

## 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 1<sup>St</sup>, 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.
    - 15<sup>th</sup> October: Developing on resources, to help grad students who have families. There is free food also available.
    - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> is Fall fest along with Color fest at Inn Complete with food, colors and music.
    - October fest on 8<sup>th</sup> 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.
  - 20-24<sup>th</sup> 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: 19<sup>th</sup> 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.