



GSO Senate Resolution 23.07

A Resolution Appointing a Special Impeachment and Investigation Committee

Author(s): Zafar Ali (Parliamentarian), Vito Iaia (President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and At-Large Senator)

Sponsor(s): N/A

Date(s): 17 Feb 2023 (Voting Date; Special Meeting, Executive Session)

Action(s): Passed (33 Yes; 6 No; 1 Abstention)

President & Chair of the Senate: Daniel J. Kimmel

President Pro Tempore of the Senate: Vito Iaia

Parliamentarian: Zafar Ali

President of the Student Body: Yousr Dhaouadi

Whereas, Articles of Impeachment have been introduced to the executive board by 10 Senators¹; and,

Whereas, it now is required that the GSO Senate appoint a Committee on Impeachment; and,

Whereas, this Special Impeachment Investigation Committee has a very serious task, and the mishandling of this task could be a detriment to the GSO as a whole; and,

Whereas, the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee is required to work very fast² to conduct its investigation which requires a highly organized committee; and,

Whereas, the members of this committee must be selected for known integrity, good judgment³, high organizational ability and knowledge of the GSO Constitution (GSOC) and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR); and,

¹ **GSOC Article I, Section 13(n):** "The Senate shall have the power to... Serve as the exclusive forum for the impeachment of all Officers..." And, **Article 4, Section 2(a-b):** "(a) The Senate has the sole power to impeach any Officer" and "(b) An article of impeachment may be brought by any Executive Board member or ten Senators. Articles of impeachment shall either be brought to the President or the Executive Board as a whole or presented to the chair of the Senate at any Regular or Special Meeting."

² See **GSOC Article IV, Section 2(d):** "...The Committee shall make a public recommendation within ten academic days of its appointment."

³ See **RONR 63:8 "Confidential Investigation by Committee.** A committee whose members are selected for known integrity and good judgement..."

Whereas, the Chair chosen to preside over the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee should be selected in accordance with the recommendations for Chairs in our parliamentary law (*RONR*): that is, they should have strong knowledge of the GSO Constitution, parliamentary law, and a demonstrable administrative ability to preside⁴; and,

Whereas, given the very important nature of this Special Impeachment Investigation Committee, and even though its members should be well versed in the rules surrounding the committee's operation, it is imperative that the *GSOC*, *RONR*, and parliamentary law be followed in its strictest form; and,

Whereas, Parliamentary oversight from the non-voting Parliamentarian and the Internal Vice President would ensure the committee operates within the bounds set by the Senate, the *GSOC* and *RONR*; and,

Whereas, the number of senators on the committee should be odd in number (including the Chair) to ensure that committee can be decisive in action and provide a publicly available, concrete recommendation to the Senate⁵; and,

Whereas, since the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee is investigating the President and their fitness for their assigned duties⁶, and the president has shown willingness to breach executive session⁷, temporary suspension of their powers and duties would be an appropriate measure to ensure protection of the GSO if any accusations prove true; be it,

Resolved, that the total number of members is seven including the Chair; and, be it,

Resolved, that the Chair of the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee shall not have a vote within the Committee unless there is a tie; and, be it,

Resolved, that the Chair shall be elected by the Senate via run-off election. Further, the Chair shall be chosen from Senators in good standing that exude demonstrable integrity, excellent parliamentary and administrative skills, and do not pose a security threat during investigative proceedings; and, be it,

⁴ See *RONR* 47:5-10, 14-19, but especially 47:6: "The presiding officer of an assembly—especially of a large one—should be chosen principally for the ability to preside. This person should be well versed in parliamentary law and should be thoroughly familiar with the bylaws and other rules of the organization—even if he or she is to have the assistance of a parliamentarian."

⁵ See *GSOC* Article IV, Section 2(d)(i-ii): "In making its recommendation, the Committee must vote by roll, and be published in the Committee's minutes, which must be publicly available once the recommendation is made. (ii) The Committee may recommend that the Senate (I) take no action, (II) censure the Officer, or (III) remove the Officer."

⁶ There is question as to whether the president can abide by *GSOC* Article II, Section 4(h): "The President shall... Faithfully implement all policies, directives, and resolutions of the Senate."

⁷ This is referring to the recent email sent out on 13 Feb 2023 at 5:02 pm to all graduates pertaining to impeachment matters occurring in executive session. In this email the President released the Articles of Impeachment to the public prior to them being released to the committee for investigation or the Senate as a whole. The subject line of this email was "GSO President Impeachment"

Resolved, that the remaining six members of the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee shall be elected by the Senate via run-off and be comprised of Senators in good standing that exude demonstrable integrity, proficient parliamentary and administrative skills, and do not pose a security threat during investigative proceedings, so long as they are not Signatories of the Articles of Impeachment; and, be it,

Resolved, that there shall be Parliamentary oversight of the committee. The Vice-President of Internal Affairs and the Parliamentarian shall sit on the committee as non-voting advisors on the GSO constitution, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, and Parliamentary law to ensure fair, efficient and lawful conduct of the committee; and, be it,

Resolved, that during the trial, all meetings of the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee are considered to be in executive session⁸ and thereby the information discussed is not available to the public or the rest of the Senate by any means; and be it,

Resolved, that only when giving its recommendation to the Senate at the conclusion of the trial, the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee can include any evidence gathered to justify its recommendation; and, be it,

Resolved, that all members of the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee will abide by the required process and code of conduct under penalty of expulsion from the Senate; and, be it,

Resolved, that the GSO President is suspended of their duties of office, including University Senate duties. Their email access will be suspended, and access will be given to the Vice-President of Internal affairs, temporarily, during the trial process⁹; and,

Be it further resolved, that the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee's charge shall be:

The Special Impeachment Investigation Committee shall investigate the alleged misconduct of Yousr Dhaouadi, GSO President, and determine whether such conduct warrants their removal from office.

The investigation shall include but not be limited to the following allegations:

- Loss of confidence to faithfully carry out the directives of the Senate,
- Loss of confidence to faithfully advocate on behalf of the graduate student body to the University Senate, Administration, Board of Trustees, and other relevant bodies,
- Breach of rules governing Senate procedures, particularly disciplinary procedures,
- Conduct unbecoming of an elected officer,

⁸ See **RONR 63:2** "... a trial must always be held in executive session, as must the introduction and consideration of all resolutions leading up to the trial."

⁹ The time of suspension will be approximately 20 academic days in accordant to timings specified in **GSOC Article IV, Section 2(d)**: "... The Committee shall make a public recommendation within ten academic days of its appointment." And **GSOC Article IV Section 2(e)**: "Once the Committee on Impeachment has made a recommendation, a Special Meeting of the Senate shall be called, to be held no later than ten academic days after the committee issues its recommendation, pursuant to Article I Section 12(b)."

- Abuse of the powers of office,
- Abuse of assembly membership.

The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the GSO Senate within 10 academic days according to the GSO constitution Article IV Section 2(d). The Committee will conduct itself in accordance with the GSO Constitution and Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

And;

Be it further resolved, that upon the completion of the Senate decision on whether to remove the President from office¹⁰, the Special Impeachment Investigation Committee will be automatically dissolved¹¹.

¹⁰ **GSOC Article III Section 2 (fi-ii)**: (i) Removal of an Officer requires a 2/3 majority. (ii) When sitting for such a vote, quorum is a majority of Senators, excluding vacant seats.

¹¹ **RONR 50:3, 10**: “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 specific task)...”