

1. GSA Interim President, Jen Schechter, calls the meeting to order at 6:34pm

2. Senator Training

- Jen reviews the duties of a Senator briefly, highlighting the motion-making and voting process.

3. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the September 6, 2017 Senate Meeting
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - In favor: 53; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 6; Unlisted Option D: 1
 - Motion passes

4. Announcements

- Blake Cooper, a representative from UBIT takes the floor to announce services available to graduate students. They state that graduate students study and learn differently. They pass around a sign-in sheet for students interested in participating in providing feedback on UBIT.
 - UBBBox: Students have access to unlimited free and secure cloud storage as students. After graduating, they still have access to 50GB of free and secure cloud storage.
 - Tech Squad: Onsite, on-campus tech support is available to students.
 - Eduroam: UBSecure will be transitioning long-term to eduroam, which connects to the same network as UBSecure while on campus, but also connects to the network of any participating university internationally automatically using one's UB credentials if eduroam is a saved network on a person's device.
 - UBMail: Every student's UBMail inbox stays available for access even after graduating.
 - Virtual Computing Lab: The UBIT representative mentions that all students have access to a virtual computing lab that allows students to access programs off-campus, and that instructions can be found on the UBIT website.
 - Teaching Tech: The UBIT website has added new video guides on technology for use by educators in classrooms.
 - Student Input Session: On 10/25 at 5pm in Capen 567 a student input session will take place, with UP and CIO present. The purpose of these once per semester discussions is to allow students to give feedback to leadership. The UBIT representative states that grad students are not well-represented at these meetings, historically. They state that those signing on the sign-in sheet being passed around will be contacted directly for this meeting.
 - Student Experience Survey: A survey will be coming within 3 weeks seeking student input around UBIT services. The UBIT representative asks that students spread the word among their peers.
- Caitlyn McIntyre, a representative from the UB Living Stipend Movement takes the floor. They mention that a successful march took place on Monday, at which the movement's petition was delivered. They state that at their peaceful protest and peaceful meeting with administration, armed security was present in Capen Hall. The representative reports that President Tripathi thinks the total package received by students is decent, but could be better. The representative from the UB Living Stipend Movement states that there are misconceptions about TAs, such as that they receive free health care. The representative also states that the administration is attempting to divide and conquer by framing the movement as an English department movement, and trying to appease only English. The representative requests that graduate students sign their petition and bring concerns to department chairs. They also state that during the State of the University address by President Tripathi, there will be a rally, and that students are encouraged additionally to attend the address and ask questions about TA living wage stipends.
- Yulin Yang, a representative from the College of Arts and Sciences Stats Lab takes the floor. They state that the purpose of the CAS Stats Lab is to help students with statistics at any stage of research or coursework. The lab also helps with research design and questionnaires, evaluation of data, and statistical modeling. Workshops for stats programs are also available. The lab's location is 450 Park Hall.

5. Report of the Interim President

- The currently incapacitated GSA President, Tanja Aho, has an interview on 10/12 related to obtaining a green card. Tanja hopes to be back by November, but by the November Senate meeting there should be a definite timeline.
- Jen states that the Services Committee has been tasked with finding an appropriate HR specialist for an organizational study. There have been recommendations from multiple sources, and each will be investigated.
- Jen states that the Global Market Café is holding opinion sessions with free food on 10/11, and that graduate students are invited.
- Discussion happens around the organizational study.
 - A student asks if the Finance Committee has had time to review this recommendation.
 - Peter, a representative from the Finance Committee, states that the FC discussed and unanimously approved of an organizational study.
 - A student asks when the study will happen.

- Jen states that our lawyer has asked to be involved in this process and that a decision should go through him. She also states that the Finance Committee will have to look at how to adjust the budget to incorporate the cost.
 - A student asks how much this will cost.
 - Jen states that we do not know. We have a base price of \$350 from the initially recommended organizational effectiveness study consultant. Jen states that the price may vary based on the services we seek.
 - A student asks who the GSA lawyer is.
 - Jen states that the GSA/SBI lawyer is Josh Lippes.
 - A student asks why we are still looking for someone given the base price that had been found.
 - Jen states that the full scope of services needed may not match the quoted base price, and that it is recommended we seek additional services.
 - A student stands up and states that the Finance Committee had been informed that the person providing the \$350 quote had been negotiated for, that they are a lawyer who can help to implement policy changes, and that the Finance Committee had motioned not to spend more than \$500 on this study. Another student adds that it is important to have someone from outside of the organization conduct the audit.
 - Jen agrees, and states that the role of Josh Lippes would only be to implement the policies created in an HR audit, and not to conduct the audit himself.
 - A student asks if we will have more concrete information soon.
 - Jen states that there will be something to vote on next meeting, and that it is important to have an impartial and unbiased source.

6. Report of the Vice President

- Mandatory officer training meetings are upcoming:
 - Wednesday, Oct. 18th at 10:00am in 330 Student Union
 - Thursday, Oct. 19th at 7:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall (South Campus)
 - Friday, Oct. 20th at 4:00pm in 330 Student Union
 - This final meeting will be a shortened version of the training for returning officers only, and will require prior registration for verification purposes.

7. Report of the Treasurer

- Jen thanks Anastasia for her service as treasurer, and the Senate applauds.
- Jen states that a temporary treasurer will be appointed by the GSA executive officers, while a permanent replacement will be elected at the next Senate meeting.
- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$18,000.00 to start, \$1,175.00 allocated this month, \$16,825.00 remaining
 - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
 - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$13,600.00 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: \$9,000.00 to start, \$1,300.00 allocated this month, \$7,700.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$250.00 allocated this month, \$2,750.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - 58 requests for \$21,064.13, 57 applications approved for \$20,414.13
 - Beginning Balance: \$132,000.00 to start; Remaining Balance \$100,346.25

8. Old Business

- Call for Committee Members
 - Election Committee (5 Members, including Chair)
 - Aya Ali (Biomaterials)
 - Misol Kwan (Nursing)
 - Genevieve Franck (Linguistics)
 - Cory Holzerland (Urban Planning)
 - Ariel Noffke (Anthropology)
 - The Election Committee is given time to step outside and select a chair from amongst themselves, however, the majority of the committee members are not present. The Election Committee is tasked with finding a chair amongst themselves for the November Senate Meeting.
 - Motion to approve the Election Committee
 - Motion: Library and Information Studies
 - Second: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - In Favor: 51; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 4
- Budget Discussion

- The Finance Committee has met and discussed various budget proposals, recommending the following changes:
 - Mandatory Fee Revenues adjusted to actual amount received in 2016-2017*
 - *This amount is still an estimate because 2017-2018 amount may vary
 - Interest Revenue adjusted to actual amount received in 2016-2017
 - SBI Allocation and Accounting Figures adjusted to actual expenses for 2017-2018
 - Prior Year Expenses reduced from \$375 to \$300
 - Postage reduced from \$250 to \$100
 - Supplies reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000
 - Miscellaneous reduced from \$6,500 to \$3,700
 - Programming reduced from \$50,000 to \$45,000
 - Elections eliminated (from \$300 to \$0)
 - Depreciation eliminated (\$9,300 to \$0, ~\$32,000 already in reserves)
 - Scholarly Publication reduced from \$9,000 to \$5,000
 - Special Activity reduced from \$18,000 to \$15,000
 - GSA will take an annual loss of ~\$1,600 based on the above changes
 - Unallocated Reserves may be able to cover this loss, but we will not know until all clubs are recognized after the December Senate meeting
- Motion to approve the new budget allocations
 - Motion: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - Second: Social Work
 - In Favor: 45; Oppose: 7; Abstain: 6

9. New Business

- Club Recognition
 - A representative from Iranian GSA presents on their club.
 - Motion to vote as a block on club recognitions
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - In favor: 54; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 3
 - A representative from Saudi GSA presents on their club.
 - A representative from Turkish GSA presents on their club.
 - A representative from UB-EERI presents on their club.
 - Motion to approve all clubs as a block at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - In Favor: 50; Oppose: 3, Abstain: 3
- Funding Requests
 - Motion to vote as a block on funding requests
 - Motion: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - Second: Social Work
 - In Favor: 46; Oppose: 10; Abstain: 1
 - A representative from GISA presents on their Diwali event.
 - A representative from Anthropology presents on their scholarly publication, Chronika.
 - A student asks when abstracts are due. The representative responds 10/22.
 - A representative from Geology presents on their community outreach program, Earth Science Day.
 - Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Political Science
 - In Favor: 57; Oppose: 3, Abstain: 0
- Election of the Vice President
 - A call for nominations of final candidates is made.
 - Connor Walters
 - Connor takes the floor to introduce himself and share that his background is social work, which encourages a skill set of activism and empathy. He states that while it is mandated he have a physical open-door office policy, he also is focused on keeping an open heart and mind to best represent the interests and needs of graduate students.
 - Election of Connor Walters as Vice President of GSA
 - In Favor: 45; Oppose: 6; Abstain: 7
- Additional Conversation

- A student asks about the tenure of officers.
 - Officers hold office for a year, ending on May 31st.
- A student asks if steps have been taken to stabilize GSA.
 - Jen states that the intent of the HR audit is to get help in addressing this issue.

10. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 8:00pm
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Anthropology
- A student requests that we receive treasurer nominations ahead of time, including campaign statements.
 - Social Work and Anthropology withdraw their motion.
- Motion to call for nominations for Treasurer and put a deadline of 10 days prior to the next Senate meeting
 - Motion: Community Health and Health Behavior
 - Second: Chemistry
 - In Favor: 52; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 4
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:05pm
 - Motion: GISA
 - Second: Political Science
 - In Favor: 55; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 0