

Minutes of the meeting of September

Meeting started on 17th September at 7.00 PM. President of the GSA Jeff Perlman chaired the meeting. He also gave the welcome speech on behalf of GSA. New members of the committee were introduced to the graduate students.

Old business:

The following facts were explained.

1. ***Shrinkage of budget.*** This year, the budget of the GSA has been decreased by nearly 27 %. Rutgers University says that there is a decrease in the number of graduate enrollment and hence the budget is decreased. University also says that they are more interested in spending money to increase the quality of the education.
2. ***Shortage of the dorms.*** There is a severe shortage of dorms on the campus for the graduate students. The rents for the available dorms have been increased. The cost of living is going up. The university has not raised the salaries of the assistants in proportion to the increased cost of living.
3. ***Committees.*** We need to fill up the committees like parking and transportation committee, instructional computing committee (where low budget is spent and where we should have a say.), student campus center committee (which takes the decision about the vendors), RU net 2000 committee (there are only 7 channels and we should know what we can watch).

Dijha and Emily who are new student assistants in the GSA office are introduced and are welcomed.

New Business:

Recognition of external organizations. We have to recognize the external organizations before we allocate the budget to them.

1. Medieval GSA.
2. Jewish GSA.
3. Minority GSA.

Members of the first 2 Gas were present. The motion was moved to recognize these Gas and seconded. Both of them were unanimously recognized. Member of minority GSA was not present.

Proposals from the floor:

Tom Degloma (a member of the student senate) explained to the floor about the vote NJ drive. It is a non-partisan organization. Their goal is to register 10000 students. Graduate

students were never involved in this effort in the past. The drive is on Oct 4 and 5 on campus. They asked for 200 \$ from GSA to match the donations from other funding organization. The motion was moved and seconded. Majority voted for. None voted against the motion. There were 2 abstentions. Motion passed.

Jeff Wagye. He expressed his concerns about filling up a position on parking committee. But no one volunteered to serve on the committee.

Tom Degloma. He explained about the RULA. This is a lobby for undergraduate issues. It was formed to increase the standards of the TAs. We need to get involved in this organization. He moved a motion to recognize RULA and get involved to avoid unrealistic TA standards. We need 2 members. Proposal tabled.

Jeff Wagye. He moved a motion to nominate Sachin Mamidwar for the position of the Secretary. Sachin introduces himself. Motion seconded by Atul Deshmukh. Motion moved to vote. Majority voted for the motion. There were 2 abstentions. Chinese GSA complained that there was no information about the vacant position. Noori explained that Graduate students were not present for the meeting in the month of May. Motion passed.

Reports:

Several committees have given their reports for the last year.

1. *Social and cultural committee:* Jeff Perlman explained the activities of the committee.
2. *Publications committee.* GSA gives the money to publish journals. GSA web site is updated in last summer and will be working soon.
3. *Tagari and student affairs.* This is liaison between TAs , Gas and AAUP. We need members to work on the committee.
4. *International student affairs committee.* Motion was moved to nominate Gary Bartlett as the chair of this committee. Motion was passed unanimously.
5. *Treasurer's report:* Noori, the treasurer of the GSA had submitted his report as well as the report of the external allocations committee. He explained how the money was distributed unequally in the past and how Nikola and Carl have started the equal distribution of the money. He also thanked them. he also explained the funding policies and the fact the budget for this year is low compared to the last years budget. He also explained about itemized allocations. The motion to sanction the budget to adopt the treasurer's report was moved by the President. The motion was seconded and passed. Markas asked about the maximum limit of the budget that the GSA's can receive. Noori explained the reason.

6. Administrative assistant explained about the new office hours on Friday from 11.30 AM to 2.00 PM. They also asked the graduate students to sign up for the egroups GSA mailing list.

Question Time:

1. Tequise Meddhan. He explained that the Graduate students fewer channels on RUNet 2000 than undergraduates. GSA will look into the problem.
2. Pattie GSA asked about the limit of the funding of 200 \$ for the orientation. Noori explained the reason.
3. David Synder. He asked the breakdown of the budget. We get the money from the Rutgers through student fees. Noori explained that we may ask Rutgers to increase the proportion of the GSA in the student fees.
4. Mark Sites. He further explained the budget allocation. The fact that we may not be able to support the new budget proposals by other external organizations was made clear. The reason is the decrease of the GSA budget this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.00 PM.