



## GSO Senate Resolution 15.18

### **A Resolution Calling for the Exploration of Creating a Graduate Teaching, Research, and General Assistant Union**

**Whereas**, graduate teaching, research, and other assistants (henceforth “graduate assistants”) perform critical work for Syracuse University, including acting as primary instructors of courses, designing syllabi, leading multiple sections of undergraduate recitations and other sections, grading student work, performing research on behalf of faculty research groups, administrative work, and other tasks and;

**Whereas**, graduate assistants perform this work in exchange for relatively low pay levels, particularly assistants earning the minimum mandated stipend level and;

**Whereas**, the recent attempts to move graduate assistants off the employee health insurance plans demonstrates a need for collective bargaining and contractual agreements concerning the wage and benefits of graduate assistants and;

**Whereas**, the GSO has publicly censured the administration for its recent changes to graduate health care, and that the administration says future changes rely on GSO approval, and that these efforts to explore unionization stand as a response in part to their call for our approval, and;

**Whereas**, we acknowledge the contributions made by other graduate students receiving pay or stipends to the university and their need to be included in any discussions of unionization; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the GSO Senate orders the Executive Board, in consultation with such other students, student groups, or other needed individuals, to investigate the legal, financial, and procedural steps required to form a union of any or all Syracuse University graduate students receiving pay or a stipend, and to further study the effects of unionization on students that are not employees and do not receive stipends, and report back to the Senate at its first meeting of the fall 2015 semester with this information and;

**Resolved**, that the GSO Senate orders the Executive Board, in consultation with such other students, student groups, or other needed individuals, investigate the likely benefits, costs, and risks to any or all Syracuse University graduate students receiving pay or a stipend in attempting to and actually forming a union, collect comprehensive information on the current employment or funding conditions of graduate

students and investigate the need for such a union, and report back to the Senate at its first meeting of the fall 2015 semester with this information and;

**Resolved,** that the GSO Senate orders the Executive Board, in consultation with such other students, student groups, or other needed individuals, investigate the impact of unionization on any other students at Syracuse University and;

**Resolved,** that the GSO Executive Board may spend up to \$5,000 on research and personnel related to these investigations.