

**Minutes of the Georgia Tech
Graduate Student Senate
January 23, 2007**

Vice President Bechtel called the meeting to order at 11:09.

Senators Agarwal, Brancato, Burrell, Calanni, Chandler, Dam, Ejimofor, Feigh, Goldman, Greco, Gupta, Gupta, Herndon, Husserl, Jenson, Kothari, Mappus, Marek, Pedicino, Sinha, Skinner, Vishwanathan, Warta, Wester, Wissman, Wornyo, Yerger, and Zahorian were present or entered later. Senators Entrekin, Geyer, Kokko, Lucki, Padove, and Roth were absent. President Keller was in attendance. The minutes from the last meetings were approved.

Guest Speakers: Guest Speaker: Rosalind Meyers, Dr. Cindy Smith and Police Chief Crocker gave a presentation on Georgia Tech's preparation for the Pandemic Flu.

Feigh: What would happen if international air travel links were closed? Meyers: we would hope that some international students could go home with domestic students--attempt to avoid large groups of people. Ms. Meyers noted that international students will be expected to go home, concerns about money would not be a valid reason to stay. Herndon asked if an emergency loan fund had been funded for international students who might need to go home. Myers: This is not my department, it should be under Joel Hursick, Associate VP for Financial Services. However, if something were to happen she thinks that the money would be found.

Greco: assuming the pandemic reached here, how long would the quarantine last? Smith--two waves, four to six weeks each. It could be a couple of months. Bechtel: the Fulton line seems arbitrary. Smith--if we see something in Cobb, we will be monitoring the situation as if it was in Fulton. Senator: for some residents, family housing is home. Where would they go? Meyers--if they had no other place to leave, they could stay. Ejimofor: what triggers stage six of the plan? Smith--the Health Department would make that decision. Feigh: it will be important to track people down if we need to. Add something in Banner: "in case of emergency" address. Meyers: ISCPA is taking care of the advertisement. We're going to print a brochure, but we're not handing it out now, because people won't pay attention to it. Best idea is to have some basic supplies like water and food if you needed them for a few weeks, as well as some disinfectant wipes, gloves and masks.

Coordinating Officer: All bills were passed in the House.

Secretary: No report.

Treasurer: We have recently been going through the budgets of the Tier 2 organizations. Vice

Vice-President: Had a ticketing committee meeting--but all major decisions are waiting for the MSFAC committee to report.

President: We're working on the student ombudsman position, looking at recently retired faculty members. Payroll deduction seems to be moving along; the intention is that it will be online Fall 07.

President's Report concerning MSFAC: All funding increases other than the AA were approved at the last meeting. Re: Athletic Fee: the AA put forward an alternative proposal that would include an increase in fees as well as charging for tickets. While the graduate students were happy with this, the undergraduates did not want to pay for tickets. The undergraduates requested more time before

voting. It will likely be voted on next week. The administration is providing assurances that they will work on the stipend issue, which includes stipend adjustments based on fee increases.

Feigh: was there no motion on the table for a compromise (e.g. \$88 per semester with no ticket price)? Keller: that did not come up; there was a recognition that that proposal would not be viable above the committee. Jenson: has there been any proposal to cut athletic programs? Keller: No. It's not something that would fly--the kinds of programs that they can cut would not save very much money.

Greco: It seems as if you're making recommendations that will only be taken favorably. Keller: the concern is that if you put forward a recommendation that is going to be rejected, you've given up the chance for giving the president advice. Grad students only make up a quarter of the committee. Anything that won't meet the AA's budget needs won't pass the committee.

Feigh: the other members of the committee are attached to the idea of getting the AA their full budget request (e.g. phased fee)? Keller: there has been no interest expressed in alternatives. We can't bind future committees. Hopefully, the stipend offset will help the majority of other students.

Senator: I don't think that it's a good idea to set the precedent of the AA being allowed to set ticket prices. Keller: to provide the whole amount of funding, this will cost several hundred thousand dollars. If there are no ticket fees involved, that money will be even harder to come by.

Committee Reports

Health and Welfare Committee: meeting this week on Monday at 3:00 pm in the SGA Conference Room.

Old Business

Feigh: MOVED all unfinished financial bills to beginning of unfinished business.

