**2016-17 GSA Senate First Meeting   
Thursday September 29, 2016 2:00 pm**

**Agenda Items:**

Old Business

1. President Call to Order
2. Roll call—Taylor
   1. Quorum? Yes/No
      1. No, one short
3. Approve previous meeting’s minutes

New Business:

1. Increase of the graduate student activity fee discussion
2. Resolution on Indigenous People’s Day
3. Vote of No Confidence Discussion
4. Constitutional Edit Committee
   1. President will be committee head
5. Officers Reports
   1. President- Tyler
      1. Albany SUNY wide presidents conference
      2. Albany SUNY SA fall conference, funding?
   2. VP of Social- Caitlin
   3. VP of Grants & Awards- Jonathan
   4. VP of Professional Development- Chellby
   5. VP of Speakers & Presentations- Adam
   6. VP of International Activities- Yokshitha
   7. VP of Communications- Jeff
   8. Treasurer- Wendy
6. Announcements

Notes

* Diversity and inclusion listening sessions
  + Heather Engleman
  + Programing for ESF woman’s caucus and inclusion diversity and equality committee
  + Suny mandated must have chief diversity officer
    - We have an interim one
    - Not doing an adequate job
  + SUNY ESF doesn’t even have a good handle for the climate, haven’t done a study since the 90s
    - Need feedback from continuance
  + Listening sessions
    - Focused on plan and development
    - Mission and vision
      * Goals and strategies that we hope to develop
      * What makes you feel included and valued and the reverse
    - Open ended discussion
  + See handouts
  + There will be more listening sessions
    - How to involve students is hard
    - Need to update and fill omissions
  + Oct. 18th draft will be the nearly final draft sent to SUNY central
    - Fill out sheet and return to 110 bray
  + Comments
    - Basic things for international students (bank, land loard, etc)
      * Providing information and help for international students when they come into new programs
    - Issues with colloquial language
    - Living locally vs. commuting (carpooling)
    - Goal of 20% underrepresented minorities by 2019
      * Current numbers at ~15% of students are minority
      * Much lower for staff
        + High turnover
        + HR is looking into this
      * Grad students are not included in this goal.
        + Much higher ratio of international grad students might make value higher
  + Also talk to her for women’s issues and speakers
* New Business
  + Activity fee
    - ~$35 a student currently
    - 60% students are ok with increase of $5 based on survey
    - We completely control the fee, cap of $120
    - Pres. Instinct is to raise it
      * Ryan 🡪 more than $5 raise data?
      * Surprised number flip flopped from 2015
    - Our fees are chronically lower than other SUNY schools
      * Lower visibility because of low budget
      * An increase of even $10 would give us $6000 more to work with
    - Chellby 🡪 no tangible GSA marketing
      * T-shirts
      * Coffee mugs
    - Caitlin 🡪 I could do more stuff
    - When would it take effect?
      * Next semester
      * Extra $1200
      * Would need to hold an open forum
      * Need to find out about red tape first
    - Our fees suck. Grads would like fees that actually help them
    - SUNY central has frozen our spending which is why fees went up
      * If our costs freeze then we can’t raise them
* Indigenous
  + Oct. 10th indigenous people’s day
    - First celebration of this day is this year
    - Would be nice if we worked with USA and admin as passing the resolution in principle
    - WE can pass the referendum in principle and Tyler can fix it for GSA from USA
    - Comment Alex🡪 replacing Columbus day with Indigenous people’s day
    - Comment Ryan 🡪 support
    - Motion 🡪 Casey
    - Seconded by Blake
    - Passed unanimously
    - Will be converted into something good for GSA and roll it out
* Vote of No Confidence
  + Framing convo
    - 18 students, 8 are grads
    - Previously there was a Bill but right before discussion, it was removed
      * People were mad b/c thought they were using it to blackmail admin
    - Now there is a process for how to deal with this
      * Resolution is written
      * 20% of voters must approve to move forward
      * Resolution reviewed by committee to make sure it’s logical and makes sense
        + Reputable and workable statement
      * Goes to executives
        + Choose if its business or not
  + Current bill
    - Slightly edited from version set out but info is identical
  + Docs sent out
    - Resolution
    - Call for other perspectives
      * From faculty and staff
      * Doesn’t say support of admin but call for back to business
    - Student voices
      * Support admin
      * Want to get back to business
      * Signed by USA pres and USA board of trustees, GSA) Alex, adam, tyler and Caitlin
  + Opinions on matter?
    - Want to make sure we aren’t voting completely on personal opinion
    - Comments
      * GEPES rep
        + Arbutus lake 🡪 Wheeler wants to make stone building into Biomimicry lab

