



Graduate Student Representative's Report to the Board of Trustees

Executive Committee Meeting, April 3, 2014

Patrick Neary, President of the Graduate Student Organization

Graduate Assistant Contract Renewals

As we move into the end of the spring semester, graduate teaching and research assistants begin to receive their contracts for next year. In an attempt to improve departments' communications with their graduate students, we have advocated that departments should adhere to a uniform notification deadline for graduate assistant contract renewals. Students from numerous programs have expressed frustration when their department does not inform them of their employment status until July or August, as this prevents students from making intelligent financial decisions for the upcoming academic year. The Dean of the Graduate School issued a recommendation that programs adhere to a May 31 deadline on this matter, and we will be monitoring departments for compliance.

Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week

The National Association of Graduate-Professional Students (NAGPS) is once again organizing the national Graduate-Professional Student Appreciation Week for April 7-11. The GSO, as a member of NAGPS, is excited to participate in GPSAW for the second year, with a series of events directed at graduate students as well as the general campus community.

GSO Annual Budget

The GSO is currently conducting its annual budget process. As part of the process, the GSO Senate voted to hold student fees at their present level. The organization has engaged in considerable discussions this year over ways to most effectively use student fee money in order to maintain the fee at \$40 per semester, per student. From these discussions, the GSO has become a more efficient, leaner organization than ever before, running more events on the same funding base than in any previous year.

GSO Elections

The GSO will hold elections for most of its Executive Board on April 23, the last GSO Senate meeting of the year. We have several candidates for each office, marking a record for election campaigning within the GSO. Previous elections were often uncontested, or featured only one contested position. This change is visible proof in the increased student participation we've seen this year, built on efforts by our entire Board. I am very proud to state that more students have participated in the GSO, either in its Senate, committees, or events, than ever before.

Thank you for your continued support of graduate education at Syracuse University!