

- I. Call to Order
- II. Patrick Neary (President)
 - a. Health insurance
 - i. Letter from the Dean of the graduate school requiring health insurance
 - ii. TAs won't be moved without consultation or consent of graduate students
 - iii. With this there is ore time to discuses Int'l students
 - iv. Fellows
 - 1. are not required to do work with the university, different regulations apply
 - 2. Will get a 1K stipend that can go toward healthcare
 - 3. There are not a great deal of people that fall under this category
 - v. Int'l students
 - 1. Patrick has been attending meeting regarding this issue
 - 2. If there are any questions; please contact Health services
 - 3. Patrick will email the contact information for those in Health Services who can give more information
 - vi. Gallagher health has been negotiating the health plan; must be approved by NY State and AETNA healthcare
 - 1. Will have the plan by May 1st
 - 2. University would like the process to be more expeditious with this matter
 - 3. Q&A session next week; Patrick will email that information
 - a. 6-7 pm Tuesday in Grant Auditorium
 - b. Another meeting on Wednesday
- III. New Business
 - a. Unionization
 - i. Resolution 15.18
 - 1. There was a good number of feedback of opinions with regard to a union being made of RA/GA/TAs
 - 2. 31 people are against unionization
 - 3. Those who voted yes, wanted the union to protect pay and healthcare benefits, the need for maternity hours for students, protection of hours
 - 4. Those who are against were concerned about the university using this to hire more Adjuncts; which cost less than TA/RA/Gas
 - a. Others had more political reasons for not favoring the union
 - 5. Majority are in favor of unionizing
 - 6. Patrick will spend time in the summer conducting research on how to move forward
 - a. Having a meeting at the beginning of the Fall semester discussing the findings
 - 7. Motion to Debate; seconded
 - a. Debate on the topic of Resolution 15.18
 - i. Grad Students United
 - 1. There are 31 recognized graduate student union in the US
 - 2. Appeal to the National Labor Relations board and they will either approve or disapprove
 - 3. Being at a private university, the NLRB doesn't recognize grad students at university employees
 - 4. NYU unionized this year; being n conjunction with an auto industry union
 - 5. Grad Students United and Adjuncts United would work together to achieve the most beneficial results
 - ii. Question about the possibility of Int'l students being reported

1. Several Unionized Int'l grad students are unionized and have not had any difficulties as far as being fired or deported because they were fired from Ia position
- iii. Adjuncts and Faculty have a group to represent their interest, but are not unionized
 1. While adjunct and faculty are not protected by the NLRB, a recent SCOTUS decision postulates that they may be able to unionize in the future
- iv. Question about the \$5000 allocation for research
 1. \$5000 is available to cover fees, and seems to be the best amount for researching this subject
- v. If there is an Int'l is working, while not being able to get fired, it may serve as a barrier to protest because without the funding, students can't stay at the university
- vi. There is concern over the slashing of benefits and funding
- vii. One benefit in favor of unionizing is protecting the interest of student
- viii. There needs to be more clarification about how this will effect the grad student population
 1. There is a call to make an amendment to the resolution about the stipends of grad student and fellows
 - a. Amendment: Replace "graduate teaching, research, and other assistant union at Syracuse University" with "union of any or all Syracuse University graduate students receiving pay or a stipend" in the first two resolved sections
 - b. Seconded
 - c. Amendment to add "union of any or all Syracuse University grad students receiving pay or stipend ..."
 - d. This language does include law student; even though they have their own student government
 - e. Vote for the amendment
 - i. 19 in favor; 1 opposed; no abstentions
 - ii. Motion passes (**amendment attached in email**)
- ix. GSU would be the group advising the GSO on unionizing
 1. There is concern about the allocation of the \$5000
 2. Some would prefer someone on the research committee who is neutral on the position of unionizing
 - a. The group would be voluntary; if there are no volunteers, they will be appointed
 - b. Majority feel that there should be a variety of opinions in the group that will be researching the possibility of unionizing
- x. Faculty assistants are included in this Resolution
- xi. There needs to be a commitment to transparent research and reporting to the Senate in the Fall (2015-2016)
- xii. 1214 RA/TA/GA; 100 Faculty Assistants; 50-75 IAs; 35% of the entire Graduate Student body of the university
- xiii. Amendment: Add "Whereas, we acknowledge the contributions made by other graduate students receiving pay or stipends to the university and their need to be included in any discussions of unionization"
- xiv. Call to Question
 1. 17ni favor; 0 opposed; 3 abstentions

