



## GSO Senate Resolution 23.03

### **A Resolution to Reclassify the Graduate Pandemic Committee as an Ad-Hoc Committee**

**Author(s):** Daniel J. Kimmel (GSO Vice President of Internal Affairs)

**Sponsor(s):** Vito Iaia (At-Large Senator, Pro Tempore, Committee Founder & Former Chair)

**Date(s):** 9 November 2022 (Voting Date)

**Action(s):** Passed (35 Yes; 2 No; 1 Abstention)

**Chair of the Senate:** Daniel J. Kimmel

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate:** Vito Iaia

**Parliamentarian:** N/A

**President of the Student Body:** Yousr Dhaouadi

**Whereas**, the GSO Constitution states that the rules contained within the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* will govern the Senate where they are not in conflict with the GSO Constitution or Syracuse University policies;<sup>1</sup> and,

**Whereas**, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* formally recognizes two types of ordinary committees, namely, *standing committees* and *ad-hoc (select, or special) committees*;<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas**, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* defines *standing committees* as both permanently staffed and as serving a continual function, and defines *ad-hoc (select, or special) committees* as bodies appointed as needed to carry out specific tasks for the assembly and otherwise do not serve a continual function or require permanent staffing;<sup>3</sup> and,

**Whereas**, it is prudent for the GSO Senate to periodically review its committee structure in order to ensure that each of its committees can be adequately staffed and are being effectively employed toward ends that benefit Syracuse University graduate students; and,

**Whereas**, all GSO Senators are required to serve on at least one GSO or University Senate Committee in order to remain in good standing so as to ensure that committees are adequately

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<sup>1</sup> GSO Constitution, Article I: The Senate, Section 12(e); also, GSO Constitution, Article II: The Executive Board, Section 3(a). See GSO Constitution Appendices to the Resolution.

<sup>2</sup> RRO §50.3. See RRO Appendices to the Resolution.

<sup>3</sup> RRO §50.7 and §50.10. See RRO Appendices to the Resolution.

staffed for the above purpose, and so it is necessary to hold both Senators and committees accountable to their tasks;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the GSO Vice President of Internal Affairs has duly conducted a review of all GSO standing committees and reported findings to the Senate in accordance with their constitutional responsibilities;<sup>5</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the Graduate Pandemic Committee was established as a *standing committee* in 2020 for the purpose of helping graduate students navigate graduate life under pandemic conditions and, therefore, for the purpose of collecting and disseminating accurate information on Covid-19 and University policy on the pandemic toward that end;<sup>6</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the Graduate Pandemic Committee successfully carried out its duties for two academic years (2020-2021 and 2021-2022) during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic but currently has no members; and,

**Whereas**, the Graduate Pandemic Committee might better serve as an *ad-hoc committee* temporarily staffed as needed by directive of the GSO Senate to provide an infrastructure for a coordinated graduate pandemic response should the need ever again arise; and,

**Whereas**, the GSO Senate alone has the power to create, dissolve, or otherwise change the status of any of its committees;<sup>7</sup> be it

**Resolved**, that the Graduate Pandemic Committee be reclassified as an *ad-hoc committee*, effective immediately, understood and utilized as needed in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* moving forward; and,

**Resolved**, that the reclassified Graduate Pandemic Committee retain its charges as currently written, and be staffed and assigned tasks in accordance with its charge as needed;<sup>8</sup> and,

**Resolved**, that the reclassified Graduate Pandemic Committee be moved to the subsection on Ad-Hoc Committees on the Graduate Student Organization website's committee page.

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<sup>4</sup> GSO Constitution, Article I: The Senate, Section 10. See GSO Constitution Appendices to the Resolution.

<sup>5</sup> GSO Constitution, Article II: The Executive Board, Section 5(i). See GSO Constitution Appendices to the Resolution. The GSO Vice President of Internal Affairs conducted a review of all GSO Committees and reported on the State of Committees at the Regular Meeting held on October 12, 2022 (see appropriate Meeting Minutes).

<sup>6</sup> See GSO Senate Resolution 21.03: A Resolution to Establish a Graduate Pandemic Committee.

<sup>7</sup> GSO Constitution Article I: The Senate, Section 13(g). See GSO Constitution Appendices to the Resolution.

<sup>8</sup> See Graduate Pandemic Committee Charge Appendix to the Resolution.

### **GSO Constitution Appendices to the Resolution**

**GSO Constitution, Article I: The Senate, Section 10 states:** "...All Academic Plan and At-Large Senators must serve on one standing committee, special committee, or in a liaison position. University Senators are required to attend meetings of the University Senate and serve on a University Senate Committee as designated by the University Senate."

**GSO Constitution, Article I: The Senate, Section 12(e) states:** "The rules contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Senate where they are not in conflict with the Constitution or Syracuse University policies."

**GSO Constitution, Article I: The Senate, Section 13(g-h) states:** "Section 13: The Senate shall have the power to: ...(g) Create any Standing or Special Committees as it deems fit; (h) Request reports from any such committees created by the Senate."

**GSO Constitution, Article II: The Executive Board, Section 3(a) states:** "The rules concerning committees and boards contained in the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Executive Board where they are not in conflict with the Constitution or Syracuse University policies."

**GSO Constitution, Article II: The Executive Board, Section 5(i) states:** "Section 5: The Vice President of Internal Affairs shall: ...(i) Oversee all GSO committees and liaisons, including maintaining regular communication with them, and report to the President and Senate the status of the committees and liaisons."

### **RRO Appendices to the Resolution**

**RRO §50.3 states:** "Ordinary committees are of two types—standing committees (which have a continuing existence) and special committees (which go out of existence as soon as they have completed a specified task)."

**RRO §50.7 states:** "*Standing committees* are constituted to perform a continuing function, and remain in existence permanently or for the life of the assembly that establishes them."

**RRO §50.10 states:** "A *special (select, or ad hoc) committee* is a committee appointed, as the need arises, to carry out a specified task, at the completion of which—that is, on presentation of its final report to the assembly—it automatically ceases to exist. A special committee may not be appointed to perform a task that falls within the assigned function of an existing standing committee."

### **Graduate Pandemic Committee Appendix to the Resolution**

**The Graduate Pandemic Committee charge states:** "The Graduate Pandemic Committee is charged with consolidating and distributing information on how Syracuse University responds to pandemic conditions. It is especially committed to understanding different departmental responses to pandemic conditions, the policies they adopt in response to such conditions, and

how actively they accommodate their graduate student body in ways that are appropriate to their department's risk of exposure. Additionally, it is an active role of this committee to advocate for the graduate student body regarding limiting their risk of exposure to pandemic conditions, and to provide the tools possible for graduate students to make informed decisions and to advocate for themselves so that they may fulfill their roles as graduate students as safely as possible."