressure as you need to do this now. Give them dates, so they know when to meet.

Vice President Bratsberg: we have dates on the constitution. I suggest that we do one committee at a time and see if we can get through this.

Vice President Bratsberg: I am proposing that we split the committees, there will be one budget committee and one that is solely responsible to for viewing the constitution.

Senator Bakos: We need to have a mechanism. I have put my name on three committees and never got one e-mail or call. We can assign them and have set dates for all. Until we set up a mechanism, we can talk all we want and nothing will happen. Let's look at the two committees we have first. What are the two committees?

Vice President Bratsberg: They are the student welfare committee and the budget allocation committee.

Senator Bakos: Can we vote on the report or go to new business.

Senator Mays: This is still on the table.

Senator Bakos: I make a motion we table and talk about it after new business.

Student Welfare Committee:

Senator Moseley: As for the naming, I considered the student task force name. I personally believe it is a modern name and would prefer to keep it as this for now. That is where I stand on that. I based this on the Buffalo State senate. As for the gym, he is not sure it can be brought down. He said it was a good deal compared to other places in the area.

Vice President Bratsberg: I had a meeting with Maryruth Glogowski, she noticed that the graduate students liking of the library has decreased. She is really open to helping graduate students with whatever they need. She has some suggestions that are ready for implementations. I will let the new e-board know so they can take over. She would like a focus group to talk to the students about what the library offers.

Senator Moseley: I set some goals for the new senators. I lacked in leadership and I do apologize for that. (put in the report) I have no idea how the things I have worked on affect the entire student population.

Vice President: Questions. Comments.

Treasurer SaintDic: I have an idea the gym membership is going to go up. They are building a new one and prices might increase.

Senator Moseley: I did not get that impression, but it could happen.

Treasurer SaintDic: I know there is a lot of construction, and the funding has to come from somewhere. The fees are going up and even USG has noticed that.

Senator Moseley: I did write that we can negotiate somewhere else.

Treasurer SaintDic: I like the fact that you reached out to the library. I think having a section for graduate students would be a great idea.

Vice President: She mentioned that as an option. I propose for the accepting of the committee report. Moved by Senator Drier and seconded by Senator Bakos.

Senator Dreier: Committee Report for student welfare committee, I have contacted with the people interested in my committee and have heard nothing. I have contacted the guy who runs toast master and asked me what my next step is. I have not gotten any feedback and I have not been able to move forward. I have a lot of information, but I do not know what students want to do with it.

Administrative Liaison: Write up a paragraph we can forward to the new senators.

Old Business:

Secretary Ahmeti: Motion to amend the constitution to open up for newly accepting students to run for e-board without being registered.

Senator Dreier: Is that our problem?

Senator Moseley: You have to have faith they will follow through

Senator Bakos: When May comes along, they can run. We are not denying the opportunity.

Vice President Bratsberg: I think having it open to undergrads it may increase the chance they will come to Buffalo State. Maybe, they are not mature enough to do it. If we accept it, people will stay longer which would be a good thing.

Treasurer: I disagree, the work load changes when you are graduate students. I want them to know what they are getting in to. If we change it to one semester, instead of a year, I may not disagree. It is great they are motivated; they can be a part of a committee, if they are that motivated. They need to know what graduate students actually need.

Senator Roland: I feel similarly, when you are coming into e-board you can only make perceptions of what graduate students need. The registration is before the election, so they can still do it.

Senator Bakos: I would not want someone who has never been in a graduate course to make decisions for graduate students.

Administrative Liaison Dr. Railey: We have no way to communicate with them until they are matriculated.

Vice President Bratsberg: All in favor of accepting the motion. All opposed.

- I motion to amend the constitution, regarding putting aside \$250 for the purpose of GSA. It will be money for refreshments and marketing, etc.

Senator Mays: Do you think that will be enough? As far as posters and other marketing strategies. If GSA had three events, money would go quick. I motion to increase the amount to \$300.

Vice President Bratsberg: Now, the motion is \$300.

Senator Bakos: Can we be much more specific. Business cards, posters, specific marketing tools, and food. A friendly motion was put forward.

Senator Moseley: I would like to be specific with food. I would say just water.

Administrative: you have to do it as a motion.

Senator Moseley: I move to amend the description of food as just water.

Senator Roland: We can say we can't exceed \$20. Amendment to the motion, I would say light refreshments, no more than \$25 per meeting.

The amendment was amended

Senator Dreier: Why don't we see how it goes?

Senator Roland: I feel that it can go up and I am amending it again, to go up to \$40 a meeting. Not a friendly acceptance.

Senator Ahmeti: That amount is nothing.

Senator Dreier: There is no budget left for marketing. We are subtracting from what we really need.

Senator Bakos: I think \$40 is more than reasonable. Would you accept an amendment of \$400 as a friendly. \$200 for food, \$200 for marketing.

We tabled the \$40 and going \$200 for \$200.

Vice President Bratsberg: All in favor.

New Business:

Vice President Bratsberg: I would like to motion for the GSA to have annual report of what was done during the year and how much was spent.

Senator Bakos: I motion a friendly amendment that – that report will be given to students on Angel and a hard copy be put on file.

Vice President Bratsberg: I accept.

Senator Mays: Is this a duty of the president? I request the current motion and add it to the duties of the President.

Vice President Bratsberg: Any other thoughts? I motion for the GSA president to provide an annual report of what was done during the year and how much was spent and a copy will be given to students via angel and a hard copy will be kept on file. All in favor.

Vice President Bratsberg: I propose a motion to Amend the constitution to allow funding to be used professional networking events on campus.

Senator Bakos: What specifically is a professional networking event?

Vice President Bratsberg: We can meet with graduate students or invite someone to come in.

Senator Bakos: So, it could be anything,...

Administrative Liaison: Well, it could not be something like a rock band. It would be a social gathering, it could simply be that. Social events are networking. Graduate student night for example, was social and it was networking.

Senator Bakos: There is no funding available for that from anywhere else? Do we want to say we are going to spend 300, 400, 500 dollars – set in place a mechanism, we are going to do one and sponsor one. Would we be better off doing that?

Administrative Liaison: It allows for consideration, people that will follow will be careful like you. It is not one person, it is a GSA decision.

Senator Bakos: We do not need to be super specific?

Administrative Liaison: It allows them to even have the idea put forward. Sure, there are 1,500 students but an event with 50 students is a success. For now, there is no vehicle for the GSA to help do that.

Senator Mays: I think it is a good idea, I agree with Dr. Railey. All I know is my MPA people; I am just going through the motion. I think a lot of people will like that networking opportunity. I think it will be very useful, we get caught up into semantics into the bigger picture.

Vice President Bratsberg: Motion to amend the constitution to allow for one professional networking event per semester. All in favor.

Vice President Bratsberg: We put on the side the original committee report by Charles Mays.

Senator Mays: I would like to amend my own report. I would like to cross everything out except, suggested names and roles and budget/allocation.

Administrative Liaison: At the top, review the constitution periodically could be one of the charged of the committee – the other review the use of the budget funds - the third, review students requests. Right now, the name is the budget and policy committee, but he is suggesting we change it to Allocation and Policy Committee.

Senator Bakos: Would you accept a friendly amendment that the treasurer would chair the committee and the committee would have four members, including the treasurer. Yes, friendly.

Senator Roland: The treasurer's job is to review the student requests, by making him chair it is adding more work. The other two stay separate. To break the last part. Give him his own committee. All I am asking is for the treasurer to have his own committee. To delete student review requests and to delete the treasurer being chair.

Senator Mays: Not friendly

Senator Roland: I motion to amend to take off the third thing off this outline and to not make the treasurer of this the chair.

Vice President Bratsberg: I am proposing to word the amendment differently a little bit.

Administration: you have to talk for it or against it, can't vote on it.

Senator Dreier: Just for clarification, are we doing this because we want the senators to have a voice? Why are we doing all this? I need a reason.

Senator Mays: the amount of funding that came in, we wanted checks and balances.

Vice President Bratsberg: If the treasurer is away, we need someone.

Senator Mays: My original idea was that he has a request and shows it to the committee and the committee would make the final decision.

