

1. President Tanja Aho called the meeting to order at 6:45pm

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 April 6, 2016 Senate Meeting
 - Motion: Transnational Studies
 - Second: Library & Information Studies
 - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; In favor: 52

4. Announcements

- GSA Staff Introductions
 - GSA E-board:
 - President: Tanja Aho (gsa-president@buffalo.edu)
 - Vice President: Amy Miu (gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu)
 - Treasurer: Anastasia Stepanova (gsa-treasurer@buffalo.edu)
 - Mark Diamond Research Fund: Jennifer Schechter (Director) and Brittany Kenyon (Assistant) (gsa-mdrf@buffalo.edu)
 - Three grant cycles each year
 - Applications due September 23rd, February 17th, and May 25th
 - Graduate Student Grant Amounts: Doctoral \$2,500; MFA \$2,000; Master's \$1,500
 - Editorial Assistance Program: Allison Siehnel and Daniel Gomes (gsa-editorial@buffalo.edu)
 - Both were unable to be present tonight
 - Submit papers for free copy editing online at www.gsa.buffalo.edu
 - Programming Coordinators: Diana Moore and Tina Raad (gsa-programming@buffalo.edu)
 - GSA offers a variety of social and cultural programs each month for free or discounted prices. Please contact them if you have any suggestions.
 - Webmaster: Holly Keily (gsa-webmaster@buffalo.edu)
 - If you need help creating or maintaining a website, please contact the webmaster directly.
 - Professional Staff: Gena Zimmerman (gmz@buffalo.edu) and Stephanie George (slfrank@buffalo.edu)
 - Over 50 years of combined service to the GSA. Contact them with any questions or concerns you may have about your club.
- The 2016-2017 Senate Meeting schedule is attached to the Agenda in your club packets. Please note that next month's meeting will be held in the Student Union Theater and not in 330 Student Union as usual.
- GSA Programming Events for September include:
 - September 16th- South Campus Siesta, 4:00 – 6:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
 - Free food and beverages for graduate students at South Campus
 - September 17th- Brewery Tour and Beer Tasting at Big Ditch Brewery, 12:00 – 3:00pm
 - Tickets are on sale now at the SBI Ticket Offices (221 Student Union and 350 Harriman Hall) for \$12 each. 2 per UB ID.
 - September 22nd- Distinguished Speaker Series presents Mark and Scott Kelly, 8:00pm at Alumni Arena
 - Free tickets available at the SBI Ticket Offices (221 Student Union and 350 Harriman Hall). 1 per UB ID.
 - September 26th- Mandatory Officer Training Meeting, 12:00pm in 330 Student Union
 - October 1st- Silo City Grain Elevator Tour, 1:00 – 3:30pm at Silo City
 - Tickets on sale now at the SBI Ticket Offices (221 Student Union and 350 Harriman Hall) for \$15 each. 2 per UB ID.

5. Report of the President

- UB threatened to close the bus stop between North and South Campus. GSA and SA fought to keep it open, and the University has agreed to maintain that location for at least one year while they look into other options for students.

- Distinguished Speaker Series
 - Tanja explains that as a series sponsor of the Distinguished Speaker Series (DSS), GSA is provided with free tickets to all of the lectures for graduate students. Tickets are generally made available to students approximately two weeks in advance of the lecture and can be picked up, 1 per student, from the Sub Board Ticket Offices in 221 Student Union or 350 Harriman Hall (unless otherwise specified).
 - This year the GSA Choice Speaker is Roxane Gay.
 - Unfortunately, the Roxane Gay lecture was scheduled for the same night as the GSA's April Senate meeting. We are going to have to discuss moving the meeting time and/or date, but we will address this at a future meeting.
 - Tanja is going to be working on a full overhaul of the GSA Constitution, By-Laws and Policies to address issues brought up about the incapacity of officers, changes recommended by the Senate for the Election Code and other important issues. If anyone is interested in assisting with these reviews, please contact Tanja directly.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$25,000 to start, \$2,400.00 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, \$2,800.00 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, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - August: 45 requests for \$20,227.91, 44 applications approved for \$19,677.91
 - September: 12 requests for \$4,650.00, 10 applications approved for \$4,050.00
 - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Allocated: \$23,727.91; Remaining Balance \$116,272.09
 - Please check the GSA website for conference funding deadlines to make sure that you get your application submitted on time. Deadlines are generally the 15th of the month prior to your conference.

