



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Agenda

March 8, 2017

105 Life Sciences 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
- b. The following officers were present: Rajesh Kumar, Can Aslan, David Lemon, Peta Long, Gaven Ehrlich, Sakshi Sinha.
- c. A vote was called to approve the guest speaker and it passed.

III. Executive, Committee, and Other Leadership Reports

a. Chancellor Syverud - Guest Speaker Speech

Chancellor Syverud, in his address to the GSO senate on March 8th 2017 covered several important topics including university's priorities for graduate students in academic strategic plan, support for graduate students, shared governance, importance of relationship between student governments and university administration, GSO initiatives such as Welcome Shuttle Program, Travel Grant Program, Picnics, Programming, and advocacy by the GSO for graduate assistant stipends, health insurance, childcare, off-campus safety, sanctuary, DACA, and Undocumented. He also spoke about the challenging circumstances for international students and support offered by the university administration due to the recent executive orders issued by the new administration in DC.

Chancellor answered several questions pertaining to the recent executive order issued by the new administration by giving its full support to international students and also stated that the University shall not discriminate among people based on nationality, religion and other inherent characteristics.

b. President's Report

i. Child Care Subsidy

- ChildCare Support has been a major concern for graduate students who are parents
- Affordability and availability has been the two major issues
- South Campus based childcare centers accommodate about 60 kids. GSO pays more than 8000 to subsidize the childcare facility at these centers for graduate student parents.
- There is a long waiting list, about 171 (including kids of faculty, staff and students) kids are on wait list and the waiting time is about one to two years.
- Graduate students parents are the only population who are not eligible for any active subsidy on campus. University administration in collaboration with GSO piloted a childcare subsidy program in Spring 2015. Thirty five graduate student who are parents were awarded subsidy. \$375 was awarded per eligible dependent child up to a maximum of \$750 per household (2 children) per year.
- The GSO has put two specific demands before the administration: 1) Reinstate the childcare subsidy for immediate relief 2) Find the permanent solution to the childcare support issues.
- Provost Wheatly and Associate Provost (Graduate School) are assigned the responsibility to find the possibility of reinstate the childcare subsidy.
- GSO Child-care Task Force may have to take up responsibility receiving, reviewing, and approving Child Care Subsidy application if the subsidy Program is reinstated

ii. Off-Campus Security Camera Installation Project

- Off-Campus safety is one of the major concerns as most of the students are staying off-campus
- described the off-campus security camera installation project, which would install 32 cameras around the immediate off-campus neighborhood, particularly on Euclid Avenue and Westcott Street. The project would be completed in four phases.
- The budget for the first phase is projected to be \$96000
- \$40,000 has been received from landlord, \$20,000 from SA, and remaining \$36000 is proposed to be raised from Syracuse University administration
- SU Governing Council (made of presidents of five student governments of SU and SUNY ESF) has written a combined letter to the SU and SUNY ESF administration, initial combined response has been received from the Chancellor Syverud and SUNY ESF President Wheeler, final decision is awaited and expected to come after Spring break. Chancellor is hopeful that the both administration should be able to provide the needed financial support.

- iii. **Career Services**
 - Working on proposal to improve associate careers services.
 - Proposal is under review by the GSO executive board and will be sent to the senate members for review and comments by the end of Spring Break
- c. **Internal VP's Report**
 - i. **University Senate and GSO Committees Summary Report**
 - Moved to March 29th Senate meeting
- d. **External VP's Report**
 - i. **New Campaign: Know Your Rights**
 - Launch a new campaign in beginning of April
 - Request the Senate to provide a list of questions to address the issues pertaining to rights of graduate students
 - ii. **Diversity and Inclusion: Campus-wide Initiatives**
 - New GSO website will be available soon with the detail information of various events and other campus-wide initiatives.
 - iii. **Upcoming Events**
 - Inn Complete - Friday closed for renovation
 - New look after spring break for Inn Complete
 - Graduate Student band event
 - De-stressing events
 - Spring fest , Spring picnic - Sunday after the last Senate Meeting in April
 - Hockey game ticket will be available for the April 15th hockey game
 - Empire Park Passess is trying to seek funding to get some passes in the original cost . Cost per student is \$68
- e. **NAGPS**
 - i. **NAGPS Update: Campaign and Responses to Administration**
 - Series of campaign on various executive orders and immigration orders
 - Twitter town hall tomorrow at 7.30 EST to discuss various campaigns and questions
 - ii. **Legislative Action Days (March 11-14)**
 - Peta will not be attending LAD this year
 - Want to take opportunity to rethink strategy as SU advocates
 - NAGPS North east Regional Conference to be held in April 21-23rd
 - People interested in being part of NAGPS regional board, should definitely be part of activities and attend the conference.
 - iii. **NAGPS National Conference 2017 Update**
 - Potential dates: November 2nd to 5th 2017 or 1 week earlier in October
 - By next week will have full idea of the structure of conference

II. Old Business

III. New Business

a. Resolution 17.07 - Supporting Off-Campus Security Camera Installation

- Resolution 17.07 was brought by the president Rajesh Kumar to support off campus Security Installation by allocating \$1000 for phase 1
- Can Aslan read the resolution and opened it for the debate
- Questions asked from where would the fund be available from.
- The Comptroller responded by saying that it could come from Special Programming budget/Executive Board discretionary fund
- Motion made and carried to amend the resolution that GSO allocates \$1000 from the **Special Programming budget**
- Motion made and carried to limit debate for amended resolution to 10 minutes
- Motion made and carried to amend the amended resolution that GSO allocates \$1000 from the **Executive Discretionary Budget Line**.
- Voting done to vote for ending debate : Yes: 15 No:10 Abstain : 1
- Voting done to vote on the resolution. Yes: 18 No:06 Abstain : 2
- The amended resolution was passed, however, The resolution was annulled due to parliamentary error of accepting the 15 to 10 vote as $\frac{2}{3}$ vote and the Senate has been notified

IV. Remarks for the Records

- Inn Complete is trying to drive business by conducting more events.
- Tomorrow night is Trivia
- People interested in North east regional conference - please inform Peta
- Student fees for ESF did not increase this year as per the contract, because the ESF contribution to the GSO budget cannot be modified without amending the contract between SU and ESF

V. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting: March 29, 2017

VI. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7.54 pm