



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Agenda

November 30, 2016

132 Lyman Hall

5:30pm

I. Call to Order

- a. Can Aslan called the meeting to order at 5.32 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. 35 voting Senators were present from various departments for the initial roll call
- 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. Minimum Stipend and Assistantship Types

- Met with CFO, Provost, Dean of Graduate School, Chief of HR, and Dean of Student Affairs and discussed Graduate Assistant Stipends & Graduate Student Employment Opportunities.
- The discussion was very positive. Based on the preliminary analysis of last four years of SU's grad employment data and Benchmark data from 28 peer universities, university leadership agreed to the fact that there is need to increase the stipend at SU. The benchmark data was provided by AAUDE (Association of American Universities Data Exchange) and is confidential, so it won't be available to us.
- The discussion continues on this topic. The senate will be updated as soon the plan to increase is led out and agreed by the President and University Leadership.

ii. Graduate Career Services Review

- Provost and Dean of Graduate School want to meet Graduate students from different department to assess career related needs. Rajesh requested the senate members to participate in this important conversation and raise the career services related concerns of graduate students.

iii. Ombuds Office

- Office of Provost is looking into different kinds of model for the ombuds office including the model that has mechanism to address graduate students concerns as well.

- There will be an update soon but no concrete plan and deadlines are set by the administration yet.

iv. Child Care Task Force

- Provost is gathering information and looking into this
- The University is looking forward to increase the number of seats in child care center
- Dimple Dhanani, Chair of GSO's Child Care Task Force may move forward to increase awareness on this subject through print or electronic media in order to push it forward or the GSO senate may write a resolution to push the administration on this matter.

B. Internal VP's Report

i. New GSO Website & Collaboration Space

- Internal VP showed GSO's new Website to the Senate.
- Work is in progress for the website's structure.
- Executive officer can upload files for sharing in the new website
- Website has subsites, one of them is the collaboration space which can be a drive, file share location, messaging members, discussion board, etc.
- Internal VP is also testing a phpBB forum
- Google Sites implemented in the website to incorporate Google Apps elements like Drive, Google Groups, etc.
- Will reach out for feedback and opinion from the Senate
- New website can be logged in while being in campus and can be viewed at gradorg-dev.syr.edu.
- Reach out to Internal VP for feedback and offers of help.
- New website and collaboration space should be completed by the first spring Senate meeting.

ii. GSO Senate Meeting Online Participation

- Would like to test Adobe Connect for the next Senate meeting.
- Many features are available in Adobe Connect to help Senators attend the meeting online.
- Adobe Connect uses Net ID for login and is free for Syracuse University Students.
- Identification of participants might remain an issue in case students share login info with others.

C. External VP's Report

i. Call for Participants

- Participants are required for Career Services reviews.
- Need different voices from different departments to come and talk with key individuals like Chancellor and present their needs.
- Beginning the search for the Dean of Hendricks Chapel.

- Currently have 1 participant and request the Senate to participate and apply.

ii. Senate Appreciation

- There has been a delay in shipment for the Senate appreciation.
- Arrangement have been made at Inn Complete with free drinks after the meeting to relax.

iii. Events - Spring 2017

- Various events planned for the Spring 2017 like the Inauguration events with the new logo, Sweet Heart Day on February 14th, Spring Picnic in April and many more.
- Details of all the event will be added in the GSO Calendar
- Looking forward to hear about more interesting events suggestions from the Senate.

D. Comptroller's Report

i. Recommendations from the Finance Committee

a. Special Programming Application: PAIRA

- Requesting for 3 events: DC Networking Trip, NYC Networking Trip, Welcome back Event
- Requested: \$15,385.20
- Recommended: \$7942.20 (Reduced 50% in the travel funding, 3 students per car and each student pays 1/6th of the total cost of travel)
- Students can also apply through travel grant committee, but since there are many students this method was implemented. However, they can apply.
- Motion raised to add a recommendation for the travel grant committee to not grant amount for students for PAIRA events.
- After the voting for the adding the recommendation for travel grant committee, with a result of YES :25, NO: 6, Abstain: 2 and with the consent of the Senate, recommendation has been made to the travel grant committee.
- Modification made in the proposed amount by PAIRA for NYC Networking trip from 5385.08 to 5285.80 which modified the recommended amount to 7892.60
- Motion raised to recommend \$7892.20 for PAIRA as per the finance committee recommendation.
- After the voting with a result of YES: 25 NO: 7 Abstain: 0 and with the consent of the Senate, the recommended amount of \$7892.20 with the recommendation to the travel grant committee will be granted to PAIRA.

b. Special Programming Request: SATSA

- Requested: \$2071 (Conference in March)
- Recommended: \$690(The amount is in addition to the money already coming from the student bar association and SATSA's annual budget)
- Motion raised to end debate and vote on the recommendation made by the finance committee.
- After the voting with a result of YES:26, NO:6, Abstain:1 and with the consent of the Senate, the recommended amount of \$690 will be granted to SATSA.

IV. Elections

A. Senator-at-Large (1)

- Brief introduction of Senator-at-large tasks.
- At-large senator must be in a GSO committee
- Senate elects a total of six (6) At-Large Senators
- No nominations. Two individuals expressed interest after the meeting.
- Elections will be held, again, at next meeting.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

A. Resolution 17.05 – Declaration of Syracuse University and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry as Sanctuary Campuses

- Resolution was presented and read in full.
- Resolution was intended to call for the declaration of SU and ESF campuses as Sanctuary Campuses.
- Motion seconded and the floor was opened to debate.
- Motion made to amend the resolution and ~~strikethrough~~ “State University of New York College of Environment Science and Forestry” from the resolution with the reasoning that potential legal implication differ between the two institutions.
- Motion raised to end debate and voice vote on the amendment in the resolution.
- After the voice voting with the full consent of the Senate, the amendment in the resolution was accepted by the Senate.
- Motion made to amend the resolution **to add that Syracuse University Department of Public Safety will not act on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws and Syracuse University administration should respond to the recommendation by the beginning of the Spring Semester.**
- Motion made to amend the resolution to “**GSO calls** on the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety will not act on behalf of federal agents to enforce immigration laws”
- Motion made to amend the amended resolution that Syracuse University should respond “**in writing**” to the recommendation by the beginning of the Spring Semester.
- Motion raised to end debate and voice vote on the amendment in the resolution.
- After the voice voting with the full consent of the Senate, the amendment in the resolution was accepted by the Senate.
- Motion made to end debate and vote for the passing resolution with all the amendments.

- After the voting with a result of YES: 25 NO: 2 Abstain: 1 and with the consent of the Senate, the **resolution was passed**.

A. Motion made by Senator to have members join the NAGPS Committee to work on issues and actions related to Resolution 17.05.

- Two members were nominated to join the NAGPS Committee: Walter Donner and Guillermo Guasp-Perez.
- Motion passed and both members were appointed to join NAGPS Committee and work on the new resolution.

VII. Remarks for the Records

- A. Any information about faculty and other details, in terms of budget and other data, can be obtained from Guillermo Guasp-Perez via email.
- B. At the beginning of the Spring Semester, there will be a report from University Senators and Committees.

VIII. Announcements

- A. **Next Meeting: January 25, 2017**

IX. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7.26pm.