



### **GSO Senate Resolution 24.03**

## **A Resolution Establishing the GSO's Recognition and Support of United Syracuse's Parking Petition**

**Author(s):** JT Paustian (APS Physics & Chair of GEIC), Roger Rosena (President Pro Tempore of the Senate & University Senator)

**Sponsor(s):** Daniel J. Kimmel (GSO President & CEO), Becca Vinciquerra (Vice President of External Affairs), Andrea Sprague-Getsy (University Senator), Alexandra Scrivner (At-large Senator), Cassidy Thomas (At-large Senator), Joe Beckmann (APS Mathematics), Sergio Saravia (APS Sociology), Celeb Fouts (APS History)

**Date(s):** 1 Nov 2023

**Action(s):** Passed (23 Yes, 0 No, 3 Abstain)

**President & Chair of the Senate:** CJ Arnell

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate:** Roger Rosena

**Parliamentarian:** Luke VanderSchaaff

**President of the Student Body:** Daniel J. Kimmel

**Whereas,** staff, graduate students, and faculty face exorbitant parking rates, encounter inconsistent and untimely shuttle services, and lack transparency in the decision-making process regarding parking; and,

**Whereas,** United Syracuse<sup>1</sup>, a campus-wide coalition composed of graduate workers (SGEU), tenured faculty (AAUP), adjunct faculty (Adjuncts United), and facilities, food services, and library workers (represented by SEIU Local 200), is committed to advocating for equitable parking rates for staff, faculty, and students. Their mission includes enhancing the reliability of shuttle services and promoting transparency in parking-related decisions. To achieve these goals, they propose the establishment of a diverse committee consisting of students, faculty, and other non-managerial representatives, charged with overseeing all parking-related decisions; and,

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<sup>1</sup> Please see their website: [United Syracuse – Syracuse Workers Stronger Together](#)

**Whereas**, it is the duty of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) to establish policies that are in the best interest of all graduate students and the broader university community<sup>2</sup>; and,

**Whereas**, graduate students disproportionately bear the burden of increased parking fees<sup>3</sup> and inadequate shuttle services, which hinder their ability to conduct research and fulfill their responsibilities to the university; and,

**Whereas**, given the substantial contributions of graduate students to the university, it is only fitting that the university supports their transportation needs; and,

**Whereas**, the GSO Graduate Employment Issues Committee (GEIC) has actively championed improved parking conditions at Syracuse University in recent years, resulting in significant achievements through collaborative efforts with parking services. Notably, these endeavors enabled graduate students holding parking passes to secure spots closer to their workplaces during the summer months. Furthermore, the GEIC played a role in successfully advocating for a substantial increase in parking discounts for graduate assistants, specifically targeting parking lots. This increase elevated the discount from 30% to 50% for full-year permits, effectively aligning it with the discount level offered for parking garages. These accomplishments underscore the unwavering commitment of the GEIC to enhance both the affordability and accessibility of parking for all graduate students; therefore, be it,

**Resolved**, that the GSO stand in support of United Syracuse's Parking Petition that calls for the following demands:

- Rescinding the 2023-2024 staff and faculty parking fee increase to account for rising cost and insufficient pay increases.
- Increasing shuttle services for faculty, staff, and students to ensure access for all members of our campus community.
- Creating a new parking committee made of non-managerial representatives from staff, faculty, and student stakeholders on campus, along with their unions, empowered to make improvements to the SU parking fee structure and shuttle service moving forward.

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<sup>2</sup> See **GSOC** Preamble

<sup>3</sup> This is referring to the relatively small salaries of teaching assistants, research assistants, and graduate assistants that has been a constant advocacy item for the GSO since its founding. Please see **GSO S.R.** 19.06, 18.10, 15.18, 15.11, and **BoT Report**: October 2022.

**Resolved**, that the GSO advocates for additional parking allocations for people with mobility limitations, including van accessible handicap spaces;

**And be it further resolved**, that the GSO President shall communicate this resolution to the relevant university administration and actively engage in the implementation of these demands.