

I. Quorum and Call to Order – 7:30pm

Officer Attendance – Jeff Perlman, Brian Keane, Tithi Dutta Roy

II. Old Business

A. Approval of minutes from October 14, 2001 meeting –approved

B. Approval of agenda for November 11, 2001 meeting –approved

III. Reports

A. Executive Report

1. A group of government leaders (including Jason Redd, Graduate Rep for the Board of Trustees) met with President Lawrence recently. They talked about issues concerning graduate housing and payroll deduction. They emphasized that currently, the quality of on- and off-campus housing is low, while the cost is very high and that it's going to take a lot of work to fix it. Also, the payroll deduction system is spread out over 7 pay periods a semester, which may not leave enough money for some students to live on. The suggestion was made to increase the deduction system to 10-11 pay periods. It was also suggested that this be discussed with Financial Aid and administrators in the next few weeks. Another suggestion made was to increase services over the summer for residential students.

2. A new division of the University, the College of Applied and Professional Studies, was discussed. This will cater to new students over the age of 25 who want to increase their skills and it will contain a lot of classes involving distance learning. The proposal went to the University Senate and the debate for the new school was quite contentious. Since there will be no tenured faculty, it was argued whether the quality of Rutgers will decrease with this new school. Should Rutgers be in charge of this type of school or a community college? Advocates of the new school said that this program worked elsewhere and can get more money for Rutgers. Information on the debate about the College of Applied and Professional Studies can be accessed from the University Senate website (<http://www-rci.rutgers.edu/~rusenate/>).

3. A proposal was brought up about possibly having a GSA newsletter. Questions were brought up about the layout of the newsletter, as well as if it will be published online. If anyone is interested, they can contact Tithi Dutta Roy.

B. Committees

1. Social – No chairperson in attendance and no events scheduled.

2. Publications – Anand mentioned that a new server and some new computers arrived in the office this past week. Claire McGuire had a question about the Pauper's Guide. The Guide is currently linked off the GSA website but it is hard to find and doesn't get many hits. She asked if it's possible to get its own website. Anand said there will probably be a more prominent link off the GSA website. Claire also suggested to make flyers for the Guide and place them in orientation packets for incoming students. Wendy Weisman also mentioned that people cannot find the GSA website easily. It probably won't be able to be linked off the main site, and publicizing it through the University is probably the best bet.

3. TA/GA – A meeting was held last month. Pieter Blue, Gary Bartlett, Matt Georgescu, and Jeff Perlman were the reps in attendance. Gary is also the graduate student rep to the Executive Council of the AAUP, and he spoke about increasing GA/TA and faculty membership (GA/TA ~7%, faculty ~60%). Contract renewal is usually decided by the administration, not by the faculty. The 10% pay raise for TA's and GA's resulted from lobbying by the faculty, and it may not happen again. More people need to join to vote, and it is only an extra \$10-13/year. There is no other way to get your voice heard, so talk to Gary or Jeff if you are interested. Wendy Weisman said that TA/GA outreach is a problem, and if GSA surplus funds can pay for the difference in fees between being represented by the AAUP and being a voting member. Jeff Perlman said it probably can't be done. Danielle Bobker asked about the difference between representation and membership and how it needs to be explained. James Mastrangelo mentioned possibly starting an email campaign and about putting a question in the TA/GA contract about becoming an AAUP member. Brian Keane asked about the 10% increase in pay.

4. ISAC – Gary Bartlett mentioned a Pizza Hour on Friday at the Busch Campus Center. A local Chinese doctor will be there talking about how to utilize the US health system. He also mentioned the crackdown on student visas after September 11th, and that it will be monitored.

5. Student Affairs – No chairperson in attendance and no events scheduled.

C. Treasurer/EAC

No reps for the Food Science GSA, Christians on Campus, Rutgers History GSA, or Society for Biomaterials were present at the meeting, so their requests were not voted on. The budget was passed.

D. University Reps

1. RSCGB – There was a meeting on November 5. They explained the budgetary practices of the Campus Centers, while also mentioning that the Red Lion Café is not doing well. The use of the Graduate Student Lounge (GSL) was brought up as well. The University College Lounge on the 4th floor of the Student Center has plaques with the accomplishments of members of University College, and it would be desirable to

have those same types of items up in the GSL. There was some debate as to whether the plaques should be taken out of the cases they are in now and mounted on the wall instead. However, it was suggested that the GSA write up a position that the GSL is needed for recognition of the identity of grad students, including putting up artwork and plaques. This will be brought up at the next meeting.

2. DSCGB – Nothing to report.

3. Representative to the Board of Trustees – There is no meeting this month. However, campus security, including increasing campus shuttles and staying due to the increase in robberies, will be discussed at the next meeting. The Joint Advisory Board, which hears issues affecting grad students, will be discussing security and housing concerns at its next meeting.

4. University Senate – David Snyder mentioned that the Finance and Budget Committee (which he is on) met before the University Senate meeting. He mentioned that the College of Applied and Professional Studies has hidden costs in the proposal, which led to some complaints from the faculty. Stewart Duncan is on the Faculty Affairs Committee, and he mentioned that the issue of health care for fellows (because they aren't considered employees) will be voted on in the near future. Wendy Weisman asked if the Senators know how they will vote on the College of Applied and Professional Studies proposal. Jeff Perlman said he didn't know how he will vote, and that the meeting is in December.

5. Executive Council – No representative present.

6. Academic Computing – No information available.

7. Parking – They had an introductory meeting. The parking budget this year is \$3.5 million, with \$2 million for salary and \$1.5 million for maintenance. The bus budget is \$5.5 million, which is mostly paid for by University fees. The 5th and 6th Ward loop will be extended once the route widens and once they get more buses. There has also been talk to get more G & GG line buses for Busch Campus. These are the longest loops on campus, over 15 minutes long, and the wait for them can run between 40-50 minutes. Possibilities include decreasing the number of stops or increasing the number of buses.

8. Bike Task Force – This is an ad-hoc committee to decrease parking and increase the number of bikes on campus. Jeff is the rep for this committee. The last meeting was cancelled. The bike lane on Cedar Lane between Livingston Campus and Johnson Park has not been completed yet. Since George Street is too narrow, there has been talk to connect the Cook/Douglass campus and the College Avenue Campus with a bike lane via Suydam Street. Markus Hiller had a question about places to put bikes and if there are adequate numbers of bike racks for each department in prominent locations.

9. Health Services – The representative was not present, but Jason Redd was present at this meeting and spoke about it. Questions about anthrax were answered by clinicians on-site. There was also some talk about an increase in student fees for health services.

IV. New Business

A. Recognition of external organizations – Korean GSA, Georgian GSA, and Ecology and Evolution GSA – all approved

B. Charlotte Wood – She mentioned that the Engineering Governing Council (EGC) and the Anthropology GSA both passed a resolution on same-sex marriages. She is waiting for a vote from the GSA and the Political Science GSA. Ionas Rus mentioned that there were some issues with language in the resolution (based on the phrase “human right”). Charlotte mentioned that this language dates back to 1994 and has been approved by many groups, so it should be included that way. The resolution was approved by hand vote with 1 abstention.

C. Proposals from floor – David Snyder asked if anyone had brought up the issue of University College students being part-time or full-time. No one had heard anything. Maria Carvajal-Garcia mentioned that there will be a meeting on November 29 at 7pm in the Douglass Student Center Lounge on political and academic freedom after September 11th. The AAUP has also been contacted concerning this issue. She also mentioned that some faculty members have been asked to sign a paper supporting the war in Afghanistan, but she does not know where this came from.

Ionas Rus talked about a resolution from the European Studies GSA that has similar implications on academic freedom.

David Snyder asked if the University Senate knows about these issues on academic freedom and the paper asking faculty to support the war.

Wendy Weisman mentioned that the Crosscurrents conference (from the Anthropology department) is looking for 200-word abstracts on the theme of “migration.” The conference will be held in March.

Markus Hiller mentioned that Ford Hall residents do not have RUNet 2000 yet. This will probably happen in Fall 2002, since connections are only made once a year, in the fall.

V. Question Time – none

VI. Adjournment