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GSO PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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SU Freedom of Expression Statement

Provost Ritter and Allen Groves, the Senior Vice President and Chief Student Experience Officer, have invited me to work on a university task force to research and draft an institutional statement on Syracuse University's foundational principles of free expression and academic freedom. The first meeting will take place tomorrow (8 February). The goal is to complete this work and present the statement draft to the University Senate before the end of the Spring semester.

Please reach out to me if you have any specific interests or concerns regarding free expression and academic freedom on campus. Senators, I ask that you assist me by collecting feedback on this matter from your fellow graduate constituents as well. This will help inform my representation of the graduate student body on this task force.

Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Campus Safety

I have been appointed to serve on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Campus Safety, co-chaired by Pam Peter, Title IX Coordinator for Students, and Craig Stone, Associate Vice President and Chief of Campus Safety and Emergency Management Services. The primary role of this committee is to review the University's [Annual Security Report](#) and to discuss issues of concern related to safety to form recommendations to the Chancellor. The first meeting took place on 30 January.

Please reach out to me if you have any concerns regarding safety on campus to help inform my representation of the graduate student body on this committee. Senators, once again I ask that you assist me by collecting feedback on this matter from your fellow graduate constituents as well.

Information Technology Services: Decommissioning Frevvo Forms

On Wednesday, 31 January, SU Information Technology Services sent out a notice that they will decommission Frevvo Forms on 14 December 2024 and encourage all stakeholders on campus to prepare accordingly.

The Graduate Student Organization relies on Frevvo Forms for a great number of our operations (i.e., registered graduate student organization applications, finance pre-approval and special funding forms, and PAC Grant forms).

I have tasked the Vice President of Internal Affairs to compile a complete list of GSO functions that rely on Frevvo Forms and to research the pros and cons of alternative platforms like Qualtrics and MS Forms. The plan is to review the alternatives as an Executive Board and report back to the Senate on a decision by the 6 March Regular Meeting. We will then develop the new forms in time to train the Executive Board-elect on the platform in May so that everything is operative for the new Academic Year.

If all goes as planned, the GSO will experience a seamless transition from Frevvo Forms to the new platform well before December. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please email me and the Vice President of Internal Affairs.

Legislative Plan Update

As announced at the 4 October Regular Meeting, and repledged when SR 24.04 on the graduate student activity fee and inflation passed at the 6 December Regular Meeting, I am working on advancing needed fiscal reforms and responsibility in several key areas. So far, three Senate Resolutions, in the initial draft stages, will address registered student organization budgeting processes, start-up and special funding processes, and the PAC Grant. The plan is to have these on the Senate floor by the 6 March Regular Meeting so that, should they pass, implementation can begin in time for 2024-2025 budgeting planning.

Additionally, a Senate Resolution on updating the GSO Policy Platform and one on forming a GSO Alumni Registry (for preserving institutional memory) are in the works for the 3 April or the 1 May Regular Meetings.

Otherwise, to date we have delivered on correcting the graduate student activity fee for inflation and on the comprehensive review and update of the GSO Constitution (on tonight's agenda). Additionally, The Vice President of Internal Affairs has begun his review and update of registered graduate student organization policies and materials, and the Comptroller has begun her Service Provider audit.

Thank you all for your past and continued help in these efforts to revitalize the GSO and strengthen its ability to meet its mandate effectively for years to come.

Resignation: Communications Secretary

The Communications Secretary resigned on 2 February for personal reasons. The Executive Board has placed a motion on tonight's Regular Meeting agenda regarding the handling of the vacancy for the remainder of this Academic Year: namely, to leave the position vacant, share duties among the present Executive Board members, and reroute the remaining stipend funds to a needed budget line. That being said, should the Senate reject this proposal, the appropriate processes for filling the vacancy as expeditiously as possible shall be initiated.