

Physics and Astronomy
Graduate Student Orientation
Aug 22, 2016



Stony Brook University (SBU) Graduate Student Organization (GSO)

Abhishodh Prakash

Overview

- ▶ The GSO is the graduate student government at the Stony Brook University.
- ▶ **Mission statement**
“The GSO's purpose is to identify and protect the rights of graduate students, advance their interests, provide a forum for public debate, and promote graduate student participation in university affairs. ”

Membership

- ▶ All graduate students who are enrolled at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and paying student activity fees (all of you!)
- ▶ Any member of the GSO
 - ✓ Is eligible to be an officer of the GSO,
 - ✓ may serve on any GSO committee,
 - ✓ are eligible to vote in officer elections, referenda, and other organization-wide ballots.
 - ✓ All members of the GSO vote equally.

GSO Senate

- ▶ Controls a budget of \$450,000
 - \$365,000 from activity fee
 - Rest through various other sources like the office of president, RF, Grad school, Provost .
- ▶ Money used to fund clubs and organizations, events, travel grants, services like legal clinic etc.
- ▶ Current senators:
Andrea Massari, Anna Gura, Abhishodh Prakash

Funding opportunities

- ▶ **RAP (Resource Access Project)**
Travel grants to grad students to attend conferences and/ or workshops. Each student can get upto \$350 each fiscal year.
- ▶ **DTA (Distinguished Travel Award)**
A one-time reimbursement to present work at a prestigious conference upto 1500\$.
- ▶ **Cold Spring Harbor/ BNL travel grant.**
50% of travel costs via public transportation reimbursed.
- ▶ **Seminar/ Workshop travel**
Travel Reimbursement to attend a workshop or seminar at NYC.
Can be availed 4 times per semester.

Funding opportunities

▶ **Graduate Student Emergency Loan Fund (GSELF)**

Interest-free short term loan for a grad student with financial emergency.

▶ **Recreation**

- First come first serve basis
- Upto \$150 per person for activities that have artistic value (museums, theatres, stellar events). \$2500 available in total.
- 25% of gym fees (or \$50) reimbursed. \$7500 in total available.

Resources

- ▶ Funding for clubs and organizations.
(Freewheel society, WUSB 90.1 FM)
- ▶ Legal clinic
- ▶ Tax clinic, tax workshops
- ▶ Organizing speaker events
- ▶ Ucafe:
Music, concerts, food, drink.
- ▶ Movies, bbq and other fun events.

► **Department Allocation:**

1000\$ to enhance the sense of community in the department. Previously used to buy table tennis equipment located in the basement and foosball table located in the common room.

Tell us if you have ideas on how this money can be spent !

What you can do

- ▶ Check out the GSO website
<http://sbgso.org>
- ▶ Visit and follow the GSO facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/sbugso/>
- ▶ Come to the senate meetings. They are open to everyone, the schedule is on the website.
- ▶ **Be a primary or alternative senator. Talk to me if you are interested in this.**
- ▶ Look out for e-mails and announcements about various events.

Contact information

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