

Minutes
Graduate Student Senate Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2007

Chairman Bechtel called the regular meeting of the Graduate Student Senate of the Georgia Institute of Technology to order at 11:15. Senators Ahmad, Brancato, Burrell, Carnasciali, Chandler, Dam, Feigh, Geyer, Goldman, Granier, Greco, Gupta, Gupta, Herndon, Hubble, Husserl, Mappus, Norville, Pedicino, Sinha, Skinner, Vishwanathan, Warta, Wester, Wissman, and Wornyo were present or came in later. Senators Calanni, Ejimofor, Entrekin, Jenson, Kokko, Kothari, Lucki, Marek, Padove, Roth, Sinclair, and Zahorian were absent. President Keller was in attendance.

Guest speaker:

Rebecca McGarrity spoke about the New Student Code of Conduct January 8, 2007. The changes will be advertised through the Whistle, Technique, emails, and open forums.

Officer Reports:

- Coord. Officer:** All bills passed in the house.
(Wester)
- Secretary:** Minutes will go to the email list.
(Herndon)
- Treasurer:** JFC membership is full.
(Dam)
- Vice President:** No report.
(Bechtel)
- President:** Will ask that we suspend the rules to consider a new
(Keller) appointment bill. MSFAC committee will meet next week. Have met with President Clough, and submitted a counter-proposal to the AA's proposal that will include a smaller increase in fees along with a season ticket fee. The meeting with the president also addressed stipend levels and payroll deduction. Payroll deduction should happen Fall '07 and will include health insurance, parking and on-campus housing. It may not be possible to deduct mandatory student fees. There is a stipend study planned; efforts will also be made to make sure that there are regular standard stipend adjustments, particularly to keep up with mandatory student fees. Norville: Would also be nice to look at stipends in relation to other Universities.
- Regarding the AA: Administrators are somewhat concerned about tiered-fee system. Basketball ticket fees would be for SEC games only. Tickets would be below market price. Peer institution pricing (academic and NCAA) suggests tickets would probably be at \$80-\$100.

Norville: we should not accept any responsible for the management mistakes in building the new construction. Feigh: ask that we move this to open forum.

Committee Reports:

Health-Welfare: Meetings will be at Monday at 3:00 pm this term in the SGA
(Herndon): conference room.
Internal Affairs: No Report.
(Brancato)
Housing: No Report.
(Pedicino)
Academic Affairs: Re: March 9th Symposium: We will need volunteers from each
(Chandler) major school to help recruit faculty judges.
Ad-Hoc: The committee formed re: moving money between capital
(Brancato) outlay and prior year continues to meet and is attempting to gather more historical data.

Unfinished Business:

Brancato: MOVED to move appointment bill 07G045 to beginning of unfinished business. Motion PASSED.

- **07G045 Appointment to Graduate Student Senate**

President Keller asked the senate to appoint new Senators interested in serving. Brancato: MOVED to accept the bill by unanimous acclimation. The bill PASSED by unanimous acclimation.

- **07G039/06U059 Joint resolution supporting Student Regent (Wornyo)**

Keller: We have tried to get information on the bill from the undergraduates, and have not been able to do that. Wester: there were some concerns as to which school would provide the student regent at the House meeting. Norville: MOVED to postpone the bill for one week. Bill POSTPONED by voice vote.

- **07G042/06U062 Joint Allocation to GT Women's Volleyball Club (Feigh)**

Feigh: Yield time to Rep. Rep: Asking for money for new set of jerseys. Last purchased 5 years ago. They just purchased a first set, looking for money for a new set. Currently have to wear the same jerseys during 3 day tournaments

JFC recommends funding the bill in full.

Brancato: MOVED to accept by unanimous acclimation. Bill PASSED by unanimous acclimation.

- **07G043/06U060 Joint Allocation to I-Movie Fest (Feigh)**

Feigh: Yield time to Rep. Rep: We've been doing this since 2001. This bill is for the award night at the Ferst Center. Corporate sponsorship covers equipment and prize money.

JFC recommends funding the bill in full.

Brancato: MOVED to accept by unanimous acclimation. Bill PASSED by unanimous acclimation.

New Business:

None.

Open Forum:

- Feigh: A new law means that Georgia Tech health center is no longer subsidized on certain drugs. Birth Control is one of these, and may double in price. Remind students that they can get generic drugs for \$15 copay at a pharmacy. They can also get them at the Georgia Tech if they don't want to go over the \$2,000 cap. They are not sure when the price changes will occur. At the moment, the Health Center is still selling drugs at the old price.
- Keller: Pearce and Pearce should receive a new ID card. Pharmacies will also be using ExpressScripts system which should help students filling prescriptions at places other than the Health Center.
- Norville: Will be going to NY for the Ferst Center Advisory Board this weekend. Please pass along suggestions for acts to Norville.
- Herndon: LaTeX Classes will occur this Spring. See http://www.library.gatech.edu/research_help/classes.html for more information. Also, if you want to teach, see me. Rate is \$100.00 per class.
- Athletic Discussion: Norville: it is unacceptable to raise the fee in order to bail them out for poor decisions. We should give fees for normal raises, not major construction that are undertaken without having the money.
- Keller: One factor that should be considered is that the Athletic Fee has not increased much since 1997. If they athletic fee had kept pace with the health fee, transportation fee and student activity fee. It would be between \$78 and \$80. We will lose the vote if we are uncompromising.
- Feigh: How do the undergraduates feel about the compromise? Keller: to my knowledge it has not reached them yet. Keller believes that the graduate students combined with the faculty votes will win.

- Norville: Other departments have increased their services. Athletics have not improved their services. Graduate students derive significantly fewer benefits from these than undergraduates. Keller: a split/tired fee system will not meet with the administration's approval.
- Feigh: Use leverage to get AA to do something. E.g.: put the Heissman statue back. I've been here since 1997, the services have gotten worse. Coupons to get a ticket are entirely convoluted. Keller: that's an issue for the student ticketing committee. Feigh: The student ticketing committee doesn't have any teeth.
- Yirk: I wanted to know if the prices would be same for undergrads and grads. In the split fee proposal, graduate students who attend games would pay more. A: The split fee proposal is not under consideration.
- Keller: Season Tickets would be transferable among students, but would need to be a student to use them. Ticket pack for basketball would be just for ACC games
- Greco: Why would it have to be season ticket sale? Keller: Logistics issues at AA. That would drive their costs up.

Herndon MOVED to adjourn at 12:15.