7. Report of Vice President

- Mandatory Officer Training Meetings for all club Presidents and Treasurers will be held:
 - Monday, Sept. 26th at 12pm in 330SU
 - Wednesday, Oct. 12th at 10am in 330 SU
 - Thursday, Oct. 13th at 7pm in 330 SU
 - Friday, Oct. 14th at 4pm in 105 Harriman Hall

8. Old Business

- MDRF Committee Report
 - Michael Cimasi, the MDRF Committee Chair, explains that a survey has been sent out to former applicants, recipients, and reviewers. They are still gathering feedback and will present their final report at the October Senate meeting.

9. New Business

- Formation of Services Committee
 - Tanja explains that one of the ideas that will be coming out of the MDRF Committee is to create a new standing committee known as the Services Committee. This committee would consist of 5 departmental senators, the GSA Treasurer, MDRF Director, Programming Coordinator, and the Editorial Services Director for a total of 9 seats. This committee would be responsible for funding MDRF grants and also reviewing and making recommendations to the Senate about other GSA services when needed. The goal would be to reduce the amount of time spent in Senate meetings discussing policy grievances.
 - We will discuss this idea in more detail after we have heard the final report of the MDRF Committee in October, and we will take a vote on the matter at the November Senate meeting. This is just to give Senators a heads up about the concept.
- Call for Committee Members
 - Finance Committee (FC): We need 9 members and 2 Alternates in order to fill the FC, and this must be completed tonight. 2 members are staying on from last year. This committee reviews funding requests, helps make recommendations about GSA funding policies, and helps create the budget for the following fiscal year.
 - Finance Committee Members volunteered:
 1. Caelen Clark (Biomaterials)- returning
 2. Alexandra Agostinelli (Library & Information Studies)- returning
 3. Peter Farruggia (Community Health & Health Behavior)
 4. Jeremy Baron (Physics)
 5. Michael Morse (Physics)
 6. Connor Walters (Social Work)
 7. Marc Schilder (Mathematics)

- 8. Latesia Manuel (Economics)
- 9. Michael Cimasi (Sociology)
- Alt 1. Morgan Morningstar (Transnational Studies)
- Alt 2. Hilary Vandenbark (Transnational Studies)
- Motion to approve the Finance Committee Members
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Library & Information Studies
 - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent
- Election Committee (EC): We need 5 members to fill the EC. This committee is responsible for reviewing and updating the GSA Election Code, presenting it to the Senate for approval, monitoring campaigning, and validating the GSA Officer Elections in the Spring 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)
 - The Election Committee members will be approved at the October Senate meeting so that we can seek out additional volunteers and the Committee has time to elect a Chair from amongst themselves.
 - The Election Code will be revised after the October meeting and reviewed for approval at the November Senate meeting.
- Club Recognition
 - Amy announces that she has reviewed the paperwork of the International Club “Chinese Students and Scholars Association” (CSSA) and is recommending recognition with a budget of \$300. This club had some paperwork problems last year and had its recognition pulled, therefore they will be starting out this year as a new club under probation, which is why the budget is reduced.
 - A representative from CSSA gives a short description of their club and its mission to promote Chinese culture to students at UB.
 - Motion to approve CSSA’s recognition at the recommended amount
 - Motion: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - Second: Music
 - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; In favor: Passes by consent
- Funding Requests
 - Motion to vote on funding requests as a block
 - Motion: Library & Information Studies
 - Second: Social Work
 - Opposed: 2; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent
 - 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 about the budgets, presenters, and audiences of the events.

Special Activity

- Career Perspectives and Networking Conference- Chemical & Biological Engineering
 - Requested/Recommended: 1,200.00
- Mid-Autumn Festival- Chinese Students & Scholars Association
 - Requested/Recommended: 1,200.00

Symposium

- CBE Research Symposium- Chemical & Biological Engineering
 - Requested/Recommended: \$1,400.00
- Rising Up Conference- Classics
 - Requested/Recommended: \$1,400.00
- Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Transnational Studies
 - Second: Chemistry
 - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 1; Passes by consent

10. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:42pm
 - Motion: Sociology
 - Second: Physical Therapy
 - Opposed: 0; Abstained: 0; Passes by consent