

Minutes

GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting

September 28, 2016

132 Lyman Hall

5.30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - a. Can Aslan called the meeting to order at 5.30 pm.

- II. Roll Call
 - a. 19 voting Senators were present from various departments, and for the initial roll call there were 17.
 - b. The following officers were present: Rajesh Kumar, Can Aslan, David Lemon, Peta Long, Gaven Ehrlich, Sakshi Sinha

- III. Executive, Committee, and Leadership Reports
 - a. President's Report
 - i. Middle States Commission on Higher Education(MSCHE)
 - MSCHE accreditation is important for students as without MSCHE accreditation Syracuse students would not be eligible for any form of federal student assistance.
 - The Self-study committee includes a Steering Committee and seven different self-study teams.
 - The president is serving on the Steering Committee.
 - Seven graduate students have been placed in each of the teams.
 - Peta Long, VP of External Affairs helped in finding qualified graduate students for each team.
 - ii. Graduate Student Employment and Benefits
 - Review of the minimum stipend: The minimum stipend which increased by 6-7% in last three years, ended last year and needs revision.
 - Current Interim Chief Finance Officer (CFO) has agreed to review the graduate student employee minimum stipend and all type of assistantship (with or without benefits) offered by the university.
 - iii. Creation of an Ombuds Office
 - Several students face serious concerns with faculties.
 - Ombudsman Office with effective grievance mechanism is working on it, which would be helpful for students.
 - Dean Venable will be working on with the provost's office and will help in creating the Ombuds office.
 - iv. Free Speech Policy Changes:

- Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (F.I.R.E) has rated SU in red category, which means SU has some policies that affects academic descent and freedom of speech on campus.
 - After efforts from SA, GSO, SBA the university has agreed to revise all the policies by 31 October and implement them by the end of FALL semester.
- b. Internal VP's Report
- i. University and GSO Senate Committees:
 - Dealing with the University Senate mess and trying to get the elected Senators into the Committees.
 - 10 University Senators are currently present.
 - University Senate Recorder will begin her role from October 1St, so university Senate can remain a mess till then.
 - Total 9 committees and most of them have started working.
 - There are 70 members in total in all the committees.
 - Helping the Committee setup and get started with the work.
 - ii. Registered Student Organization (RSO) Resources:
 - Providing funds to registered student organizations, however there is not much support.
 - Meeting with RSO officers for discussion, improving resources to better support student organizations.
- c. External VP's Report
- i. New Listserv for Events:
 - Created a new listserv, which can tell about the various events and share other information with the students.
 - It will be online and available by this week.
 - ii. Upcoming Events:
 - October will be back with scheduled events and tea parties.
 - 15th October: Developing on resources, to help grad students who have families. There is free food also available.
 - Friday 30th is Fall fest along with Color fest at Inn Complete with food, colors and music.
 - October fest on 8th October.
 - Trying to figure out student's interest and provide them with their choice.
 - Trivia on Thursday at 9 pm at Inn Complete.
 - iii. Call for suggestions for the Inn Complete:
 - Any suggestions with respect to Inn Complete are welcome.
 - Email would be good to drive the business related to Inn Complete.
 - iv. Possible Election Event:
 - Next Friday, there will be a town hall with the graduate students for an hour.
 - Looking for people to work with Peta in planning of various events along with the logistics for the event.

d. Comptroller's Report

i. Recommendations of the Finance Committee

Discussed the second Senate financial meeting with the financial budget constraint of \$9806.47

a. Special Programming Request: Philosophy GSO

- Philosophy grant committee requested an amount of \$1530 for the Special programming.
- Finance committee recommended an amount of \$805 for the Special Programming.
- Motion was raised to increase the recommendation from \$805 to \$955 by making the honorarium amount to full from \$250 to \$400.
- The motion carriers and voting done with a score of 16% Yes – in favor of the motion and 84% NO – against the motion.
- The motion fails and the recommended amount made is \$805.
- Motion raised to grant the recommended amount to the Philosophy GSO.
- After voting, and with maximum consent of the Senate (about 90%) the recommended amount of \$805 will be granted to the Philosophy GSO.
- It was also suggested to look for other sources for the funding along with GSO.

b. Special Programming Request: ASEE

- ASEE requested an amount of \$3650 for the Special programming for an entire year which consists of multiple events with at least 30-50 people.
- Finance committee recommended an amount of \$1400 for the Special Programming
- Motion raised to grant the recommended amount to the ASEE.
- After voting with a result of YES: 89%, NO: 11%, and with maximum consent of the Senate the recommended amount of \$1400 will be granted to the ASEE

c. Special Programming Request: Anthropology GSO

- Anthropology GSO requested an amount of \$1535 for the Special programming
- GSO will not support any of the brown bags events of the Anthropology GSO.
- Finance committee recommended an amount of \$850 for the Special Programming
- Motion was raised to amend the amount from \$850 to \$915 to add \$65 to a reception item in the request list.
- Motion carries and after voting (yes: 58%, no: 42%) the recommended amount was increased from \$805 to \$915.
- Motion raised to grant the recommended amount to the Antropology GSO.
- After voting with a result of YES: 89%, NO: 11%, and with the maximum consent of the Senate the recommended amount of \$915 will be granted to the ASEE.

e. NAGPS Lead Delegate (Peta Long)

i. Overview of Advocacy Summit and Meetings

a. IRS Notice of Health Insurance Changes for Grads

- IRS has released a notice on health insurance changes to schools that subsidize the health insurance for the graduate students. They also put a penalty of \$1000 per

student.

- However, Syracuse university is not included and more discussions are going on.
- b. CASA- Campus Accountability and Safety Act
 - Peta along with Derrick, is working on it.
 - They have taken up the chart and are preparing for the social justice.
 - 20-24th at Ethica for further work.
- c. NRLB Decision, Labor Relation and Unionization
 - Conversation with union is in discussion as to how it could happen.
 - There has been a good discussion till now and GSO has been fortunate as an organization.
 - Most of the conversations and discussions are with respect to student population.
- d. Higher Ed Reauthorization Act
 - Putting up a formal report for higher ED reauthorization Act.

IV. Old Business

- a. New GSO Website Development
 - A new GSO website was being built by a graduate student for \$500
 - He was selected through an interview.
 - However, he delayed the work on the website during summer, as he had an internship outside campus.
 - A couple of weeks ago, he said he is unable to devote anymore time and quit.
 - \$500 has already been given him, so Senate has to decide what should be done.
 - There are options: a) Take all money back b) Take partial money back c) Take no money back.
 - Discussion done, on taking the entire money back and using it for the website.
 - Motion was raised that the Executive Beam should figure out how the process works and then discuss with the Senate in the next meeting.
 - Amendment to the motion was raised that the Executive Board should take \$500 back and get back in the funding with proper procedure.
 - Debate carriers, and the motion with the amendment was discussed.
 - Debate ends, and voting was done with a result of YES: 80% and NO: 20%
 - Motion carriers and the Executive Board will be looking out the process of how the money can be taken back with all the procedures.
 - Will be discussed in the next Senate meeting.

V. New Business

- a. Resolution 17.03 – A resolution to Amend the GSO Constitution.
 - Resolution was sent out to the Senate.
 - Introduction was done and the resolution was read.
 - Debate and voting will be in the next Senate meeting.

VI. Remarks for the Records

VII. Announcements:

- a. Next Senate Meeting: 19th October 2016
- b. Academic Program Senator Sign-up Form
 - Sign-up forms are available and department representatives should sign-up.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting is adjourned at 7.30 pm.