

## 1. President Tanja Aho called the meeting to order at 6:36pm

## 2. How the Senate Works

- The Assistant Office Manager, Stephanie George, is introduced to make a brief presentation about the Senate. She explains that all elected Senate seats must be filled at each meeting in order for a club's full attendance to be counted. This helps us to maintain quorum at meetings. If full attendance is missed at two consecutive meetings, then a club's funds will be frozen until they resume full attendance at a subsequent meeting. She explains that Senators are responsible for reporting back the information and topics discussed at Senate meetings to their constituents so that they can get feedback in order to vote in their best interests on major issues. She also explains that the meetings will use Robert's Rules of Order, utilizing motions and seconds in order to vote to approve or reject items of business. All voting members of the Senate (Departmental and International club representatives, as Special Interest clubs are non-voting members) can make or second motions. We will count all votes from the floor with the first order of business at each meeting, which is generally the approval of minutes, in order to ensure quorum is met. After that time, if the Senate is agreeable to the idea, we can pass motions by consent as long as the opposing votes and abstention votes will not outnumber those in favor. If you are ever unclear, please feel free to ask questions.

## 3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the September 7, 2016 Senate Meeting
  - Motion: Anthropology
  - Second: History
  - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; In favor: 65

## 4. Announcements

- The GSA Programming Coordination, Diana Moore, explains that GSA events for October include:
  - October 7<sup>th</sup>- Java Junction, 11:00am – 1:00pm in 310 Student Union
    - Free Tim Horton's coffee and doughnuts for graduate students
  - October 16<sup>th</sup>- GSA Wine Tour, 11:00am – 4:30pm on the Niagara Wine Trail
    - Bus leaving from UB. Tastings at three wineries and lunch included.
    - Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Offices for \$20 each. 2 per UB ID.
  - October 21<sup>st</sup> - South Campus Siesta, 4:00 – 6:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
    - We apologize for the locked doors at the last event, and have been told that the issue has been resolved in time for this month's event.
    - Free food and beverages for graduate students at South Campus
  - October 26<sup>th</sup> - Distinguished Speaker Series presents Randi Zuckerberg, 8:00pm at Alumni Arena
    - Free tickets will be available next week at the SBI Ticket Offices
  - October 28<sup>th</sup>- Monster Mini-Golf and Costume Competition, 6:00 – 8:00pm at Monster Mini-Golf (3386 Sheridan Dr. at Sweethome)
    - Pizza and wings included.
    - Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Offices for \$10 each. 2 per UB ID.

## 5. Report of the President

- GSA Newsletter Changes
  - We are changing the GSA listserv email to go out only once per week on Tuesdays starting next week.
    - All info to be included must be received by Monday
    - Please make sure someone from your club is forwarding these emails to your department/club listserv
  - GSA is currently negotiating with UB for more support for parenting graduate students. If you are a parenting student, or know a parenting student, please send testimonials to [gsa-president@buffalo.edu](mailto:gsa-president@buffalo.edu) so that Tanja can share them with the Administration.

## 6. Report of the Treasurer

- Funding Account Balances:
  - Special Activity: \$25,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$22,600.00 remaining
  - Interdepartmental Activity: \$3,600.00, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$3,600.00 remaining
  - Symposia: \$18,600 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$15,800.00 remaining
  - Scholarly Publication: \$11,800 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$11,800.00 remaining
  - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$750.00 allocated this month, \$1,250.00 remaining
  - Conferences:
    - October: 41 requests for \$12,650.10, 41 applications approved for \$12,450.10
    - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$103,821.99

## 7. Report of Vice President

- The deadline for all club activation paperwork was Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. If your club has not yet submitted all of the required materials we will begin freezing club budgets later this week.
- Mandatory Officer Training Meetings for all club Presidents and Treasurers will be held:
  - Wednesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at 10am in 330 SU
  - Thursday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in 330 SU
  - Friday, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm in 105 Harriman Hall
- Please make sure that your updated officers' contact information and approved club Constitution are posted to UBLinked by October 15<sup>th</sup> or the University will freeze your budget.

#### 8. Old Business

- MDRF Committee Report
  - Michael Cimasi, the MDRF Committee Chair, reviews the full version of the Final Report with the Senators. Copies of the complete Final Report were emailed out prior to the meeting, and will also be posted to the GSA website. The summary has been included with the Senate packet and the major points of recommendation coming from the committee's review include:
    - Creation of an MDRF Statement of Mission and Purpose
    - Creation of a Services Committee
    - Creation of an MDRF Assistant stipend position
    - Adjustments to the MDRF funding and review paradigm
  - Tanja explains that she wants everyone to have time to review the full report in detail, so the discussion on these recommendations will take place at the November Senate Meeting and the vote will take place at the December Senate meeting.
  - Tanja also plans to host a Town Hall meeting on October 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 4:30pm in the GSA office (310 Student Union) where people can come to discuss their opinions prior to the November Senate meeting. This will help us to streamline the various positions and hopefully aid in guiding the presentation of the discussion in the Senate.

#### 9. New Business

- Call for Election Committee Members
  - We need at least 5 members to fill the Election Committee (EC), or an odd number of seats. This committee is responsible for reviewing and updating the GSA Election Code, presenting it to the Senate for approval at the November Senate meeting, monitoring candidates and campaigning, and validating the GSA Officer Elections in the Spring, 2017 semester.
    - Election Committee Members volunteered:
      1. Alexandra Agostinelli (Library & Information Studies)
      2. Connor Walters (Social Work)
      3. Roberto Azaretto (Music)
      4. Shawn Rooney (Urban Planning)
      5. Tanvi Jain (Finance)
    - No additional volunteers presented themselves, so the EC members were asked to step out of the room in order to elect a Chair from amongst themselves.
      - The EC members elected Alexandra Agostinelli as Chair of the Election Committee.
    - Motion to approve the Election Committee members and the Election Committee Chair
      - Motion: History
      - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
      - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent
    - The Election Code will be revised and reviewed for approval at the November Senate meeting. As per the Senate's mandate from the April, 2016 Senate meeting, a Code of Conduct will also be added to the Election Code.
- Club Recognition
  - Amy announces that she has reviewed the paperwork of the International Clubs "French Connection" and "Graduate Indian Student Association" (GISA) and is recommending recognition for both with a budget of \$650 each. She has also reviewed the paperwork of the Special Interest Clubs "Argentine Tango Club" and "UB-Primateology Club" and is recommending recognition for both with a budget of \$300 each.
    - Amy specifies that International Clubs start off with a full budget of \$650 for the year because they are either fully funded or not funded at all, but Special Interest Clubs each receive \$300 to start the year. After the December Senate meeting (once all clubs have been funded) any clubs that were previously recognized will have their budgets increased equally, up to the maximum of \$600, depending on how much funding remains available.
  - Representatives from each of the clubs give a short description of their club and their activities, and answer questions from the Senate. Questions included details about the style of Tango taught, and various club activities.

- Motion to approve all of the clubs as a block at the recommended amounts
  - Motion: Transnational Studies
  - Second: Anthropology
  - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent
- Funding Requests
  - Representatives from each of the clubs were asked to give a brief description of their event and answer questions from the Senate. Questions included details on the dates and locations of these events, and whether or not they were open to the public.

Community Outreach

- Solving Mysteries through Chemistry- Chemistry
  - Requested/Recommended: \$250.00
- WNY Earth Science Day: Geology
  - Requested/Recommended: \$250.00
- 2016 Voter Registration Drive- Political Science
  - Requested/Recommended: \$250.00
- Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
  - Motion: History
  - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
  - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent

10. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:35pm
  - Motion: Social Work
  - Second: Urban Planning
  - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent