



FULL BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 2012

MELISSA KIZINA MOTSCH, PRESIDENT OF THE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

GSO to be represented on childcare advisory board

At the end of September, I received an email from Kal Alston requesting one representative from the GSO to serve on the childcare advisory board, which we are happy to see get off the ground. This board will be responsible for advising on prioritizing programs to increase the access and availability of daycare (on and off-campus) based on the needs assessments performed over the last 4 years. Directors from both the Early Education and Child Care Center (EECCC) and the Bernice Wright Nursery School will be present, as will two representatives from the University Senate. Human Resources and the Budget Office will also have representation on the board.

The childcare advisory board is slated to meet by the end of October, and Courtney O'Dell-Chaib from the Religion Department will represent the GSO. We look forward to the progress made by this group, and are hopeful that the conversation will move towards expanding resources in order to alleviate some of the pressure on our existing facilities and to allow more families access to reasonable childcare.

Stretching Space to be created in Archbold Gymnasium

In my last report, I discussed my meeting with Joe Lore and Tim Eddy regarding the creation of a stretching space in Archbold. Joe has gotten the go-ahead on the project, and I will be bringing this proposal to the GSO Senate at our Second Regular Business Meeting on Wednesday, October 17. Pending their approval, the GSO will fund half of the project from our institutional gift fund, and Recreation Services will cover the remaining balance. The room will be equipped with floor mats, exercise balls, medicine balls, mirrors, stretching cages, and an LCD flat screen for meditation videos. A plaque will be created reflecting the GSO's contribution to the space and will be installed in the stretching room.

1000 Likes Campaign

In an effort to increase our visibility and reach among graduate students on social media, the GSO launched its "1000 Likes" Campaign early this month. Using minimal promotional tactics such as small business cards passed at a Wine Tasting event and one email blast to the graduate student body, we have raised the number of Facebook Likes from 374 to 774 over the past few weeks, and are enthusiastic about reaching 1000 by the end of the semester. Social media is one of the primary ways the GSO is able to keep grads up to date and promote professional development events, academic talks, and social gatherings. When we reach 1000 Likes, the GSO will host an outing in Armory Square for grad students.

Meeting on Expanded Campus Safety

On Friday, October 5, the meeting requested by Dr. Marcoccia took place in 700 Crouse-Hinds Hall at 1pm. In addition to Lou and myself, the following were in attendance: Chief Tony Callisto, Department of Public Safety; David Pajak, Risk Management; Tim Sweet, Energy and Sustainability Systems Management; Allan Breese, Business and Facilities Maintenance Services; Eric Beattie, Campus Planning, Design, and Construction; Alicia Hall, GSO Expanded Safety Committee; and Dave Wolken, GSO Expanded Safety Committee.

We discussed different scenarios of potential campus violence and those present gave an overview of the procedures that have already been implemented to counteract and mitigate grave danger or loss of life in the case of an Active Shooter situation on campus. Though the systems currently in operation are robust, and are in line with present university trends, it was clear that a number of questions need to be answered in order to ensure that maximum effort and resources are being put forth in order to protect the Syracuse University community.

I revisited the massacres at Virginia Tech and Oikos University, noting that locks on classroom doors had an impact on the number of lives claimed in each shooting. We worked through some of the pros and cons of having physical locks on classroom doors at SU, and it was determined that more research needs to be compiled before we can truly assess the feasibility of being able to lock classrooms against aggressors in the event of an emergency situation.

With the goal of achieving a more complete assessment of our current and potential lockdown capabilities, the following action steps were planned:

- Tim Sweet will look into how many buildings on campus currently are **not** equipped for remote lockdown from DPS Central Command
- Dave Pajak will speak with insurance carriers to determine the implications installing locks on classroom doors
- Tony Callisto will speak with colleagues at other institutions about best and current practices when it comes to locking classroom doors
- Tim, Allan, and Eric will tackle the following questions:
 - How many classrooms are there on campus?
 - Which device would be best, if this project were to be pursued?
 - How much would it cost to implement?
- Allan will find out how many doors open outwards, as per Lou's request.

As with any project that is large, intensive, and not widely in place among other universities, there are many questions to be explored, and many uncertainties to investigate. Sometimes, initiatives, particularly those which are controversial or uncomfortable, get smothered in discussion. As I have stated many times, this is the type of measure that is historically taken *after* something tragic happens. The decision about whether and how to take this proactive measure to empower students, faculty, and staff to protect their own lives in the event that such actions become necessary should not be delayed, and I am hopeful that the action steps above will be carried out with urgency.

I thank you for your time in reading this report and for continuing to invite and value students' perspectives on this board. Though I plan to be in attendance at the Student Affairs Committee Meeting and the Installation Ceremony on November 1, I will not be present at the rest of the Board's November events because I'll be flying out that evening to attend the annual gathering of the National Association for Graduate and Professional Students in Durham, North Carolina.