Thousands of dollars of renovation

Not practical 🡪 not enough money

Wheeler is just doing stuff under guise of sustainability and edu

Tyler 🡪 money from outside resources

Grant money also going to tech update on campus

* + - * Other comment we will also always disagree with something so need to think back to no confidence
      * Chellby🡪 doc seems very biased. Why is this even happening? Elevator pitch
        + Tyler

Against pres 🡪 climate of fear and retaliation

Firing of VP over summer

Fiscally irresponsible

Not bringing in grants

How closing deficit

Moving away from STEM more to new American Enviro

For 🡪 no one was gonna like him to start

Job is to cut funds

Haven’t made a move to NAE so whats proof its gonna happen

How would removing him make anything better?

What is the one thing you can point to say why hes not doing his job?

* + - * + So impeaching him?

Vote of no confidence has no power to do anything

Resolution to SUNY board saying we don’t have confidence

Not a mechanism to begin removal

* + - * Ryan 🡪 what has Wheeler done to bridge the gap?
        + Tyler 🡪 were given plan, which will close everything by $500,000

Available somewhere, not sure where

* + - * + Alex🡪 May or June 🡪 close the gap retreat

GSA and USA had reps there

Directors of all admin units with chairs of all departments, alex, Ben and Scott were there

Presentations

Haven’t’ received yet

* + - * + Tyler 🡪 Senior leadership council

Just got info

* + - * + Alex 🡪 faculty wrote statement of Satisfaction with the UUP

Not appropriate for us to respond

We wanted to make clear we have had all our issues dealt with quickly

Were satisfied with the Admin and how they work with us

* + - * + Tyler 🡪 wanted to make clear with our doc that we didn’t not want to deal with the issues, we wanted to give the Vote of no Confidence its due course, as stated in the Student voices doc

Want a return to normal business

Nothing we can directly point to that has been an issue

Always been prompt with a response or idea of what future hold for us

* + - * + Adam 🡪 vote of no confidence reflect poorly on school as a whole

Looks bad

Doesn’t create climate where new pres would want to be hired

* + - * Tyler 🡪 going to have meeting with voting Academic Gov. members to give more info and understand Grad opinions
* Constitutional Edit year
  + Our constitution is pretty bad
  + We need to put more meat on its bones
    - Create ad hoc committee
    - Take chunks and revise over the course of the year
* Officer reports
  + President
    - Albany meeting for presidents
      * Our campus is still moving forward in meaningful way
      * SUNY POLY is not. Their pres was arrested
        + Wont talk about it
        + Favoring bids and such
        + Similar issue with UB
      * ESF’s problems were really high on Chancellors list until all the shit hit the fan with the other SUNY schools
    - General budget
      * President convention
        + Can’t continue giving our grad vote to the undergrad even tho it costs a lot for one student
        + We are one of only 5 phd granting institutions so we are one of only 5 grad votes
        + Determining cost to see if we can limit costs

USA brings the pres +5

* + - * + We will need to vote to spend the $350 to send Tyler
      * Alex 🡪 “shit” Diversity and inclusion and issue of enrollment
        + Because we’re tiny we are selective bout enrollment officers and ads
        + Visibility of college is there for constrained by budget
        + If SUNY central (system) would send reps all over the country, we would have better visibility

Would, as a specialized institute, give us a bit more visibility

* + - * + Please put that idea out at next meeting where appropriate
  + VP Social
    - Tyler took notes
  + Chellby
    - Event oct 18th 🡪 everything you need to know to defend
  + Speakers and Presentations 🡪 Adam
    - Oct 6 630 pm
      * Ghosts in our machine
      * Skype Q and A with protagonist
      * In conjunction with Enviro studies and Envior writing
      * No money b/c applying for outside funding
        + If doesn’t go through?
        + Club applied for it not Adam
    - Nov 4
      * Screen if a tree falls
      * Q and A with protag
      * $300
    - Indigenous people’s day
      * Want to bring in speakers from Onondaga or some such
        + Ryan 🡪 can talk with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Some events are actually already planned

* + - * + USA is contributing funding
        + Could talk with Neil Paterson

Center for native peoples in the environment might contribute

* + - * Ideas welcome
    - Future
      * Another screening 🡪 Sanue, about indigenous maize in Mexico
      * SU trans media 🡪 Yes men
        + Looking to raise $8000
        + We could contribute some money
        + Talking about food and ag and environmental activism
        + 2 day intensive workshop create culture jamming action
        + Contribute? A couple hundred?