- **07G041/06U061 Joint Allocation to GT Women's Soccer Club (Worny)**

Rep: Requesting financial support to receive new uniforms. They are over 5 years old. Required by league and tournaments to have two jerseys for each player. We do other fundraising, but we have to spend that on travel, hotels, etc.

JFC recommends amending line 4 to \$3540.39, striking \$520.10 for socks. New total \$2540.39 (CO).

Feigh: Can you break that down? A: Jerseys are \$33 each, 35 yellows, blues, 35 shorts \$22. Printing is a few dollars per number. Wester: Are the socks part of the uniform. A: They are. Kothari: You said that you've raised \$2,000 for this? A: this is what we've raised for other events, not for the uniforms. Kolani: you said you have 35 jerseys? A: We like to travel with as many people as possible, multiple players for multiple games. Zahorian: MOVED to end questions. Motion PASSED. Brancato: MOVED to amend per JFC. Bill was AMENDED. Worny: MOVED

to approve by unanimous acclamation. Objection. Greco: Kolani and he said that they could only dress 23 at a time. A: This doesn't hold true for club. Brancato: MOVED to approve by unanimous acclamation. Motion was ACCEPTED by unanimous acclamation.

- **07G044/06U064 Joint Allocation to Chinese Students and Scholars Friendship Association (Amended Version) (Dam)**

Rep: Club is to help adapt people who speak Chinese at Georgia Tech. In the past years, this has been in the student center theater. We've been able to sell out the entire venue for the past two years. The event will be conducted in both Chinese and English. The event will be free. We're sponsoring 8 professional events at \$500 each. Last year we had a Georgia senator to give a speech and had a representative of the Chinese government in attendance.

JFC recommended striking lines 7 (piano tuning), 23 (tuxedo), 24 (costumes), 27 (lanterns), 28 (fook and spring couplets), 30 (wireless microphones), 34 (invitation letters), 35 (equipment transportation), 36 (riddles); and amending lines 10 to \$50, 25 to \$20, 26 to \$18, 32 to \$45, 33 to \$49.50 for a total of \$6,440.50 (PY). Note that SGA is the only source of funding

Greco- did you do any fundraising for this? A: No, we don't want to have commercials, etc. Earlier years we had this all in the student center and the cost came out of our pocket. Feigh: are you an official organization. Do you charge dues? A: We are official org and we don't charge dues. Gupta: how many members do you have in your organization? 1500 people on email list. Feigh: will you be working with any other Chinese Student Association on campus? A: CSA doesn't speak Chinese at the meeting. Not all of our members speak English. Feigh: Are you sure? They do have to speak a minimum level to be here. A: They don't speak very good English. Kothari: where will it be? A: It will be in the Ferst center. Brancato: they say the costumes will last for three years, should we not fund these? JFC: although it would come out of capital outlay, this appears to be non-essential.

Jenson: of the 1500 on the mailing list, how many attend meetings, and how often do you have them? Generally the meetings are of the executive committee: 20-30 people. Members appear when we have events. Jenson: it sounds like the 20-30 members are really the club, and other people just attend. A: yes, but we want to provide services to others. Greco: is this the only event you have? A: in Fall, New Student Welcome Party, Harvest Festival, singing competitions, information on how to file taxes, renew visas and such. Greco: why haven't you considered charging a small price for the event, \$2 or so. A: We don't want to get people to pay too much.... Greco: so you did charge a \$1 or \$2 ticket fee in the past? A: Yes. Greco: so you won't be charging a ticket price? A: Yes.

Zahorian: what language will this be presented in? A: In English. Zahorian: Do you target students other than Chinese? A: we don't specifically target them. Pedicino: can someone explain the GTCFA, CSA, multiple bill confusion? Dam: We will be removing 07G49, it is the same bill.

Feigh: wanted to verify. Speakers will be speaking in Chinese and English? A: speakers are distinct from this event. This is a gala, entertainment. Speakers occur throughout the year. Kapil Gupta: if SGA is the only organization funding this, why isn't there a ticket charge for non-GT students? A: We don't normally have non-GT students, and we don't want to charge family members.

Gupta: If this is a Chinese student New Year's party, the other Chinese organization should support it. A: it's not very easy to work with them. Chandler: MOVED to postpone one week--confusion about bill, what's being funded, and it's not a rush request. Ejimofor: we should be able to vote for it now. It will add to a backlog. Greco: The bill that we're dealing with seems clear. Motion to postpone FAILED.

Greco: Can you explain what riddles are? A: they're brain-teasers... they hang up and people try to solve them? Dam: are the riddles going to be in Chinese or English? Both. Wester: move to end questioning. 12-4, motion to end questioning PASSED.

Brancato: MOVED to amend per JFC. Yerger: it seems that we should amend the price to a lower number because they charged tickets in the past. Brancato: lets move to amend per JFC and then make changes. Motion to Amend per JFC PASSED.

Brancato: I would like to put the costumes back in at \$900.00 for capital outlay. MOVED to restore line 24. Wester: I have to agree.... the costumes seem essential. Warta: I would disagree. They already have some costumes, they've used them three times, once a year. Traditional costumes, they don't wear out. Herndon: The costumes can last for more than three years. They're only used once a year. They can ask for the costumes another year if it's a big event. Pedicino: call question on the motion. Motion to Amend FAILS.

Kapi Gupta: if they've charged a dollar or two in the past, and have 1100 expected students, we should deduct \$2200 from the total. MOVED to strike \$2200 from the total of the bill and adjusting line items accordingly. Brancato: we have the total cost of the event. We've already cut \$3000 from JFC. They're already going to have to pay for the things that they want to have. Kothari: apart from what Senator Brancato said, there's no power for the SGA to have to charge ticket prices this way. Dam: wouldn't be a very good idea for them to charge a ticket, then they'd have to pay the Ferst Center rental fee. Zahorian: I'm in agreement with subtracting \$2,200; we're not forcing them to charge a ticket price, but this is a good way to suggest that they should charge a ticket. \$6,000 is enough to do what they want. Wissman: the reason they charged tickets in the past, they didn't have it in the Ferst Center. They had a much smaller group. They're trying to get a much larger group. Jenson--you can't charge admission when you're at the Ferst Center Chandler: they haven't asked for funds in the past two years. Ejimofor: we shouldn't ask them to charge a ticket; the reason we do this is to expose other cultures to this. Others won't come if they have to pay. Herndon: Call question on the amendment. Motion to Amend FAILED.

Greco: two years ago I went to an event put on by some New Year's celebration put on in the Ferst Center. I'm worried that we'll be funding a competing event. Feigh: I think it was CSA. Kothari: We can't try and look too far into the future on these things. Feigh: MOVED previous question. The bill PASSED 11-8-2.

Wester: MOVED to consider 07G046- Joint allocation to Asha for Education. Brancato: this was in the bill system and disappeared. They have met with JFC. Voice vote was taken on the motion. Division was called. Senate voted 13-4 in favor of CONSIDERING the bill.

- **07G046/06U068 Joint Allocation to Asha for Education (Carnasciali)**

Wester moved to assumed authorship. No objection. Quorum was lost before the bill could be discussed.

- **07G039/06U059 Joint Resolution Supporting Student Regent (Wornyo)**

Quorum was lost before the bill could be discussed.

New Business:

- **07G047 Appointment for Graduate Student Senate (Keller)**
- **07G048/06U070 Joint Allocation to Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team (Vishwanathan)**
- **07G049/06U071 Joint Allocation to GT CFA (Wissman)**
- **07G050/06U072 Joint Allocation to Taiwanese American Student Association)Herndon)**
- **07G051/07G052 Joint Allocation to Chinese Student Association (Herndon)**
- **07G052/06U074 Joint Allocation to Georgia Tech Wushu Club (Herndon)**
- **07G053/06U075 Joint Allocation to Student Center Programs Council Special Events Committee (Feigh)**

Open Forum

Chandler: I've had some problems trying to recruit people to judge. If you can get faculty in your department who are interested, give their names to me. The conflict with GT^2 is confusing; but we're going to work with them in the future.

Ejimofor: on the fees, can you ask them to wait for several years to increase? Keller: we can't, but the MSFAC won't meet until next week after the Senate meeting, so we can discuss it more next week.

Herndon: Reminder that LaTeX classes will begin for the Spring semester next week.

A Senator MOVED to Adjourn 12:34.