



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Minutes

March 29, 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. 21 voting Senators were present from various departments for the initial roll call and total 26 Senators were present
- b. The following officers were present: Rajesh Kumar, Can Aslan, David Lemon, Peta Long, Gaven Ehrlich, Sakshi Sinha.
- c. A vote was called to be respectable to the Senate to approve the guest speaker and was approved via voting.

III. Guest Speakers: Rochelle Ford and Libby Barlow (Topic: Middle States Review)

- Discuss about Middle State Study and its guiding principles for Self-Study which are Mission Centered, Student Learning, Innovation and Continuous Improvement.
- It is a practical necessity that ties directly to federal financial aid along with analyzing and following the federal requirements for the Middle State.
- It should be compliant with 7 standards which are Mission and Goals, Ethics and Integrity, Student Learning Opportunities, Support of the Student Experience , Educational Effectiveness, Planning, Resources and Institutional Improvement, Governance, Leadership and Administration.
- Discuss about some of the areas of continuous improvement which includes formally adopt and assess institutional learning outcomes.
- Discuss about the Parking Lot Summary and Institutional Learning Outcomes which includes critical, civic, creative, scientific, quantitative, communicative, applied and collaborative, Information and Technology skills.
- Major area of improvement will relate to continuing to implement systematic, formal assessment across all levels of the University.
- Middle State Kick-Off meeting on April 18th which will have the draft report released to campus community.
- Final report will be submitted to Middle State on December 22nd

IV. Executive, Committee, and Other Leadership Reports

a. President's Report

i. Childcare Subsidy

- Administration has agreed to give subsidy. 350\$ per child and maximum \$700 for two children
- It will be announced by April end

ii. Fundraising for Off-Campus Security Camera Installation Project

- University Administration has agreed to provide \$30,000 for Off-Campus Security Camera Installation Project.
- \$3000 has been funded from ESF President.

iii. Health Insurance for Graduate Employees

- Report will be submitted to Graduate Employee Benefits working group by end of April.
- Graduate Employee Benefits working group will be reviewing the report and make recommendations.

iv. Career Services for Graduate Students

- Proposal to improve the career services for graduate students is ready with the help of Dan Olson-Bang
- Will be discussed in detail in the resolution

v. Tuition Increase

- University tuition fee has been increased by 3.9 percent for graduate as well as undergraduate students.
- The GSO Executive board believes that tuition fee should not increase and has raised concerns over the increase, however as said by administration, the increase was inevitable due to inflation

vi. Degree Completion for Students Affected by Immigration Policies

- The proposal for degree completion for students affected by U.S immigration policies has been passed by university senate
- The committee will receive comments before the policy is implemented

vii. Policy Revision to Stop Stipend Cuts Based on Qualifying Exams

- The department is reviewing the whole qualifying exam and the concerned policy. The administration has been informed that it is a time sensitive matter.
- They are working on it and the discussion is very positive, in progress and should receive an update soon.

viii. Chancellor's Opinions About the GSO Senate

- Chancellor Syverud was quite overwhelmed with the GSO Senate meeting proceedings.

- He has acknowledged the GSO, its leadership, and its key initiatives to solve important campus community issues in several meetings.
- This increased visibility and credibility will have a long-term impact on building relationships as well as strengthen advocacy efforts at departmental levels

ix. Welcome Shuttle Program

- The Welcome Shuttle Program which costed about \$4000 for GSO last year, will be covered this year by the administration.

b. Internal VP's Report

i. Mandatory Sexual Assault Training

- Mandatory Sexual Assault Training is required by State Law, and as the University continues to incorporate the training for all students, students have to take this training in the meantime.
- A Reminder to complete the Mandatory Sexual Assault Training.
- Deadline for training completion is set to be April 9th

ii. Student Health Insurance Policy

- University decided to disqualify the NY State Medicaid Health Insurance Plan, because most mental health care professionals or services don't accept it and it only covers the Onondaga County, which means students are not covered when traveling even to the next county.
- Interested students who wish to serve as the GSO representative in the Student Health Insurance Policy Working Group for next year are requested to contact for more details.

iii. Travel Grant Program Status

- 146 awards have been awarded for the travel grant program which included a total amount of \$72,161.00
- The average award amount provided is \$379.00

iv. Summary Reports:

1. GSO Committees and University Senate

- Suggestion for University Senators to share and report Senate regularly
- Academic Resources and Affairs Committee, Child Care Task Force Committee, Diversity Committee, Finance Committee, Graduate Employment Issues Committee, Grant Committee, NAGPS Committee, OutReach Committee, Student-Life Committee are the important committees
- Reported on the University Senate and GSO Committees activities this year based on feedback from respective representatives.
- Students interested in more information can contact the Internal VP.
- Committee information can be found at <http://gradorg.syr.edu/senate/committees/>

2. Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs)

- 39 out of 43 recognized Student Organizations were active this year
- Held meeting with Student organizations back in October and worked on improvements over the whole year, which included a collaboration space for all organizations and web spaces on our new website that will be published in May

3. Back- and Front-End Technical Improvements / Changes

- Orange tracker to manage issues for the GSO Executive Board.
- BaseCamp for documents, collaborations, setting up schedules, messaging board members to help get more information.
- New GSO Website with tons of improvements is in progress.
- Updated the frevvo forms for easier use and few new forms for better management of the processes.
- Updated the travel grant application form to automate the process and make it easier for students, advisors, the executive board and the committee.
- Advisors will now receive automated emails with instructions and a link to the recommendation form and we receive the completed application form in Orange tracker for better tracking and easier follow up for students.
- Google drive implementation improved the collaboration within the Executive Board

c. External VP's Report

i. Empire Park Passes

- Passes can be bought for \$80 (card) with a bulk discount these prices may come down to \$70 (card) the discount from NYS is \$10 per pass for purchasing in bulk
- . In the past passes, have been sold them for \$20, which includes a \$35 loss for GSO with the discount or a \$45 loss for GSO w/o the discount.
- More discussion with the resolution 17.09

ii. Discount Cards

- Discount cards will be provided to students in Spring picnic which will be valid for the year
- Provide discounts for various things within the Syracuse area including exercise, social activities.

iii. Spring Picnic

- Spring Picnic to be held on April 22nd, Saturday in South Campus
- Location if Spring Picnic is 2 block away from Inn Complete

iv. Call for NAGPS Attendees

- Calling for attendance for NAGPS
- Have yet to book hotel.

- Positions available of Vice President and Social Justice Advocates.
- To be held from April 7th night till April 8th.
- Free Drinks at Inn Complete today.

d. Comptroller's Report

i. New RSO Application: International City/County Management Association

- Request - Recognition in GSO, looking to be funded next year by GSO.
- Recommendation - Recognize the group as a new academic organization under GSO, fund them for this year prorated to \$150 for remaining six weeks and include them in budgeting process for next year.
- Finance Committee recommended giving them a prorated budget since they have already held events and have future events planned.
- Voice vote called for ending debate and was followed.
- After the voting for the main resolution with a result of YES: 22 Senators, NO: 01 Senator, abstain: 03 Senators, the resolution was **passed**.

ii. New RSO Application: Society for Biomaterials at Syracuse University

- Request - Recognition in GSO to apply for benefits and funding for the greater SBM.
- Recommendation - Recognize the group as a new academic organization under GSO, if they still want recognition after meeting with ECS-GSO , require that they seek funding from ECS-GSO.
- After the voting for the main resolution with a result of YES: 22 Senators, NO: 01 Senator, abstain: 01 Senators, the resolution was passed.

iii. New RSO Application: Science Policy Group

- Request - Recognition in GSO
- Recommendation - Recognize the group as a new academic organization under GSO, and include them in the budgeting process for next year.
- After the voting for the main resolution with a result of YES: 21 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain: 01 Senators, the resolution was passed.

V. Old Business

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

- Resolution 17.07 was brought by the president Rajesh Kumar to support off campus Security Installation by allocating \$1000 for phase 1 from executive discretionary fund.
- Suggest to remove the 92% of respondents to support installations off-campus security cameras.
- Motion raised to amend the resolution to strike the result of survey section from the resolutions and make it 'security cameras have been shown to be effective at reducing crime and therefore,be it'
- Voting done by voice call for ending debate
- Voting done by voice call to accept the amended amendment and passed.

- Voting done by voice call for ending debate
- Voting done to vote on the resolution. Yes: 15 No:06 Abstain : 1
- The amended resolution was **passed**

VI. New Business

a. Resolution 17.08 - Calling for Strengthened Career Services Support for Graduate Students

- Resolution 17.08 was brought by the president Rajesh Kumar to get more support for Strengthening Career Services.
- Can Aslan read the resolution and opened it for the debate
- Voting done to vote on the resolution. Yes: 17 No:0 Abstain : 1
- The resolution was passed

b. Resolution 17.09 - Resolution to Refund and Reinstitute Park Pass Program.

- Resolution 17.09 was brought by the External VP Peta Long to refund and reinstitute park passes program.
- Due to loss of quorum, the resolution could not be voted on and was tabled.

VII. Remarks for the Records

VIII. Announcements

- Next Meeting: Budget and Elections Meeting, April 19, 2017

IX. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm