

# Minutes of Student Government Meeting

**Date:** March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006; 5-6pm; room 704

**Attendance:** Alex Bell  
Anushay Anjum  
Brian Ziff-Levine  
Denis Fitzgerald  
Emily Andrews  
Jessica Waverka  
Meriam Filali Adib  
Natalie Rodic  
Sarah Marusek  
Torsten Jochem

Meeting chaired by Natalie Rodic and Torsten Jochem

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## 1. Greeting; Presentation of Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented. Sarah had two additional items for the agenda which were added to the agenda (4.2 and 4.3).

## 2. Updates

### 2.1 Update on the meeting with the administration

Natalie, Torsten and Alex reported back from the meeting with the administration (represented by Jonathan Bach). Points discussed included:

Financial Aid reconsideration: The scholarship reconsideration process was explained. Natalie sent on behalf of the student government a reminder to all students by email to apply for the financial aid reconsideration before the deadline passed on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Reading Workload: The extensive reading workload in some classes (often times more than 300 pages, in some cases even more than 500 pages for one class for one week) was addressed. The administration confirmed that the recommended thumb rule for graduate studies was about 150-250 pages per class per week (depending how dense readings are).

e-Reserves: The system was introduced this semester at the university (<http://eres.newschool.edu>). It allows professors to drop off hard copies of reading material at a university office which will then be subsequently scanned (usually within one or two days) and offered in pdf-format for download at e-Reserves. Students and administration hope that the professors will make use of the new system.

Evaluations: The administration pointed to the importance of the evaluation forms and asked the student government to urge students to take enough time to use them with care during the evaluation process. Filling out the evaluations at the *beginning* of the last class and utilizing especially the provided space for *comments* should improve feedback.

#### Hiring a career person

The administration asked us to spread the news about the hiring of a new career person. We will send an email this week; interested students should speak to Phil Akre about this position. This person could also potentially work on the alumni network. Sarah Marusek will attend the New School-wide alumni meeting this week.

#### *2.2 Update on budget*

Natalie and Torsten report that they will have a meeting with Roger Ward, the Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs in the coming week. They will report the outcomes of the meeting during the next student government meeting.

### **3. Discussions**

#### *3.1 Standardization of work of concentration representatives*

The issue was raised that there should be a clearer separation between the tasks of the concentration representatives and the teaching assistance (TA) working for the concentrations. One approach would be that TA's would plan the concentration meetings, while student government representatives would promote it, collect suggestions for future classes and stay in touch with the student body in the respected concentration to listen to concerns. This will be addressed in the next meeting with the administration. Further, TA's and student government representatives will be closer put in touch with each other. There was further hope expressed for more student working groups.

#### *3.2 Networking tool*

The idea of introducing a networking tool for students, alumni and faculty was welcomed during the meeting with the administration. Torsten proposed that the student government (and anybody else who would like to join the effort) could test different networking websites, such as openBC.com, LinkedIn, friendster, etc. It was agreed that the website should be useful for professional purposes and would need to have a set of certain key features (e.g. free of costs for students, contact information not visible to everyone). During our next meeting we will take a closer look at the proposed websites. Every GPIA-student can send proposals by email to [gpiastudentgov@gmail.com](mailto:gpiastudentgov@gmail.com) or to let one of the student government members know. Since the benefits from the networking tool arise from students being signed up, it was discussed how extra incentives could be created for students to make the effort.

#### *3.3 FAQs for student government website*

It was discussed that frequently asked questions (FAQs) should be put on the student government website. Every GPIA-student can send questions (if possible with its answer) to Torsten by email. ([Torsten.Jochem@gmail.com](mailto:Torsten.Jochem@gmail.com)).

#### **4. Misc**

##### *4.1 Next Meeting*

Because of the spring break, the next meeting will take place on Thursday (March 16<sup>th</sup> between 5-6pm) instead on Friday. The room will be announced by email.

##### *4.2 Room situation at GPIA*

Sarah addressed the issue of a shortage of available rooms needed for conferences and meetings. The room situation was described as very tense, so that organized conferences have been repeatedly at risk not to take place because no room was available. We will try to find the right contact person to talk about this issue and advance a solution.

##### *4.3 Regional studies concentrations*

The uneven attention being paid to geographical areas in the program was pointed out. Faculty should be made aware this is a concern of the student body, and that a more diverse regional focus would be welcomed. Regional working groups could be another positive move in bringing together students with similar interests in regional issues.