Senator Roland: I don't think he needs to do the policy review and constitution review.

Senator Bakos: I am for the amendment.

Vice President Bratsberg: this amendment would be to take away the chair position, but he would be part of it.

Administrative Liaison: I want to support this strongly. The treasurer should be completely independent of this committee and therefore should not be a chair of this committee.

Vice President Committee: Let us vote. All in favor. One oppose by Senator Dreier and sustained by Senator Mays.

Administrative Liaison: The name would be changed to allocation and policy committee – to review the constitution periodically and uses of budget funds.

Senator Bakos: I would like to make a motion that at the beginning of the GSA everyone be given a copy of Roberts rules of order. I would like to make another motion that each standing committee has four members and senators and e-board members be a part of it. I made a point that I only heard from the committees at the meeting only.

Administrative Liaison: Each committee the senator brings the charge forward. Kristopher thought a lot of students were interested in bus passes, but in fact they might not be. Every meeting, the committees would have to report. Eventually, you can assign a new chair and you can kick them off the chair. There is a process in motion, once you are formal, which we are now. The thing we did not have is a specific number, that would be new.

Senator Bakos: I would like to put a motion forward that standing committees will have at least four members.

Vice President Bratsberg: It is a little risky

Senator Moseley: What if only two are interested...

Senator Bakos: I chose four as a minimum because it is not a huge number

Senator Mays: I would amend it to say that a committee can be at least two people, that would give the committee work. You may not get anybody, but at least find one person.

Administrative Liaison: I have no problem with a committee of one. I personally would vote against the motion if I was able to vote.

Roy Bakos: Accepted friendly motion. The two standing committees we have are important and work should be done.

Senator at Large: What if there are not two people, the committee gets dropped? If one person is committed and no one to help...

Senator Bakos: I withdraw the motion.

Senator Dreier: In his agreement to his statement, he is using specific situation that he wants more.

Administrative Liaison: He is not attacking anyone. They are both valid arguments, he is trying to explain. It is better to talk to the floor, talk to the motion. Never directed, if you look at a person it feels like he is talking towards you. Is your motion still on the floor?

Senator Bakos: My motion is on the floor for at least two people to be on a committee.

Senator Moseley: In the extreme case you would not have a working committee if you cannot get more than two people.

Senator Bakos: I would adjust it to say that it starts with two people. It is at least charted with two people.

Senator Moseley: Friendly amendment to have the president allowing the committee to have one member under extreme circumstances.

Senator Roland: If we are allowing them to act as one anyway, we are just adding an extra step. The attempt to try and find two people, but can act as one anyway.

Vice President Bratsberg: I think one person is enough, it is more on the task not on the people.

Senator Moseley: If I have to come back to the next meeting as say I didn't find anyone, you get more done with more people.

Senator Roland: I don't understand why you wouldn't try. I am speaking against it. The initial thought process is that you would try and find people but there are people that feel they do not need help.

Vice President Bratsberg: People put forward there was never communication, it is not the amount of people it is about the committee presenting their work. Let us vote.

Administrative Liaison: The motion is that every standing committee has at least two members. In extreme cases the president can allow for one. It was a 4 to 2 vote. It did not pass.

Senator Roland: GSA student funding committee– Review applications and come up with a system for approval. The chair is the treasurer and four people total.

Senator Moseley: Would it be appropriate to say that this is taking the treasurer's job and putting it into a committee.

Senator Bakos: If we do something like that, anything we do moving forward we would have to go and be as specific as possible. This is not something we can throw in the air and leave.

Administrative Liaison: I would speak against this, the treasurer does not work in isolation. The turn around time is important and the system is tight and there would be many conflicts. The treasurer has checks and balances and he does work under the president and vice president. It would slow things down and would not be fair to the students.

Senator Roland: I withdraw my motion. What I will state is that, personally I do feel that the system – maybe there is a system of checks and balances but it is not tight knit. I do not think it is fair that the treasurer to have to keep doing it over and over.

Vice President Bratsberg: Thank you, Roxanne.

Senator Dreier: Do we have a senate GSA model to have references. Have resources to go to.

Senator Mays: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ended at 8:37pm