



GSO Senate Regular Business Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2018

Life Sciences 105

5:30pm

I. Call to Order

- a. Rikki Sargent called the meeting to order at 5.33 pm.

II. Roll Call

- a. 30 voting Senators were present from various departments for the initial roll call
- b. The following officers were present: Jack Wilson, Sakshi Sinha, Rikki Sargent, Joshua Fenton, Sweta Roy, Zoey

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

- a. *Present previous minutes; vote will occur at current business meeting*
 - i. Minutes approved with a voice vote.

IV. Executive, Committee, and Other Leadership Reports

a. President's Report

i. Spring 2018 Legislative Action Days

1. H.P. Brown, Khem Sedhai, Rajesh Kumar and Jack Wilson travelled to Washington D.C. from March 9th to March 13th to speak with congressional offices on several national issues that impact graduate students like sexual assault, open access to text books, etc.
2. Met sister organizations like MIT, CMU. Discussed about issues they are dealing with and coming up with common solutions possible.

ii. Health Insurance

1. Significant progress has been made for health insurance.
2. It is certain than unsubsidized cost of the student health plan will not increase much and will help in saving money.
3. University will have monthly pay option for the ease of payment.
4. Proposals have been requested from various insurance companies.
5. Health Insurance program will include a plan with copays and not co-insurance.
6. Plan will also be extendable to family members.

7. GSO has the power to negotiate for a better health plan.
8. More discussion will be taking place later and a final vote will be taken place in April fourth week.
9. Other students who have more expensive health insurance, please provide details of that so it can be looked upon.
10. GSO Executive Board is trying to bargain for the amount and Senators are requested to reach out the Executive Board for any inputs and concerns.
11. Graduates are requested to fill out the survey sent to all graduates for having an effective plan.

iii. Student Legal Services (SLS)

1. University seems to have backed off from their proposal and have agreed to keep Student Legal Services
2. Further discussion will be taking place on 29th March.

iv. Welcome Shuttle

1. GSO and university are collaborating for Welcome Shuttle program for new students.
2. There will be a slight change in the structure and duties of GSO.
3. They will be greeting new students at the airport and providing them assistance for getting buses and cabs.

b. Internal VP's Report

i. Committee Update—Report will be emailed

1. A spreadsheet will be emailed with the updates from all committees.

ii. RSO Reregistration (Deadline-March 31st)

1. RSO's are requested to submit the re-registration form by next week.

iii. New Non-Academic RSO: Iranian Student Association

1. Will be discussing about the funds in Comptroller's section.

iv. Consider Running for a GSO Exec Board Position

1. Elections for the GSO Exec Board will be held on 25th April.

v. Employment Issues Committee Presentation

1. The Employment Issues committee will be talking about unionization.
2. Syracuse Graduate Employees United is contractual power which will run for collective bargaining. It will be having meaningful accountability to administration.
3. Recommendation – It aims to Secure a contract which can be better equipped to represent graduate employees than the GSO or the Employment Issues Committee.

4. Monthly meetings are being held. There are also card signing activities around campus. Actively organizing students and pursuing voluntary recognition for the union.
5. Meeting held tomorrow at HBC auditorium 6 pm with pizza available.
6. Union has a legal representation of bargaining fix issues like people not having money to live, healthcare. They will be having a legal response with union.
7. Every union needs money to operate. The dues are negotiable as per the percentage of pay check. Amount varies from Union to Union as per the services provided by the Union.
8. Union are currently trying to figure out issues faced by graduate students and getting university recognition.²
9. NYU Union helped in receiving 38% increase in stipend of students.
10. Union discusses work related issues and bargains for its improvement.
11. Suggestion - Minority volunteering union can also exist if the Union does not get University recognition.
12. Heather Nelson said that Union will operate separately from GSO and wont overlap with the responsibilities of GSO.
13. If a union is made and is recognized, then everyone becomes a member of it.
14. Issue - Healthcare is affecting graduate employees. In the long run, graduate employees need contractual protection and Union can take care of this. They are uncomfortable with Executive Board alone making this decision – specifics of plans should be discussed with the Senate by a Special meeting.
15. Suggestion: Committee recommends that senators vote on a plan that does not disproportionately harm those who use medical care the most. The decisions made by the executive board should ethically weigh the consequences of those rendered precarious by a change in policy.

