



President's Report to the Senate
Senate Meeting, March 8, 2017
Rajesh Kumar, GSO President

Childcare Subsidy

Childcare support for graduate student parents has been an important concern for many years. Without proper childcare support, the graduate student parents face several difficulties; including not being able to attend classes that are offered beyond business hours; taking after-hours TA sessions; working on group homework, assignments, and exams; attending research group meetings; and fulfilling their responsibilities as teaching and/or research assistants, in a timely and effective manner. These problems sometimes lead to a poor GPA, poor productivity, anxiety, and mental health issues.

Availability and affordability have been the major concerns with the Early Education and Child Care Center and the Bernice Wright Nursery School located on South Campus. The EECCC uses a sliding scale to determine the cost, adjusting the price based on parent income. The lowest fee is \$134 a week. The center takes a maximum of 60 children and the waitlist is about one to two years. More than 171 children are currently on the waitlist.

The short-term solution to the childcare issue may be to extend (reinstate) the childcare subsidy to the graduate student parents. The University offered childcare subsidy as a pilot program in Spring 2015. It was funded by the fringe benefits budget. Thirty-five students were awarded the subsidy. An amount of \$375 per eligible dependent child up to a maximum of \$750 per household (2 children) **per year** was awarded. In short, the pilot program cost approximately \$15,000.

Provost Wheatly and Dean of Graduate School have been asked to find the source of the above funding. The GSO Child Care Task Force may have to help with receiving, reviewing, and approving the subsidy applications, and GSO comptroller with the reimbursement process.

Fundraising for off campus security camera installation project

The security camera installation project is being implemented in four different phases. Please see the letter in Annexure-I for further details. The projected cost of Phase-I is \$96,000. The contribution for Phase-I from different sources including landlords, local business owners, and Student Association has summed up to \$60,000. The SU Governing Council decided to raise remaining \$36,000 from Syracuse University Administration. We have reached out to several offices including the chancellor, provost, Senior Vice Presidents, dean of graduate school, and dean of student affairs seeking for financial support. Office of SVP (Enrollment and Student Experience) has committed (orally) to provide \$5,000. We are seeking for support in the range of \$8,000-\$10,000 from other offices.

Annexure-I

Dear Sir/Madam

Over 10,000 students live immediately off-campus within the University and University Hill neighborhoods of Syracuse, New York; off-campus and commuter students represent nearly 95% of these communities. Crime in these areas has been steadily increasing, and growing in severity.

To address this issue, a former Syracuse University student created a plan to drastically reduce crime and make our neighborhoods safer through the installation of CCTV police cameras. Police cameras have been heavily researched, and, aside from unwavering evidence that consistently proves their effectiveness at reducing crime, are also supported by our students. The results of two surveys of both undergraduate and graduate students at Syracuse University shows that over 92% of student respondents support cameras off-campus.

The overall project calls for the installation of 32 cameras throughout the University and University Hill neighborhoods, providing near-complete coverage of targeted areas. The project is planned to be implemented in four phases: Phase-I includes installing 8 cameras in the highest density crime areas along Euclid Avenue and Stratford Avenue. At a cost of \$12,000 per camera pole (camera, radio transmitters, video encoders, etc.), and an additional \$12,000 for an antenna to route all video data back to Syracuse police, this phase is projected to cost \$96,000. The Student Association approved a \$20,000 contribution, joining local property owners who have given \$40,000, bringing the total amount raised to \$60,000. A total of \$36,000 is still needed to complete phase one.

Collectively, we represent approximately 24,000 students. As the leaders of our respective factions of the University community, we ask for your financial support in implementing this initiative. We would like to see our administrations demonstrate a commitment to student safety through investment into this project. We are asking for your office to provide funding toward the first phase of this project, and allocate funding for future phases of this project.

We ask that you respond to this letter by Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we truly appreciate your dedication to and investment in our Universities.

Sincerely,

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