



## **President's Report to the Senate**

Senate Fifth Business Meeting, February 18, 2015

Patrick Neary, President

### **Survey Complete**

The GSO survey is now complete, with 866 responses. Thus, we obtained a 17.7% response rate out of a total population of 4893. The survey has a 3.3% margin of error. The proportion of respondents who are masters' vs doctoral students, as well as TA/RA/other employee vs non-employees, were relatively close to the overall proportions for our student body. We are currently going through the survey and will present a full summary of data to the Senate and post the analysis on the GSO website, as we did with the 2013 TA/RA/GA pay survey.

Some early results: 96.2% of the graduate students do know of the GSO, with 86.7% hearing about us at least once a month. 37.9% of students know whether their department or program sends a Senator to Senate meetings. This number in particular should be targeted for improvement, although it still comes in above the Board's expectations. Of programs and organizations that we fund, the Travel Grant program, Student Legal Services, and Career Services received notably high marks. Over 75% of students said they "Like" or "Very much like" the GSO funding these programs. Our advocacy goals and priorities proved more controversial. Our top three listed priorities, TA/RA/GA pay, mental health services, and sexual assault prevention education and services each were supported by over 55% of the student body. Overall, 51.2% of students were "Satisfied" or "Very satisfied" with the GSO over the past year, with only 6.7% answering "Very dissatisfied" or "Satisfied".

### **Fast Forward**

Fast Forward continues to move quickly. The Academic Strategic Plan is in the process of being written, with public comment periods scheduled for later this semester. Coming up very soon is a Day of Conversation about the Academic Strategic Plan, on February 25. The various working groups will present their preliminary recommendations publicly in Goldstein Auditorium that day, with two hour sessions at noon, 3pm, and 6pm. The groups will present their work and then break into groups within the auditorium for input, feedback, and conversations.

The Campus Framework will hold one hour open forums on March 2 at 12pm and 4pm in Hendricks Chapel. Sasaki will be present to discuss their work to date. Everyone is encouraged to attend these sessions if at all possible.

### **Electronic Harassment Policy**

The Chancellor has created a task force to respond to the electronic harassment policy changes the GSO, SA, and SBA requested. This task force will be led by David Rubin, professor of communications and dean emeritus of the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Two undergraduate and two

graduate students will serve alongside one faculty and one staff member. We have appointed Zachary Greenberg from the College of Law as one of our representatives, as he has been leading this initiative on behalf of all the student bodies at SU. We have tentatively appointed Patrick Neary as the other representative.

### **Call for Volunteers**

Several positions are in need of volunteers. In particular, if anyone is highly interested in the e-harassment task force above, Patrick's position can be swapped out. In addition, Student Legal Services will hold its annual board meeting on February 23 at 11am. The GSO is allotted two positions on their board. The meeting should not be terribly long, roughly one hour. We also need a liaison to Career Services, who will be responsible for coordinating events and programming with the new Associate Director of Graduate Career Services, Daniel Olson-Bang.

Finally, we need an individual who would be interested in the university's brand identity system. There is a committee selecting a new vendor for such a system. After selection, that committee will also serve as a steering committee for its rollout. Anyone interested in the marketing and brand identity of SU is encouraged to volunteer. Their first meeting will be March 10 at a time to be determined.

For all these positions, please contact Patrick Neary at [gso@syr.edu](mailto:gso@syr.edu).