



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Agenda

January 25, 2017

105 LSB

5:30pm

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Can Aslan called the meeting to order at 5.35 pm.

- II. Roll Call**
 - a. 28 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. University Senate on GSO's Sanctuary Campus Resolution**
 - Chancellor had addressed many of the concerns that are raised through the resolution during the winter message.
 - Chancellor will respond to the 'use of DPS' points soon. He is working with the university administrators to address the point that says what should the university be doing for the completion of degree of students in case of arrest or deportation.

 - ii. New Administrative Appointments**
 - M Dolan Evanovich has been appointed as the Senior Vice President for enrollment and student experience.
 - GSO will conduct regular meetings with M Dolan Evanovich to discuss about various issues related to grad enrollment, career services, housing and safety issues, etc.
 - Peter Venable has been appointed as the Dean of Graduate School and Provost of Graduate Studies. The GSO has been working with him on several important issues including health insurance, ombudsperson, career services and grad employee stipend and benefits.
 - New CFO will be joining from 15th February 2017.
 - GSO is looking forward to working with the new officials and solving graduate student concerns.

iii. Career Services for Grads

- Career Service Session is scheduled to be held on January 30th from 3.00 – 4:00 pm.
- Session will focus on the concerns of graduate students with respect to career services.
- [Online feedback form](#) is available for students who are unavailable to attend the session but want to provide their valuable inputs.
- 26 people have currently signed up for the session.
- [Sign up](#) reminder email will be sent to all graduates as well as ESF Senators.

iv. Advocacy, Activism and Shared Governance at a Departmental Level

- A department has been cutting the stipend for its Ph.D first year students by half based on the result of the first attempt in first qualifying exam(QE1). Although the students are given another attempt in the following year and yet to prove their capability, they are being made to suffer.
- Some students were affected immediately while the remaining will be affected from the following Fall. The GSO sought an immediate intervention through the higher authorities on the matter and the decision that affected the students immediately has been reversed. Additionally, the GSO has requested the department to revise the policy so that people who will be affected from the following Fall gets relief as well. The GSO demanded to support the PhD students in full as long as they maintain the good academic standing.
- The GSO executive board requests senate members to take part in making of policies at departmental levels to avoid enactment of any such anti-graduate students policies. If the department is denying to get you involved or refuses to pay heed to your requests please bring the matter to the GSO executive board. The board will escalate the matter to the higher authorities and get it resolved.
- The GSO will speak to the higher authorities to look into the matter as well and gather their support in getting rid of the policies that are impacting graduate student's life on campus.

v. Ombuds Office

- Model for the Ombuds Office has been finalized.
- The team is currently working on planning the logistics for the office.

vi. Graduate Assistant Stipend Increase

- Administration (Chancellor, Provost, CFO, Associate Provost of Graduate Studies and Dean of Graduate School) have verbally accepted to increase stipend by 2.5% for all graduate assistants across the schools and colleges for the Academic Year 2017-18.

b. Internal VP's Report

i. Update on new website and collaboration space

- Working on the technical side of the website for both GSO board, Senate committees and for Senators. Delays due to technical limitations, restrictions, and ongoing upgrades at ITS.
- Working for GSO Board Orange Tracker system to allow for better tracking of issues and communications.
- Communicating with Senators and committees. Reports from University Senators and GSO Committees will be presented to the Senate at the next meeting.

c. External VP's Report

i. SU NAGPS Bid

- NAGPS Bid has secured funding of \$17,000.
- Not expected to get more funding at this stage. The fund should be sufficient for having a basic conference. NAGPS should have no expectation and should not expect any more financial support.
- Meeting next month to discuss more about the details of conference.

ii. Spring Events

- Friday Event was great.
- Super bowl party scheduled in Inn Complete
- Valentine's Day event of Paint and Wine event is at Inn Complete with only 50 spots available. Ticket for the event is 8\$.
- Writer's café to be starting in February. Great ambience, Wi-Fi available for efficient concentration for writing. More details will be available in email
- Fiscal Wellness Program is in progress.
- No work done on Inn Complete during the break because of internal change. Changes to be done by Spring break.
- Trivia has been modified and is set up for Thursday.
- Games night set for Tuesday with new sound system at Inn Complete.
- GSO Public calendar on the GSO website has all the events.
- Inn Complete Facebook and twitter page is active and running with details of all the events.
- Chancellor Workforce taskforce for sexual assault needs graduate students, so any member can contact any of the board members for more details and being a part of the WorkForce.

d. Comptroller's Report

i. Recommendations from the Finance Committee

a) Special Programming Application: SPICMACAY

- Requesting fund for Spring Concert i.e Kathak: Dance Concert ft. Labonee mohanta. Will have 4 artists coming for the performance.
- Amount requested includes accommodation, audio rentals and Honorarium.

- Requested: \$4970
- Recommended by the finance committee: \$0
- Motion raised to recommend \$0 for SPICMACAY as per the finance committee recommendation.
- Discussion about providing some funding for Honorarium and Performer Fee as some funding can be provided by the external sources.
- Motion raised to amend the motion to fund \$3300 to SPICMACAY
- After the voting for the amended motion with a result of YES: 10 Senators, NO: 13 Senator, abstain: 1 Senator, the recommended amount of \$3300 will not be granted to SPICMACAY.
- Motion raised to amend the motion to modify the recommended amount to \$2500 to SPICMACAY.
- After the voting for the ending debate on the amendment with a result of YES: 19 Senators, NO: 05 Senator, abstain: 02 Senator has passed.
- Voting made for the amended amount to provide \$2500 to SPICMACAY. Result: Yes:13 Senators, No :12 Senators, Abstain:1 Senator and with the consent of the Senate, the amended amount of \$2500 is accepted.
- Motion raised to end debate and vote for end debate.
- After the voting was done, with a result of YES:20 Senators, NO:4 Senators Abstain:1 Senator, the debate was ended.
- Voting on main motion to fund SPICMACAY \$2500 for the event.
- After the voting for the motion with a result of YES:15 Senators, NO: 9 Senator, abstain: 1 Senator, and with the consent of the Senate, the recommended amount of **\$2500** will be granted to SPICMACAY.

b) Special Programming Application: BGSO

- Amount requested for Life Sciences Symposium.
- Requested: \$3124.49
- Recommended by the finance committee: \$2034.49 by reducing amount for gift cards, prize, promotional materials and honorarium which is paid by Biology Dept.
- Motion raised to recommend \$2034.49 for BGSO as per the finance committee recommendation.
- Motion raised to amend the speaker travel amount to \$600 from 1175.49.
- **Motion raised to amend the amendment to remove \$600 and prove to finance committee about the complete travel cost detail and that everything has been done to reduce the travel cost, followed by completely fund this event with the recommended amount of \$2034.49 once the finance committee has accepted it.**
- Voice call done for amended motion and was passed.
- Voting done for main motion with the clause.
- After the voting with a result of YES: 20 Senators, NO: 2 Senator, Abstain: 0 Senator and with the consent of the Senate, the recommended amount of **\$2034.49** will be granted to BGSO with the condition clause.

c) **Special Programming Application: SUGGS**

- Amount requested for Central NY Earth Science Student Symposium
- Proposed amount: \$3661
- Recommended by the finance committee: \$768.70 by reducing cost for food and travel and using on-campus facility.
- Motion raised to recommend \$768.70 to SUGGS as per the finance committee recommendation.
- Voting done for the main motion.
- After the voting with a result of YES: 20 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, Abstain: 0 Senator and with the consent of the Senate, the recommended amount of **\$768.70** will be provided to SUGGS for special programming.

ii. **Elections**

a. **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. Walter Donner
- Voting performed and with an approval from 17 Senators from the 20 Senators present, Walter Donner is nominated as University Senator.

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

- Brief introduction of Senator-at-large tasks.
- At-large senator must be in a GSO committee
- Nominations:
 1. Gayathri Manogna Parimi
 2. Voting performed and with an approval from 18 Senators from the 20 Senators present, Gayathri Manogna Parimi is nominated as At-Large Senator.

iii. **Old Business**

iv. **New Business**

a. **Excusing Peta Long for the Feb 15th Senate Meeting**

- Motion made and was verbally passed by the Senate to excuse Peta long for the next Senate Meeting.

v. **Remarks for the Records**

- Discussion on labor Union discussion with Walt.
- Labor union Signup can be done right after the meeting.
- Regional Conference Northeastern will be in April. Details will be provided.
- Coupons for free drink at Inn Complete today available

vi. Announcements

a. Next Meeting: February 15th,2017

b. Film: Prisons for Profit(PhilAction)

Interested people can send email to syrdivestment@gmail.com

vii. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8.10 pm