

1. GSA President Tanja Aho calls the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the February 7, 2018 Senate Meeting
  - Motion: Biological Sciences
  - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
  - In favor: 64; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- Programming:
  - March 9<sup>th</sup>- Java Junction (rescheduled from last Friday due to University closure)
    - Free Tim Horton's coffee and doughnuts for graduate students.
  - March 9<sup>th</sup>- Healthy Options Cooking Class, 8:00pm at D'Avolio (Downtown Location)
    - Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Office for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID.
  - March 16<sup>th</sup>- South Campus Siesta, 1:30 – 3:30pm in 105 Harriman Hall
    - Free food and drinks for graduate students at South Campus
  - April 7<sup>th</sup>- Plant Nite at Pearl Street Grill & Brewery,
    - Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Office for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID.
  - April 15<sup>th</sup>- Buffalo Untapped
    - Free \$5 food voucher and beer/wine tastings for the first 300 graduate students in attendance
  - May 4<sup>th</sup>- Phantom of the Opera at Shea's Performing Arts Center
    - Tickets on sale April 2<sup>nd</sup> for \$20 each. 2 per UB ID.
- March 19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> the GSA Office will be on Summer Hours for Spring Recess
  - Monday – Thursday from 8:30am – 4:00pm, closed on Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>
- UB Dental Run for Smiles 5K
  - Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> to benefit UB Dental's BOCA Program. \$20 to register at [www.ubrunforsmiles.com](http://www.ubrunforsmiles.com).

4. Report of the President

- Resolution 1718-03, in Support of Student Demonstrations Against Gun Violence
  - Tanja presents on the resolution, which supports that there be no retributive action taken against students who choose to participate in the March 14<sup>th</sup> walk-out against gun violence. She states that students across the nation will leave class for 17 minutes in honor of each of the victims who lost their lives in the recent Florida school shooting.
    - A student asks when the walk-out is taking place.
      - Tanja states it is at 10:00am. She adds that the resolution is not intended to be an advertisement for the walk-out, but a call on the administration not to penalize prospective students for participating in the protest. However, it is possible to amend the resolution with this information should the Senate wish.
    - A student asks if the resolution has been reviewed by GSA's general counsel.
      - Tanja clarifies that it has not, but is in conjunction with a resolution being passed by the Faculty and Staff Senate, whose resolution was reviewed by their lawyers. The only new wording is point 3, calling on the administration to make a statement rather than remaining silent.
    - A student attempts to clarify that the resolution is in support of the protest, but is not taking a political position on the issue being protested.
      - Tanja confirms that this resolution is in support of the exercise of the right to protest around the issue of gun violence on campuses, and not in support of particular positions about how to solve the issue.
    - Motion to approve the resolution
      - Motion: English
      - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
    - A student asks if the vote is without amendment.
      - Tanja confirms that it is.
    - The student replies that they would like to amend the resolution to include the specific time of protest, so as not to give carte blanche for people to leave class for 17 minutes at any point during the day.
      - Tanja clarifies that the motion would need to be voted down now in order for a different motion to be put up.
      - Stephanie suggests that the motion on the floor could be modified by those who made it, which is agreed to by both English and Community Health & Health Behavior.
    - Motion to approve the resolution with an amendment clarifying the specific time of the protest being supported
      - Motion: English
      - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
      - In Favor: 58; Oppose: 7; Abstain: 5
      - Motion passes

- Tanja states that resolutions, following approval by the Senate, are posted to the GSA website and newsletter, and sent to the appropriate offices on campus. These resolutions give official support from graduate students to a position or effort.

#### 5. Report of the Vice President

- Vice President Connor Walters presents a Services Committee update. He states that the committee has been meeting bi-weekly with the goal of improving student knowledge of GSA services, including SBI services. He mentions that they have been creating flyers, administering surveys, and adding info on GSA services to the newsletter.
- Connor asks that if students have any feedback, especially any potential problems, with SBI services, they contact him at [gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu](mailto:gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu).

#### 6. Report of the Treasurer

- Treasurer Jen Schechter announces that 4 GSA clubs applied for SBI Programming Grants, and all 4 received funding for a total of \$4,173.50.
- Funding Account Balances:
  - Special Activity: \$15,000, adjusted from \$18,000.00, to start, \$6,950.00 allocated this month, \$4,475.00 remaining
  - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$259.00 allocated this month, \$1,491.00 remaining
  - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$2,790.00 allocated this month, \$8,170.00 remaining
  - Scholarly Publication: \$5,000, adjusted from \$9,000.00, to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,000.00 remaining
  - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$250.00 allocated this month, \$1,500.00 remaining
  - Conferences:
    - 47 requests totaling \$19,838.16 requested for March, 46 applications approved for \$19,288.16
    - Beginning Balance: \$132,000.00; Remaining Balance \$37,761.65
- Jen states that conference demand is on the rise and department funds for conferences are decreasing. She states that for the conference funding line to increase, the GSA would need a fee increase.
  - A student suggests that conference funding should come from departments.
    - Jen states that conferences are very important for a large number of GSA students, and that the conference funding line is typically fully spent by the end of the year. Additionally, students are conducting higher cost research.
    - Connor adds that the GSA E-board does advocate for the university putting more money into sending students to conferences. He states that there is an upcoming meeting with graduate school leadership to ask them to increase their contributions.
  - Jen states that these contributions would be to research funding so that more funds can be shifted into conferences. She states that GSA conference funding covers much of what UB and departments would not or do not.
    - Tanja adds that every time she meets with university leadership, she tells them that there is a need for conference funding, research funding, and a living wage stipend. She states that the GSA is always advocating on this front, and has not given up, but that there is a need for conference funding that is currently not being met.
  - Jen states that an additional benefit of the GSA is that by using SBI as our accounting agent, we avoid the GUSF fee (13%). Jen adds that SBI is a student-run corporation, providing services like legal assistance and pharmacy, and that this is all paid for by a partial allocation of the GSA fee.
  - A student suggests that a fee increase might make it harder for some students to attend graduate school.
    - Jen clarifies that there is a waiver for students with financial need who cannot afford the GSA fee. She adds that this fee increase would keep the GSA going for at least 5-7 years, without any need for another raise.
  - A student asks why this GSA fee increase would pass if the smaller one last year didn't pass.
    - Connor states that the fee is being called the "Graduate Student Association fee" to avoid confusion with the university's controversial broad-based fees, which are also less controversial this year.
    - Tanja adds that with the increase, we would still have the lowest fee at UB, and the lowest GSA fee in the SUNY system, while still providing more services than other student associations on campus. Tanja states that we cannot continue to provide our current services without a fee increase. Tanja says that at this higher fee increase, we will be sustainable for much longer than with last year's proposed increase.

#### 7. Old Business

- No old business.

#### 8. New Business

- Funding Requests
  - A representative from CSEP presents on their Restorative Justice Day special activity.
    - Requested/recommended: \$1,200.00
  - A representative from Computational Sciences presents on their Job and Career Perspectives for Students in Computational Sciences special activity.
    - Requested/Recommended: \$1,200.00
  - A representative from Iranian GSA presents on their Concert by Mohsen Namjoo special activity.

- Requested/Recommended: \$1,200.00
- A representative from Pharmaceutical Sciences presents on their Pharmaceutical Sciences Distinguished Alumni Symposium special activity.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$950.00
- A representative from Architecture presents on their Atelier Week special activity.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$1,200.00
- A representative from GISA presents on their Holi special activity.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$1,200.00
- Motion to approve Special Activity funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
  - Motion: Community Health & Health Behavior
  - Second: Anthropology
  - In favor: 62; Oppose: 4; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes
- A representative from History presents on their symposium.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$1,390.00
- A representative from EERI presents on their symposium.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$1,400.00
- Motion to approve Symposium funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
  - Motion: Biological Sciences
  - Second: Materials Design and Innovation
  - In favor: 67; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 1
  - Motion passes
- A representative from Biochemistry presents on their interdepartmental activity with Microbiology.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$259.00
- Motion to approve Interdepartmental Activity funding request at the recommended amount
  - Motion: Biological Sciences
  - Second: Materials Design and Innovation
  - In favor: 55; Oppose: 6; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes
- A representative from Biochemistry presents on their community outreach event.
  - Requested: \$250.00; Finance Committee abstained from recommendation
    - Jen explains that the Finance Committee was unable to come to a consensus on whether the event met the criteria of being for “an agency outside of UB” as identified in the application paperwork. The Finance Committee instead decided to have the Senate make the decision without recommendation in either direction.
  - Discussion occurs regarding whether or not this event is required or recommended by the Department and who will ultimately be served by the students participating.
- Motion to approve Community Outreach request at the requested amount
  - Motion: Microbiology
  - Second: Graduate Indian Student Association
  - In favor: 42; Oppose: 21; Abstain: 4
  - Motion passes
- A representative of Chemistry presents on their community outreach event.
  - Requested/Recommended: \$250.00
- Motion to approve Community Outreach request at the recommended amount
  - Motion: English
  - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
  - In favor: 62; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 0
  - Motion passes
- Election Committee Update
  - Election Committee Chair Ariel Noffke announces that the candidates for election are Jessy Coley for President, Connor Walters for Vice President, and Joshua Joseph for Treasurer. As all candidates will be running unopposed, the April Senate meeting will involve a question and answer session with candidates in lieu of the planned debate. Elections will be held online April 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Resolution 1718-02, to Support a Living Stipend for Graduate Student Teaching, Graduate, and Research Assistants
  - Ariana Nash and other members of the Living Stipend movement present the resolution to the GSA.
    - Students ask about the risk of departments offering fewer positions as a result of increasing pay

- Ariana states that the reduction of positions made sense for the English department due to the state of the field, but is not the solution the movement proposes for all departments.
- Several students share personal stories about the need for more money for graduate students.
- Motion to approve the resolution
  - Motion: Materials Design and Innovation
  - Second: Library & Information Studies
  - In favor: 60; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 5
  - Motion passes

#### 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 8:13pm
  - Motion: Materials Design and Innovation
  - Second: Anthropology
  - In favor: 53; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 1
  - Motion passes