



President's Report to the Senate
October 11, 2017 Regular Business Meeting
Jack Wilson, GSO President

September 2017 Housing Survey

This September, we asked Grads to participate in a Survey about housing. So far 223 Grads have completed the survey (Thank you!) Data collection is ongoing as of the day this report is released. Results are thusfar consistent with the outcome of Spring 2017. In addition, roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ of respondents said they would be willing to pay 1 month's rent to participate in the program. Respondents would expect a fully-furnished apartment with amenities. Finally, respondents have noted a more general phenomenon of low-quality housing and issues with landlords.

DACA

The Chancellor was appreciative of our call to action on responding to the pending termination of DACA and open to reopening the DACA working group.

Expanding Career Services for Grads

In meeting with the Chancellor, I once again stressed the need for expanding the staff and visibility of Graduate Career Services. In the University Senate Meeting on September 13th, Provost Wheatly claimed part of Invest Syracuse will be used for this purpose. Dolan Evanovich, VP Enrollment and the Student Experience, has named an individual in staff to spearhead this effort. More work will be necessary to ensure graduate career service staff is brought up to our peer institutions.

Invest Syracuse and Support for Graduate Students

One aspect of Invest Syracuse is the hiring of approximately 100 new faculty, and a selling point of this to us has been that this means more graduate students. However it has not been specified that these graduate students will receive support from the University, and publicly it was expected that these students would be supported through grants. In meeting with the Chancellor, I stressed that the University will need to devote resources to support these students, as total support through grants for the new hires is inconsistent with the current reality that a sizable chunk of graduate students are not supported through grant money.

Ombuds Office

I have been assured that a plan for an Ombuds Office is in the final stages.

Orange Success

There has been an ongoing technical issue with Orange Success resulting in Grad TA cell phone numbers being made available to students. I have stressed to the group managing the software the seriousness of this issue. I have been assured that they are taking it equally seriously, and a meeting on the problem has been scheduled for October 12th. In the meantime, I recommend everyone go into Orange Success and manually remove their cell phone data from the system until a permanent solution can be made.