

1. GSA President Tanja Aho calls the meeting to order at 6:34pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2017 Senate Meeting
 - Motion: Library & Information Studies
 - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - In favor: 65; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes
3. Announcements
 - Aaron Maracle from Wellness Education Services' Sexual Violence Prevention Unit takes the floor to remind students of sexual violence reporting options, including the period of a year after the graduation of a PhD student during which they can report harassment and assault by a mentor during their education.
4. Report of the President
 - Tanja calls a representative from the Living Stipend movement to the floor to present on updates within their movement.
 - Tanja has Jen Schechter, Sub-Board, I Secretary, and Mike Grela, SBI Accountant, take the floor to discuss and answer questions related to the filing of GSA as a 501(c)(3) recognized incorporated association. This process provides greater liability coverage and the ability to take donations directly, and is being paid for through SBI at no cost to GSA.
5. Report of the Vice President
 - There is no report.
6. Report of the Treasurer
 - Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000, adjusted from \$18,000.00, to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$12,625.00 remaining
 - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$250.00 allocated this month, \$1,750.00 remaining
 - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$1,400.00 allocated this month, \$12,200.00 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: \$5,000, adjusted from \$9,000.00, to start, \$2,700.00 allocated this month, \$1,000.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,750.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - 8 requests for \$3,411.60, 8 applications approved for \$3,411.60
 - Additional funding awarded to November applicants: \$4,684.72
 - Beginning Balance: \$132,000.00 to start; Remaining Balance \$78,096.38
 - Tilotama announces that due to the low volume of conference applications this month, additional funding was retroactively granted to conference funding applicants from November, a month when there was too high a volume of requests to fully fund all requests.
7. Old Business
 - No old business.
8. New Business
 - Club Recognition
 - A representative from Hellenic GSA presents on their club.
 - Requested/Recommended: \$650.00
 - Motion to approve Hellenic GSA at the recommended amount
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - In favor: 64, Oppose: 2, Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
 - Funding Requests
 - A representative from Biological Sciences presents on their symposium.
 - Requested/Recommended: \$1,400.00
 - Motion to approve funding request at recommended amount
 - Motion: Library & Information Studies
 - Second: Chemistry
 - In favor: 55, Oppose: 4; Abstain: 2
 - Motion passes
 - A representative from English presents on their Speak Out/Write In interdepartmental activity.
 - Requested: \$275.00, Recommended: \$250.00
 - Motion to approve funding request at recommended amount
 - Motion: Library & Information Studies
 - Second: Media Study

- In favor: 47, Oppose: 10; Abstain: 8.
 - Motion passes
- A representative from English presents on their scholarly publication, *P-Queue*.
 - Requested/recommended: \$1,400.00
 - Motion to approve funding request at recommended amount
 - Motion: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - Second: Anthropology
 - In favor: 50, Oppose: 10; Abstain: 6.
 - Motion passes
- A representative from Anthropology presents on their scholarly publication, *ABD*.
 - Requested/recommended: \$1,300.00
 - Motion to approve funding request at recommended amount
 - Motion: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - Second: Classics
 - In favor: 52, Oppose: 6; Abstain: 6.
 - Motion passes
- Approval of UB Graduate Student Association Senate resolution to support removal of Sec. 1204 and Sec. 1201 from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
 - Tanja announces that this resolution was brought before the Senate by Christopher Rupert from Biological Sciences. Tanja reminds the Senate that any GSA member has the ability to bring a resolution before the Senate, and discusses what resolutions might accomplish. Christopher takes the floor to present and open discussion on his resolution.
 - There is debate around whether or not tuition waivers at UB are considered scholarships by the university, and thus cannot be taxable income.
 - Tanja suggests amendments to remove the act's section numbers from the resolution, making the document pertinent even if section numbers are changed, and to adjust the number of UB graduate students to have professional students removed, as they do not receive tuition waivers.
 - Motion to approve the resolution
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Library & Information Studies
 - After a question of clarification from a Senate member, Anthropology and Library & Information Studies restate their motion.
 - Motion to approve the resolution with amendments
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Library & Information Studies
 - A Senate member suggests an amendment clarifying the nature of tuition waivers at UB.
 - Tanja and members of the Senate suggest the language, "We call on the administration to verify the non-income nature of graduate student tuition scholarships."
 - Anthropology and Library & Information Studies update their motion to reflect this third suggestion
 - Motion to approve the resolution with three amendments
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Library & Information Studies
 - In favor: 65, Oppose: 1, Abstain: 0.
 - Motion passes
 - Christopher mentions that it will be important for all graduate students to contact their representatives and let them know of their opposition to the tax bill as written, especially in Chris Collins' district, as well as to have peoples' out-of-state family contact their representatives.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Students are reminded to please make sure to turn in their voting cards and clickers before leaving in order to be counted for Roll Call.
- Motion to Adjourn at 7:55pm
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - In favor: 63; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes