



Dec 7, 2022

Meeting minutes

Executive Summary

On December 7, 2022, at 5:30 PM, the GSO Senate held its fourth general body meeting in Newhouse 3-141. At the meeting, there was a representative from Health Services, reports by members of the Executive Board, special funding requests, and initial discussion on new resolutions. The next meeting will be on February 1, 2023 at 5:30 PM in Lyman 132.

Senate Meeting Guests

Kathleen Coffin, Director of Health Services Operations and Administration spoke about the health services available to Syracuse University students, and also spoke broadly about the various services offered at the Barnes Center.

GSO Executive Board Reports

The president gave a report about the university senate, in which she indicated that the university senate meetings are open to everyone until they go into a voting session. The Vice President of Internal Affairs (IVP) reported about RGSO policy and materials, noting the following: RGSO policy platform requires review, and the IVP will reach out to ask for volunteers to help review and update the RGSO policy and materials. The GSO Vice President of Internal Affairs (EVP) reported on the "Take a Break, Take a Gift" day at the GSO office on December 8, and also about the planning process for the welcome back event for the Spring semester. The Outreach and Civic Engagement Committee is in talks about a clothes exchange initiative, and Senator spotlights are set for the spring semester. The Comptroller reported that the GSO will be making use of the carry forward amounts and will use some of it in order to keep operations going for the rest of the academic year. The Financial Committee requested approval to audit service providers, with a unanimous vote of 34 Yeses.

Special Funding Request

The Philosophy Graduate Student Organization requested \$2,725 from the GSO for their annual conference at Syracuse University. They indicated that they have an approved budget of \$875 but they requested the above-indicated amount because their budget is \$3,600. They were granted the requested amount, with 34 Yeses, 1 No, 0 Abstention.

Senate Motions and Resolutions

The Senate passed a motion to limit debates at the meeting and all future meetings to fifteen minutes per report. It passed by a vote of 33 Yes, 2 No, and 1 abstention. The following proposals for constitutional amendments were also introduced: GSO Senate Resolution 23.4: A Resolution to Amend the GSO Constitution (Creating the Executive Advisory Board Council and Ensuring Executive Continuity and Accountability), GSO Senate Resolution 23.5: A Resolution to Amend the GSO Constitution (Establishing the Rules and Administration Special Committee). There was a 50-minute preliminary discussion on Resolution 23.4. There was a reading of GSO Resolution 23.5 followed by a 20 minute discussion.

Other Developments and Closing

The GSO Financial Secretary, Melissa Alvisi, requested an approval of executive absence from Senate meetings in the Spring 2023 semester. She was granted the request, by a vote of 33 Yeses, 1 No, and 2 Abstentions. The GSO Senate meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM.

1. Call to order and land acknowledgement – 5:39 PM

- a. Present – 34 present

2. Kathleen Coffin, Director of Health Services Operations and Administration – 5:41 PM

- a. CJ Arnell, APS Biology – 5:51 PM (mid-presentation)
 - i. Are families able to go to the Barnes center? No—only for registered students because it is covered by student health and wellness fees
- b. John Abercrombie, APS Religion – 6:01 PM
 - i. How do subsidies play into it?
- c. Vito Iaia, President Pro Tempore – 6:05 pM
 - i. Is there a sufficient amount of anonymity for the travel and lodging?
 - 1. Not sure, but will find out
- d. CJ Arnell, APS Biology – 6:07 PM
 - i. Expand on the student health insurance plan and the employee health insurance plan
 - 1. There are people who work full time on the health insurance plan. There is a good-faith-estimate law that makes it a requirement for employees to tell you how much a procedure costs. Younger people are cheaper to insure than older people, so that is why there are different plans for different groups.
- e. Mike Goodman, ESF Senator – 6:17 PM
 - i. Does this apply to ESF students too?
 - 1. No, it only applies to SU students

3. Concluded at 6:19 PM

4. Motion to Limit Reports – 6:21 PM

- a. The Chair moves to limit debates to 15 minutes per report (whether Executive, Committee, or Otherwise) at the present and future meetings for the 22-23 academic year
- b. CJ Arnell, APS Biology – 6:22 PM
 - i. Does this include questions?
- c. CJ Arnell, APS Biology
 - i. How will a committee address their report going over the limit?
 - 1. Can suspend the rule
- d. Vote: 33 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstain

5. Motion for 10 minute recess – 6:26 PM

6. Returned at 6:37 PM

7. President's Report – 6:37 PM

a. Questions

i. CJ Arnell - 6:43 pm

1. Are non-university senators allowed to attend the university senate?

a. Open to everyone until they go into a voting session. Kelly Bogart handles schedules. You can attend as an observer but cannot speak unless special permission is granted

8. Vice President of Internal Affairs - 6:44 PM

a. RGSO Policy and Materials

i. After a preliminary internal review, RGSO needs to be updated. GSO policy platform also requires review

ii. Will probably reach out to ask for volunteers to help review and update RGSO policy and materials and GSO policy platform

iii. Will send call out via email, and also plans to send the policy platform to committees to review

9. Vice President of External Affairs – 6:47 PM

a. December 8 from 11 AM - 3 PM, there is the "Take a Break, Take a Gift" day in GSO office at Lyman 132

b. Planning a welcome event for Spring semester; possibly at a local bar (Feagans, etc) for networking and socializing. Has communicated with Feagan's. Quotes include \$25 per person, with food and gratuity included.

c. Outreach and civic engagement committee is in talks about a clothes exchange initiative.

d. Senator spotlights set for the spring semester (comms. sec)

10. Comptroller's Report – 6:51 PM

a. Put together an Excel sheet with the budget breakdown, the total budget remaining and the expenses committed to date

b. There is a more lenient use of revenues. Will be making use of the carryforward amounts, since we have around \$200,000, and will plan on making some use of it in order to keep our operations going.

- c. Going into the February meeting, will provide reports with carry forward requests and will look at university expenses on behalf of the GSO with an accurate estimate of how much the GSO uses.

11. Special funding request: Philosophy Graduate Student Organization - 7 PM

- a. Organizing the annual Syracuse conference, and requesting \$2,725. Conference is two days long, and average attendance is 30 people. Has an approved budget of \$875, but is requesting this amount because the full budget is actually \$3,600
- b. Questions
 - i. Vito Iaia
 - 1. With the Uber ride, were there any discussions about carpooling?
 - 2. Yes.
 - ii. Michael Ammoury
 - 1. Number of grads and faculty adds up to 50 but budgeted for 30. Why has department not funded it
 - a. Philosophy department uses their funding for several other things, and traditionally for the conference, they have gone through GSO. The department has made clear that besides the \$875, they do not have any more funding for the conference.
 - b. The numbers at the top are more liberal, but when estimating actual costs, they estimate 30.
 - iii. Has the GSO funded this event before?
 - 1. Yes. Last year they received around \$1900, but several costs have gone up this year. Most of what is budgeted for this year was budgeted for last year.

12. Concluded at 7:16 PM, for deliberative assembly

13. Voting: 34 Yes, 1 No, 0 Abstain

14. Approval of Executive Absence: Financial Secretary - 7:21 PM

- a. "The Chair moves to permit executive absence to the Financial Secretary under the authority of GSOC 2.3(c)(vi) for the portion

of the meetings they cannot attend due to unavoidable conflicts for the remainder of the 2022-2023 AY.”

b. Voting: 33 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain

15. Approval to Audit Service Providers: Financial Committee – 7:26 PM

a. “The Finance Committee moves that the Senate charge the GSO Finance Committee with developing a process for auditing GSO service providers and with performing an audit of those providers during the months remaining in the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year.”

b. Vote: Unanimous (34 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain)

16. Constitutional Amendments – 7:28 PM

a. The following proposal for constitutional amendment are hereby introduced:

i. GSO Senate Resolution 23.4: A Resolution to Amend the GSO Constitution (Creating the Executive Advisory Board Council and Ensuring Executive Continuity and Accountability)

ii. GSO Senate Resolution 23.5: A Resolution to Amend the GSO Constitution (Establishing the Rules and Administration Special Committee)

17. Discussion on GSO Senate Resolution 23.4 – 7:34 PM

a. CJ Arnell, APS Biology – 7:34 PM

i. Goal of the resolution is to strengthen the GSO long-term and to establish a stronger channel of communication. Will be reaching out to the sponsors and stakeholders between now and February to make sure that the language used is suitable for that.

b. Sweta Roy, APS Biology – 7:36 PM

i. Hope the authors and sponsors had a meeting with the exec board because the “whereas” claims are incorrect?

1. CJ: Have had off-the-record communication with members of the executive board, and the e-board meeting minutes are not available to the Senate

c. President – 7:41 PM

i. Would like clarification on the motivation of the resolution

d. CJ Arnell, APS Biology

- i. The primary goal is to strengthen the communication lines and to formalize the lines of communication between the e-board. Did not want to put too much on the secretaries because their financial compensation does not match that of “the big four”.¹
- e. Comms. Sec
 - i. With the stated purpose, what deficit or gap does the resolution propose to address? With specific examples
- f. Sergio Seravia
 - i. In the second meeting of the senate, the president presented a report in which she stated that she was supposed to advocate for a minimum of \$18k but CJ said we need \$23k
- g. Alex Scrivner, APS Social Science
 - i. Feels like it is an empowering thing for the GSO
- h. JT Paustin
 - i. Employment committee has been trying to get in contact with the administration about fringe benefits but have been left out of communication. Committee is unable to fulfill their job because they get ignored. The only process is through the e-board, and is ad-hoc. This process formalizes it and makes it in writing so they can get in contact with the administration.
- i. President
 - i. Have never been forwarded or emailed on emails. This is the first time she has heard of it. Bringing it up on the senate floor is flabbergasting. As an ex-officio member of every committee, she has never been invited to any meeting, and the problem of communication has never been brought to her attention. Not formalizing communication, but instead formalizing influence. Constitutional amendments are nuclear options.
- j. Kirin Taylor, APS Political Science
 - i. What is the process in place for communication between leadership in committees and e-board and is there a written document
- k. Internal VP

¹ President, EVP, IVP, and Comptroller.

- i. Currently there is no written policy on how committees communicate.
- l. Comms. Sec
 - i. Does this resolution give power to unelected positions?
 - 1. IVP – Comes down to the complicated question of IVP’s appointed chairs.
- m. (From the Zoom call)
 - i. How does the council make decisions on behalf of the GSO?
 - 1. They have no ability to make decisions. It has no power to tell the executive board what to do

- 18. Preliminary discussion concluded at 8:27 PM**
- 19. Reading of GSO Resolution 23.5 – 8:27 PM**
- 20. Discussion on GSO Resolution 23.5 – 8:35 PM**
- 21. Preliminary discussion closed at 8:54 PM**
- 22. Remarks for the record and announcements**
 - a. Next meeting is February 1, 2023, location TBD**
- 23. Final remarks from Shiila Seok Wun Au Yong – 8:57 PM**
- 24. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 PM**