2. Vote on this Amendment
 - a. 10 in favor; 3 opposed; 3 abstentions
 - b. Motion passes
- xv. Amendment: Add “Whereas, the GSO has publicly censured the administration for its recent changes to graduate health care, and that the administration says future changes rely on GSO approval, and that these efforts to explore unionization stand as a response to these actions”
 1. Vote on amendment
 - a. 17 in favor; 1 opposed; 1 abstentions
 - b. Motion passes
- xvi. Amendment: Add “Resolved, that the GSO Senate orders the Executive Board, in consultation with such other students, student groups, or other needed individuals, investigate the impact of unionization on any other students at Syracuse University”
 1. Vote
 - a. 10 in favor; 0 opposed; 10 abstentions
 - b. Motion passes
- xvii. Amendment: Change fourth Whereas clause: “that these efforts to explore unionization stand as a response **in part** to **their call for our approval** se-actions”
 1. Debate: could the administration could ignore this resolution
 - a. Not Likely
 2. It’s needs to be clear that the Senate discussed unionization before the letter was sent to graduate students
 3. Amendment: “in part”; seconded
 - a. Move to vote
 - i. 10 in favor; 1 opposed; 5 abstentions
 - ii. Motion passes
 4. Vote
 - a. 10 in favor; 1 opposed; 6 abstention
 - b. Motion passes
- xviii. Amendment: Add “collect comprehensive information on the current employment or funding conditions of graduate students and investigate the need for such a union” to second resolved clause
 1. Question about the “employment conditions of graduate students”; broad
 - a. Broad contractual issues is what that means
 2. Amendment: “Or funding”
 - a. Questioning of the necessity of this amendment
 - b. Vote
 - i. 10 in favor; 4 opposed; 1 abstentions
 - ii. Motion passes
 3. Comment: This amendment seems reactionary, and isn’t conducive to the overall goal of this Resolution
 4. Vote
 - a. 9 in favor; 7 opposed; 4 abstentions
 - b. Motion passes
- xix. Question: Does the Senate want any language added?
 1. Should we require the group to report to an entity
- xx. Call to question
 1. Vote on the motion
 - a. 21 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstention
- xxi. Vote on the Resolution
 1. 16 in favor; 1 opposed; 3 abstentions

2. Motion passes

b. Ad Hoc Committee on Healthcare

i. Resolution 15.19: Establishing an ad hoc committee on Health Insurance issues

1. Seconded

2. Debate

a. Group in question met on Monday to discuss the details of what will be investigated/researched

b. Is there a limit on how long the committee will last

c. Amendment: Add "Resolved, that this Ad-hoc committee shall report its activities to the Senate at the first meeting of the fall 2015 semester and stand down" as a final resolved clause.

i. Seconded

ii. Debate

1. The Senate can vote to continue the committee in the Fall

iii. Vote

1. 16 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstention

2. Motion passes

d. Question: How is this group separate from the Student Advisory Board committee?

i. That group is set up by the administration and doesn't report to the GSO

e. Other people are welcome to join the committee

f. The committee is looking at the AETNA plan and what that entails

g. Call to Question

i. Vote

1. 16 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstention

2. Motion passes

h. Vote on the Resolution

i. 18 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions

ii. Motion carries

IV. Announcements

i. Rally on Thursday (4/9/2015) on Hendricks Chapel about the healthcare issues and the possibility of unionization

ii. Next meeting on 4/22/2015, Eggers 010, 5:30 pm

V. Adjourned