



GSO Senate Resolution 15.07

A Resolution Concerning University Actions Relating to the Student Protestors

Whereas, The Syracuse University Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities states:

Students have the right to express themselves freely on any subject provided they do so in a manner that does not violate the Code of Student Conduct. Students in turn have the responsibility to respect the right of all members of the University to exercise these freedoms.

and that:

Students have the right to assemble in an orderly manner and engage in peaceful protest, demonstration, and picketing which does not disrupt the functions of the University, threaten the health or safety of any person, or violate the Code of Student Conduct, and;

Whereas, the Administration on November 12, 2014 apologized for not showing proper respect and causing distress to members of the University Community for their mishandling of the “process and communications regarding decisions made,” and;

Whereas, the notice by the administration at 8pm on Friday, November 14, 2014, after they had “locked” student protestors in to the building, was performed in, at least, an ill-conceived manner that caused undue stress to those members, and;

Whereas, the administration created a hostile environment for both faculty and students by prohibiting the entry of a faculty member from the College of Law, with the intent of serving as legal adviser to The General Body from entering Crouse-Hinds. This would in no way have jeopardized security, considering the number of DPS officers in the building; further, they cited their rule to not allow anyone in the building, however, these rules themselves were arbitrary and implemented by the administration, and;

Whereas, there have been conflicting reports regarding the manner of delivery by the University’s General Council of notices to THE General Body on the evening of Friday November 14, 2014; allegations have been made that these notices were delivered in an unprofessional manner, and;

Whereas, there have been reports by THE General Body of the Chief Legal Counsel berating students during their meetings in Crouse Hinds, and;

Whereas, All students and faculty University, should be treated with respect by the Administration, and;

Whereas, this body believes that the Chancellor is acting with a mind toward the best interests of the University, and that he does respect the students and faculty, and;

Whereas, an Ombuds office could help to provide a more constructive manner for members of the University Community to express their concerns, and;

Whereas, an Ombudsperson can help protect student rights, therefore be it

Resolved, that we respectfully ask the Chancellor to investigate his administrative team's response to the student protests, and to provide a written report that specifically addresses concerns of disrespectful administrative conduct; further, we ask that the Chancellor arrange an open forum where he can receive feedback from the University community and where he can respond to such concerns, and;

Further Resolved, that we ask that the Chancellor and the University, in consultation with the Executive Board of the GSO and the SA, create an Ombudsperson position to protect student rights and interests at the University.

Further Resolved, that we ask the graduate student University Senators to support the creation of legislation relating to the creation of an Ombudsperson, and for the GSO President to report this Resolution to the Board of Trustees.