c. External VP's Report

- i. No Report

d. Comptroller's Report

i. Chi Sigma Iota Special Programming

1. Requesting fund (\$1186.46) for Infusing Social Justice and Advocacy Work in Community
2. Amount requested food and event cost.
3. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$1135.94 for the event.
4. Motion made to vote. Debate ended.
5. After the voting for the recommendation to fund \$1135.94 with a result of YES: 23 Senators, NO: 1 Senators, abstain:2 Senators, the amount of **\$1135.94** will be granted to Chi Sigma Iota Programming.

ii. Geography GSO Special Programming

1. Requesting fund (\$1000) for Graduate Student Dinner at AAG
2. Amount requested includes dinner for 20 people at an estimate of \$50/person.
3. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$800 for the event.
4. Motion made to vote. Debate ended.
5. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$800** with a result of YES: 22 Senators, NO: 4 Senators, abstain:2 Senators, the amount of **\$800** will be granted to Geography GSO Programming.

iii. Conflict Management Center Special Programming

1. Requesting fund (\$1689) for CMC Basic Training Workshop series.
2. Amount requested includes food, salary negotiation information.
3. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$1389 for the event.
4. Motion made to vote. Debate ended.
5. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$1389** with a result of YES: 26 Senators, NO: 1 Senators, abstain:0 Senator, the amount of **\$1389** will be granted to Conflict Management Center Special Programming.

iv. Anthropology GSO Special Programming

1. Requesting fund (\$500) for Steel Walls and Picket Fences
2. Amount requested includes Hotel, travel, food and honorarium
3. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$500 for the event.
4. Motion made to vote. Debate ended.
5. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$500** with a result of YES: 28 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:0 Senator, the amount of **\$500** will be granted to Anthropology GSO Programming.

v. Iranian Student Association New Organization Funding

1. Finance Committee recommends to provide \$150 for their events.
2. Events will help build friendship and make relationships.
3. Motion made to vote. Debate ended.
4. After the voting for the recommendation to fund **\$150** with a result of YES: 26 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:0 Senator, the amount of \$150 will be granted Iranian Student Association

e. Financial Secretary's Report

- i. No Report

f. Recording Secretary's Report

- i. No Report

V. Old Business

- a. *Resolution: Strengthening Communication Between GSO and SA*
 - i. Presented in the last Senate meeting by the GSO President.
 - ii. General idea of the resolution is to improve communication between GSO and SA.
 - iii. The idea is that a member from SA will be in GSO meeting and will also be able to vote in the meeting.
 - iv. Have NAGPS committee member as an ambassador and liaison with SA to attend their meetings.
 - v. Motion made to end debate and was passed using voice vote.
 - vi. Voting done on resolution
 - vii. After the voting for the resolution with a result of YES: 24 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:1 Senator, the **resolution is passed**.

VI. New Business

a. Elections

i. Senator-at-Large (3)

1. At – Large Senator position is explained.
2. Nomination:
 - a. Mirjavad Hashemi – Yes: 16 Senators No:4 Senators Abstain: 2 Senators
 - b. Hedyeh Zamani - Yes: 16 Senators No:2 Senators Abstain: 4 Senators
 - c. Steven Harris - Yes: 13 Senators No:7 Senators Abstain: 2 Senators
 - d. Patrick Oberle - Yes: 14 Senators No:5 Senators Abstain: 3 Senators
3. **Mirjavad Hashemi, Hedyeh Zamani, Patrick Oberle** are elected as At-large Senators.

b. Resolution from Finance Committee

- i. Resolution presented by Josh to reallocate Special Programming funds to travel grant program.
- ii. Travel grant have \$5290.05 left for the next two meetings.
- iii. Finance committee recommends to give **\$9000** to the travel grant fund.
- iv. Resolution open for discussion.
- v. Motion made to vote and end debate.
- vi. After the voting for the resolution with a result of YES: 24 Senators, NO: 1 Senator, abstain:0 Senator, the **resolution is passed**.

c. Resolution – In support of the Graduate Student Association at SUNY – ESF

- i. Resolution presented by Jack Wilson before the Senate.
- ii. Resolution involves GSO supporting the ongoing attempts to restore trust and stability at SUNY- ESF

- iii. Motion made to end debate and was passed by voice vote.
- iv. After the voting for the resolution with a result of YES: 24 Senators, NO: 0 Senator, abstain:0 Senator, the **resolution is passed**.

VII. Remarks for the Record

- a. Please complete the Sexual Harassment Training.
- b. 19th – 20th April NAGPS Conference - Everyone is welcome to participate and attend the conferences. Interested people can send an email to Rikki.
- c. Recycling bin available outside.

VIII. Announcements

- a. Next Meeting: April 4th, 2018 (Life Sciences 105)

IX. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm