



**GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Agenda**  
**February 15, 2017**  
**105 Life Science Building**  
**5:30pm**

- I. Call to Order**
  - a. Can Aslan called the meeting to order at 5.35 pm.
  
- II. Roll Call**
  - a. 24 voting Senators were present from various departments for the initial roll call. Total number of voting members throughout the most of the meeting was 32.
  - b. The following officers were present: Rajesh Kumar, Can Aslan, David Lemon, Gaven Ehrlich, Sakshi Sinha. VP External Affairs, Peta Long, was excused for this meeting.
  
- III. Executive, Committee, and Leadership Reports**
  - a. President's Report**
    - i. Graduate Assistant Stipend Increase**
      - Written memo has been received from Peter Vanable and Peter has communicated to all colleges to increase stipend by 2.5% overall across all the schools and colleges.
      - Looking-into more program level data from other universities to compare the stipend.
      - Need to keep pushing this issue for better stipend in near future.
  
    - ii. Sanctuary Campus, DACA and Travel Ban**
      - Chancellor has not responded directly but is in contact with university committee on this matter.
      - Addressed the university communities 3-4 times but not yet declared Syracuse University as Sanctuary Campus
      - Insisted to respond to the resolution, and submitted documents from other universities.
      - Ad-hoc committee has been founded includes representatives from DPS, Enrollment & Student Experience, Diversity & Inclusion and Walter has been nominated to be served.
      - In-case of any deportation/arrests, university committees are looking into emergency situations and will come with formal methods.
      - Chancellor was having personal obligations and and has some restriction due to his appointment in Advisory Council of Department of Homeland Security. This was one of the reason behind his late response to the travel ban executive order.
      - Patrick Neary, the former GSO president (2013-15) attended the Senate meeting. He

was of the opinion that travel ban is significantly affecting many of the international students and the GSO needs to do more about it.

- Patrick acknowledged that after learning the amount of effort from the GSO regarding DACA, Travel ban, etc he is satisfied and encouraged the GSO to keep pursuing these issues as it matters to a majority of us.
- Ideally, university has a lot of resources to help further causes and protect students.
- Powerful way is to join with university committees and give access to high level resources which can be a great opportunity.
- He recalled the GSO having a good relationship with protesters/groups that cared about these issues very much and insisted that the GSO could continue doing so while maintaining a good relationship with the Chancellor.
- Diplomacy and relationship is very good and is extremely important for getting the things done. He emphasized on the importance of having a good relationship with the administration in order to get the problems solved. He also informed the senate that the University has a legal advisory office in DC and in case of any legal urgency the university could seek for advice from the DC office.

### **iii. Stipend Cut Based on Qualifying Exam Result**

- The decision to cut stipend has been immediately reversed.
- 5 students will still be affected from the Fall '17. Following up regularly so that the decision can be reversed for remaining students as well.

### **iv. Ombuds Office**

- Discussed with Peter about the location of Office (Science Center/Bird Library)
- LaVonda Reed is preparing report and will be submitting by end of semester.
- It is very important for people in committee to know about the Ombud's office and its work.
- Office will be reporting to Provost/Chancellor office.

## **b. Internal VP's Report**

### **i. Technical update (Collaboration, Orange Tracker, Website)**

- Collaboration Space is live – BaseCamp
- Open to committees and organizations and its members.
- Stores all files and documents for future members.
- Orange Tracker for Executive board is live
- [gsohelp@syr.edu](mailto:gsohelp@syr.edu) creates a ticket and the board members are notified.
- Will be useful for the next Executive Board to view and track issues.
- Website is in progress and will be there next week.

### **ii. Update from University Senators**

- Will be available next meeting in detail, including GSO committees.

**c. External VP's Report**

- <External VP is away – Officer Excused>

**d. Comptroller's Report**

**i. Recommendations from the Finance Committee**

**a) Special Programming Application: NANHI KALI**

- Requesting fund (\$2800) for Cuse's got talent
- Amount requested includes auditorium, food and fliers and posters.
- Requested: \$2800
- GSO provided names of all GSO groups with currently unused funding.
- Potential for funding events by sharing with co-sponsors or by incorporating it into GSO's Spring programming.
- Ticket revenue is directed to the charity.
- Additional fund should not be allocated for a fundraiser to donate the proceeds to an off-campus charity.
- Recommended by the finance committee: \$0
- Finance Committee suggested that In-case of fund-raiser it should not be a GSO event.
- Senate was open for debate and discussion.
- Opinion provided to have a clear understanding of special programming.
- Motion was made to table.
- Motion amended to fund \$0 with the option to request Special Programming again with more information.
- Motion made to amend the amendment to fund them \$1000 to Nanhi Kali.
- After the voting for the amended motion to fund \$1000 with a result of YES: 09 Senators, NO: 16 Senator, abstain: 4 Senators, the recommended amount of \$1000 will not be granted to Nanhi Kali.
- Motion made to amend the amendment to fund \$1800 to Nanhi Kali.
- After the voting for the amended motion with a result of YES: 15 Senators, NO: 11 Senator, abstain: 2 Senators, the amended motion is passed.
- After the voting for the amended motion to fund \$1800 with a result of YES: 17 Senators, NO: 11 Senator, abstain: 0 Senators, the amended motion of \$1800 is passed.
- After the voting for the main recommendation to fund \$1800 with a result of YES: 19 Senators, NO: 9 Senator, abstain: 0 Senators, the amount of **\$1800** will be granted to NANHI KALI.

**IV. Elections**

**e. University Senator (1)**

- Brief introduction of University Senator tasks.
- Must attend all University Senate and GSO Senate Meeting.
- University Senator must serve on at least one University Senate committee.
- Nominations:

1. Diethard Struelens - 1
  2. Ruslan Asadov -16
  3. Jessica Posega - 10
- Voting performed and with an approval from 16 Senators, Ruslan Asadov is nominated as University Senator.

**f. At-Large Senator(1)**

- Brief introduction of Senator-at-Large tasks.
- At-Large Senator must be in a GSO committee
- Nominations:
  1. Diethard Struelens
- Diethard Struelens is nominated as At-Large Senator with 23 votes from Senate.

**V. Old Business**

**VI. New Business**

**i. Resolution 17.06 - Increasing the Graduate Student Activity Fee**

- Resolution to change the student fee from \$80 to \$100 per academic year.
- Resolution read before the Senate.
- Discussion about the resolution with the Senate.
- Motion made to amend the resolution to add that **“the Senate ask the Comptroller to seek out an increase in the ESF student activity fee that is comparable in scale to the change”**
- Voice voting done for amended resolution and passed.
- After the voting for the main resolution with a result of YES: 19 Senators, NO: 1 Senator, ABSTAIN: 1 Senator, the resolution was passed.

**VII. Remarks for the Records**

- Senator made remarks and asked for action about soda cans being thrown in trash. Can Aslan will recommend or take action.

**VIII. Announcements**

- Rajesh Kumar told the Senate the plan to invite the Chancellor or Provost to the next Senate meeting. Can Aslan asked the Senate for any opposition. No opposition.

**IX. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 7.57 pm