

## GSA Council meeting 10/8/06 - Minutes recorded by RG.

Quorum

Meeting called to order 7:19

Minutes approved unanimously

Mike C.: we have a distinct relationship with the campus centers with respect to reservations, which needs to be formalized because GSA groups are getting more active. Information about the reservation procedure is here, and will be posted on the website. [passes out materials] We will discuss in the Administrative Assistants' report.

Old business: approval of Art of Living GSO

Scott Bruton: Art of Living is a system of thought developed by S. S. Ravishankar; they do good things, but they are also a way of funneling people into expensive courses. I think university are unfavorable to this.

Representative of Art of Living: we offer our course here and also directed practice sessions. We do not offer the more advanced courses Scott brought up.

Passed - 33 for, 4 against, 12 abstentions.

New business: College Avenue design competition

Carlos D.:

The university is holding a competition on the redesign; we tried to get a grad student included in the jury, this did not happen but McCormick committed to include our input in packets sent to Jury.

Scott Bruton: I was in contact with recent Bloustein graduate involved in the planning process. The Jury is only going to produce a report for President McCormick, and we can write a report which (I have been promised) will be sent along with the jury report. There is going to be an exhibit at the Zimmerli, various presentations, and a public forum on the redesign.

Carlos: Mike, Scott, and I, and any others interested, would like to go to the Zimmerli together to develop a position on the redesign.

Mike: Sustainability is meant to be one of the five core items the redesign. We would like to get a group together to get on the same page and get an idea of what we would like to have in a report.

Scott: there is also a survey you can fill out either at the Zimmerli or online (prominent on the RU website). Mainly, though, please voice your opinion to the GSA executive so that we can represent your opinions.

Mike: I would like to suggest next Sunday.

Scott B: let's pass around a signup sheet to get those interested together.

Reports:

Executive - Carlos

This is the 2nd meeting of 8 this year, funded groups are expected to attend at least 4 each year.

Treasurer - Ryan

6 or 7 members of EAC spent 8 hours coming up with a proposal. Remember that EAC is elected by the council. Each report is read by 3 members of EAC and then discussed.

We received requests totaling \$150,000, which we do not have; currently external allocations are at \$71,000.

Carlos: there was a fee increase at the end of last year at our request, so we have a little more money; 400 Pharmacy students were reclassified, so we lost some revenue, but we ended up with a little more money. We had many more groups asking for more money this year, though. \$750 for chemistry is included in the proposal but was left off of the printout.

Joint Biosciences, Graduate Christian Fellowship, Basketball, and Food Science need to contact GSA officers to resolve problems with their applications.

Note that overall cut was only 2.5% compared to of 19% last year.

Passed unanimously.

When you get your application, look at the bottom; we will have written something if there was a particular item we were not able to fund.

Social/Cultural committee

Carlos: we are planning a halloween party here at the GSL, we need people to help out before and during. About 5 people needed, please contact me. Movie nights going on as usual.

Publications - Carlos

Julie Evenoff is back to help out with publications and websites. She can't do the whole thing but she can help. Contact her at [rugsa\\_pubweb@yahoo.com](mailto:rugsa_pubweb@yahoo.com), also she will be here every Monday and Wednesday.

Student affairs – Kristen Gilmore: not present

ISAC – Tamana: Social hours are every other friday evening. We are also organizing a murder mystery night in a week or so.

Carlos: remember all are welcome at these events, not just international students.

EAC – Ryan: Sarah Murray is a rockstar. Tim McManus, Carlos, Mike, and a lot of other put in a lot of work also.

TA/GA - Scott Bruton: Oct 24th there will be a conference on work and families; 3-7pm Traves hall DCC. Cosponsored by various groups. Bob Drago and other notable scholars will be present, also head of greater New Brunswick childcare center. We also hope to be able to develop a coalition including other university workers to work to improve childcare and other family-related issues on campus, which are important to many of us.

AAUP/AFT will go into contract negotiations with the university administration in December or January. If you get an e-mail survey please respond. In November I will give a presentation to the council elaborating on the AAUP-AFT's bargaining position to find out what people actually think about this.

Mike C: How many departments have a connection to the TA/GA committee? Do the groups here have people interested in getting in contact with the TA/GA committee?

Scott B: it would be extremely valuable if we had people in more departments we could be in regular contact with. [signup sheet is circulated - RG]. We need to know what the situation is in various departments, find out what people think about union's position, and make it possible for people who we could help get in touch with the union.

(representative from Environmental Science): Does the union have a webpage and does it have info such as cost/benefits of membership, meetings, etc.?

Scott: website is at [www.rutgersaaup.org](http://www.rutgersaaup.org), also has membership forms etc.

Sustainability - Mike C:

Please look into the proposal on the greening of College Avenue Campus. One discussion will be on sustainability, also David Orr will be speaking just after the competition ends. He is one of the great experts on sustainable campus planning.

Rutgers Student Center governing board - Carlos: First meeting will be this week.

Douglass Campus Center board – Ryan F.:

Yet to meet; we will find out about why tenants were changed without notifying board.

Senate - Ryan F.:

Accreditation process is happening this semester. There are about 800 ad hoc committees for the process. A lot of grad student input should come into this, and I will be working hard on this. There shouldn't be any problem but a lot will be going on.

EC of grad school: No reps present

Parking/Transportation: No one present

AA report - Mike C:

The most important thing about filling out post-event reports is to fill them out completely and attach original receipts, plus some indication that the event actually occurred and (if appropriate) was publicized - flier, e-mail, etc. Expenses should be itemized, listing who should receive the money. Turnaround for reimbursement is usually 2-3 weeks. If you are receiving funding from any source other than the GSA, you must say so on the bottom of the second page. The report should include the total cost of the event as well as the breakdown of how much came from your GSA budget. The reservation materials passed around refer to College Ave; other campuses work differently. Presently College Ave is cheaper than the others, but all will be combined soon and we expect cost to be equalized. Whenever requesting space from the campus centers always be clear that you are part of a graduate student organization and so expect to be treated like an adult. If you have any problems reserving space contact Mike or Benji at the GSA office. As a grad organization you do not need an advisor to sign anything, just note that you are a grad organization. Write to [rugsa\\_help@yahoo.com](mailto:rugsa_help@yahoo.com) for questions

Carlos: Remember, we did not give any group as much money as they would like. You may wish to try to purchase beverages etc. from outside rather than going to campus centers which will charge excessive prices.

Q/A: Amy- policy and planning: this Thursday there will be a panel at Bloustein at 4:30 about rebuilding the Gulf Coast

Carlos: Funding guidelines state that all events funded under as Lectures & Productions must be listed on GSA calendar and sent to Naomi ([rugsa\\_vicepresident@yahoo.com](mailto:rugsa_vicepresident@yahoo.com)) so that they can be sent to the announcement list.