

# Minutes of the 16th September meeting

## I. Call to order

In addition to the determination of a quorum and the call to order for the meeting, a moment of silence was observed for the victims and all those affected by the events of September 11, 2001.

## II. Old business

### A. Executive Report

1. Buell and Russell apartments now have RUNet and cable TV installed, based on surveys sent out to graduate students and after the GSA made recommendations to Auxiliary Services through Ed Kozak, the VP of Auxiliary Services.
2. Ford Hall now has air conditioning in the lounges, based on many complaints, but no A/C in the rooms as of yet.
3. The shopping van which normally takes on-campus students to stores for food shopping has now expanded to accommodate off-campus students as well. This is for students who live in the second, fifth, and sixth wards in New Brunswick. If you want more information, you can go to the GSA website, [gsa.rutgers.edu](http://gsa.rutgers.edu), and go to the News section.
4. The AAUP (American Association of University Professors) also represents graduate students. It is looking to increase its membership of TA's and GA's by concentrating more on issues of concern to TA's and GA's, such as on- and off-campus housing. If you want more information, contact one of the officers or go to [www.rutgersaaup.com](http://www.rutgersaaup.com).

## III. New business

### A. Recognition of external organizations

Graduate Student Basketball Association – recognized

B. Scott Gorman – Associate Representative for Membership, AAUP

He spoke about getting graduate students involved, especially since renegotiation for TA/GA contracts are coming up soon; Rutgers is currently in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of a 4-year contract and the last increase in a TA/GA stipend was about 10%. He also mentioned other issues such as healthcare and tuition assistance grants. Everyone already pays a representation fee of 85% of .5% of a TA/GA stipend. However, to become a voting member of the AAUP, the other 15% has to be paid. This provides the ability to vote on contracts and other issues. He also mentioned that there are 2 vacant seats on the Executive Council which might be filled by graduate students. Application forms were provided, as well as membership renewal forms. If you want more information, contact one of the officers or go to [www.rutgersaaup.com](http://www.rutgersaaup.com).

C. Frank Bright - Commissioner, New Brunswick Housing Authority

He spoke about the housing shortage in New Brunswick, saying that 5% of all housing in New Brunswick has disappeared in the past 3 years. He passed around a sign-up sheet to get information from the Housing Authority and the Tenants Association, whose president, Beverly Marshall, was unable to attend the meeting. He will also send out an e-mail to the ru-gsa mailing list on issues concerning the Housing Authority.

D. Paul Young – GSA Attorney

He spoke about the legal counseling services he provides for RU graduate students on Tuesday nights (7-10pm, College Avenue Campus Center) and Wednesday nights (7-10pm, Busch Campus Center). He provides 20 minute appointments at no charge on landlord/tenant issues, matrimonial issues, municipal court issues (insurance, accidents, etc.), and immigration issues, but usually does not represent any students. He recommends a list of attorneys for students to contact instead.

E. Amendment of fusing guidelines

The maximum amount for lodging per night was originally \$75/person, but was raised to \$100/person (at the University Inn), as per a vote by the GSA membership.

F. Proposals from the floor – none

IV. Reports –

A. Executive

Jeff spoke about some amendments from January 2001.

1. The usual maximum budget for any organization is \$4000/year. However, if the organization does not participate in any GSA activities by sending a representative, the maximum budget will drop to \$3500 automatically. A committee sign-up sheet was made for each organization to take to their respective meetings.
2. For any event, please notify the GSA about the event so it can be posted on the GSA website and ru-gsa mailing list, preferably 1 week before the event. You can e-mail Anand or Jeff with the information, and this has to be done for reimbursement after the event has occurred.

B. Committees

1. Social/Cultural – A previous event was cancelled, and it will be rescheduled.
2. Newsletter/Publications – Anand was introduced, and he spoke about the Art Review, which was worked on over the summer. He also mentioned that the Pauper's Guide is online, which is a guide for students around Rutgers and the New Brunswick area. The guide can be accessed from the GSA website. Also, the GSA is hosting some organizational websites, such as RIGSA (Rutgers Indian Graduate Student Association) and Christians on Campus.
3. TAGARI/Student Affairs – There is currently no one in this position, so please contact Jeff for more information.
4. ISAC – Gary spoke about the pizza hour which happens every 2 weeks and is open to all graduate students, not just international students. The first one occurred on September 8 with an attendance of 50-60 people. He also spoke about getting speakers to talk about TA/GA issues and health insurance, and about showing movies as well. The pizza hour schedule is on the GSA website, and happen either at the College Avenue Campus Center or the Busch Student Center. He also has 3 more members helping him this year.
5. Community Affairs – There is currently no one in this position, but a newsletter was provided. If you want more information, contact Jeff.

C. Treasurer/EAC Report

The budget this year (2001-2002) is about \$140,000. A new category for the budget was added – Commencement. This is a donation to the Graduate School – New Brunswick from the GSA. The following groups had specific issues related to their budget applications.

1. The Food Science GSA's Job Fair is a non-EGS event. Therefore, it is not being funded.
2. The Chemistry GSA, Christians on Campus, Association of Social and Health Psychology Graduate Students, and the Society for Biomaterials did not have representatives, so their budgets were not voted on.
3. If a budget is conditional, it means the application is ambiguous and that you have to speak to Brian after the meeting.

#### D. University Representatives

1. RSCGB – Jeff mentioned that they meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month for 1 ½ hours, and that food is provided. Since Jeff cannot be the representative this year, see him if you are interested.
2. DSCGB – Since Gary cannot be the representative this year, talk to him if you are interested.
3. University Senate – Jeff, Stewart, and David are the reps. The first meeting will be on September 21, and one of the issues to be discussed is overenrollment.
4. Executive Council – No date has been set for the first meeting.
5. Academic Computing - No date has been set for the first meeting.
6. Parking – Two spots are vacant on this committee. The first meeting is September 20 at 8pm in Brower Commons.
7. Bike Task Force – This is an ad-hoc committee to decrease parking and increase the number of bikes on campus. Jeff will be the rep this year. Some issues are increasing the number of bike racks and adding a bike lane.
8. Health Services – The first meeting is on September 26 at 1pm at the Hurtado Health Center, and pizza will be provided. The 2

positions for graduate students on this committee are open, so if you are interested, talk to Jeff.

- E. Administrative Assistant – Emily and Dijha mentioned that after an event, when filling out the post-event form, be sure to provide a sign-in sheet, a description of the event, and attendance records. This is because the GSA is audited every few years.
  
- IV. Question time – No questions
  
- V. Adjournment