



GSO Senate Resolution 24.14

A Resolution to Establish an Affirmation of Office & Code of Ethics

Author(s): Roger Rosena (President Pro Tempore of the Senate; University Senator)

Sponsor(s):

Date(s): 1 May 2024

Action(s): Passed (27 Yes, 6 No, 1 Abstention)

Chair of the Senate: CJ Arnell

President Pro Tempore of the Senate: Roger Rosena

Parliamentarian: R. Luke VanderSchaaff

President of the Student Body: Daniel J. Kimmel

Whereas, the GSO's purpose as the graduate student government is to represent and promote the interests of graduate students and the University community; and,

Whereas, it is both a privilege and responsibility to serve as an Officer, Senators, and Staffer of the GSO and all such members ought to strive for integrity, honesty and excellence in the way they serve and represent the graduate student body at Syracuse University; and,

Whereas, however, there are presently no standards or core values that are explicitly defined for GSO Officers, Senators, and Staff to uphold and to which they are bound in the performance of their duties and responsibility; and,

Whereas, establishing an Affirmation of Office & Code of Ethics would rectify this lacuna and will clearly articulate GSO standards of office to our deliberative assembly, constituencies, and other members of the university community; therefore, be it,

Resolved, that all GSO Officers, Senators, and Staff shall perform the GSO Affirmation of Office contained herein upon election to or confirmation in office; and,

Resolved, that the GSO Affirmation of Office & Code of Ethics¹ shall be made publicly available and provided to all members of the deliberative assembly; and,

Resolved, that the President and Vice President of Internal Affairs, along with the Members of the Rules & Administration Committee, shall oversee the maintenance of the GSO Affirmation of Office & Code of Ethics as part of their responsibility to oversee the conduct and behavior of all members of the deliberative assembly. The Senate reserves the right to make any subsequent adjustments to the GSO Affirmation of Office & Code of Ethics themselves; and,

Resolved, that the GSO Affirmation of Office shall be administered in the following manner:

- (I) The Parliamentarian, in their capacity as primary advisor on all parliamentary, legislative and constitutional matters, shall administer the GSO Affirmation of Office to all Officers, Senators, and Staff and to any lesser officers, staff, or liaisons the Senate may create.
 - a. In the absence of a Parliamentarian, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in their capacity as Sergeant at Arms, shall administer the GSO Affirmation of Office.
 - b. In the absence of both a Parliamentarian and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Chair of the Senate shall administer the GSO Affirmation of Office.
- (II) The President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Director of External Affairs, and Comptroller shall individually take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the deliberative assembly upon confirmation of their Election to office at the Special Meeting on Elections (or at whatever Meeting in which they are otherwise elected).
 - a. Interim Officers shall individually take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the deliberative assembly upon their Confirmation in office at the Meeting in which they are confirmed.

¹ **Appendix B: GSO Code of Ethics.**

- b. Should the Vice President of Internal Affairs succeed to the office of President, and/or should the President Pro Tempore of the Senate succeed to the office of Vice President of Internal Affairs or President, they shall take the GSO Affirmation of Office anew before the deliberative assembly at the Regular Meeting following their succession.

- (III) University and At-large Senators shall collectively take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the deliberative assembly upon confirmation of their Election to office at whatever Meeting in which they are elected.

- (IV) Academic Plan Senators shall collectively take the Affirmation of Office before the deliberative assembly at the first Regular Meeting of the Session in which they shall serve.
 - a. Subsequent to the first Regular Meeting of the Session in which they shall serve, new Academic Plan Senators and any Alternates shall take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the Rules & Administration committee at the next meeting of that committee following the Senator's or Alternate's Certification in office.

- (V) Staffers (including the Secretaries, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Parliamentarian) shall individually take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the deliberative assembly upon their Confirmation in office or, if Confirmation is not required, their Appointment to office.

- (VI) Any lesser officers, staff, or liaisons the Senate may create shall take the GSO Affirmation of Office before the Rules & Administration committee at the next meeting of that committee following their Appointment to office.

- (VII) The Rules & Administration committee, in the fulfillment of its charge, reserves the right to adjust this administrative procedure when necessary. The Chair of the Senate shall report any such adjustments at the next Regular Meeting.



THE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

AFFIRMATION OF OFFICE

I, **(name of individual)**, do solemnly affirm that I shall preserve and defend the Constitution of the Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization. I will ever strive for the ideals of this community. I will conduct myself in accordance with this community's laws. Both alone and with many, I will unceasingly seek to quicken a sense of public duty. I will transmit this Organization not only not less, but greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to me. I accept the office of **(title/s or role)** with full knowledge of my duties and responsibilities, executing them to the best of my abilities, and, in doing so, I shall be responsible to the graduate student body in word and in deed.



THE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

CODE OF ETHICS

I. Purpose & Intent

The Graduate Student Organization of Syracuse University (GSO) Code of Ethics provides a codified set of expectations for Officers, Senators, Staff and other members who serve in elected, appointed, or nominated positions within graduate student government and representation (hereafter referred to collectively as Officers & Representatives). Service as an Officer & Representative of the GSO is both a privilege and responsibility and as such all members are held to a higher standard of conduct. As campus leaders, Officers & Representatives of the GSO shall strive for integrity, honesty and excellence in the way they serve and represent the graduate student body at Syracuse University & SUNY-ESF.

II. Responsibilities & Duties

The following expectations apply to all Officers & Representatives of the GSO. They shall:

- a. Uphold the spirit and the letter of the Constitution, by-laws, codes of ethics and conduct, procedures, and regulations adopted by the GSO.
- b. Conduct themselves in accordance with university policy.
- c. Conduct themselves at all times in a manner that shall reflect positively on the GSO and Syracuse University.
- d. Not accept or offer any monetary or tangible incentives which might be interpreted by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of their duties as a GSO Officer, with the exception of officer pay.
- e. Perform the duties and responsibilities of office to the best of their abilities, as affirmed in the GSO Affirmation of Office. This applies doubly to remunerated offices.

- f. Never at any time make, directly or indirectly, any oral or written public or private statements that are false and disparaging of the GSO, any of its present or former officers, or its Constitution, bylaws, codes, procedures, and regulations.
- g. Not intentionally make erroneous or unsubstantiated statements about the University in or to public or private media outlets.
- h. Not demonstrate favoritism or differential treatment towards any member of the community.
- i. Respect all members of the community regardless of their race, color, religion sex (including marital or parental status), sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age or national origin.
- j. Expose corruption whenever discovered.

III. Censure & Removal

If any member of the GSO suspects that an Officer & Representative is in violation of the GSO Code of Ethics, the violation should be brought to the GSO Executive Board & Senate Staff immediately.

Any violation of this Code of Ethics, the GSO Constitution, or other GSO bylaws and regulations is grounds for disciplinary actions up to and including formal censure and/or removal, per Article V of the GSO Constitution and GSO parliamentary law.