



Graduate Student Representative's Report to the Board of Trustees

Executive Committee Meeting, October 10, 2013

Patrick Neary, President of the Graduate Student Organization

As the fall semester gets underway, I am happy to report progress on a number of GSO initiatives.

We have begun planning a number of town hall-style meetings and open forums, through which we can engage with the broader graduate student population and gather input for a strategic review of the GSO. We are also planning a survey through the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. This input will help us assess the impact of an increased student fee and ensure that our decision concerning an increased fee is agreeable to a majority of the grad student body. In addition, we are looking forward to the opportunity to further educate students on the current role and services of the GSO, as well as more broadly examine the GSO's activities.

The GSO, as a legacy member of the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students, will be sending two students to the NAGPS National Conference. We are excited for this opportunity to share best practices of student government with other student leaders, as well as find solutions to common problems. This conference has been extremely useful and beneficial in past years, especially as Syracuse graduate students have taken on more national leadership positions within this organization.

We are also proud to report good progress on a number of graduate teaching assistant issues. Of particular note, we have been talking to the various colleges and schools concerning the timing of contract offers and other similar matters. We have made good progress at reaching agreements that work for all parties, specifically in moving contract offer dates to the beginning of summer. We hope that this will better allow graduate students with funding to focus on their studies and research, one of the original goals in providing funding to these students.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to reporting additional progress in the future.