



GSO Senate Resolution 24.16

A Resolution in Solidarity with Syracuse University Protestors, Support for Free Speech, and Condemnation of Antisemitism

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Sponsor(s): Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley (APS Mass Communications), Jadrien Paustien (APS Physics)

Date(s): 1 May 2024 (Introduced)

Action(s): Passed (27 Yes, 8 No, 2 Abstentions)

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, students across the nation, including at Syracuse University, are participating in anti-war demonstrations; and,

Whereas, an encampment was started at Syracuse University on April 29th; and,

Whereas, Students enrolled in universities should be able to openly express discontent when they do not approve of how their tuition is being used; and,

Whereas, employees should be able to openly express discontent when they do not approve of the actions of their employer; and,

Whereas, students and faculty across the nation are being unjustly and inhumanely suspended and in many cases arrested for their participation in peaceful protests and demonstrations; and,

Whereas, student leaders who have attempted to speak out in various ways have been wrongly silenced and forced to face retribution for their actions and beliefs, violating their rights to free speech and unjustly censoring student voices; and,

Whereas, college campuses, including Syracuse University, have historically been places for activism and driving forth important social and political change; and,

Whereas, in order to protect our student body's rights and academic freedom, we must support and advocate for free speech rights to be upheld on campuses everywhere; and,

Whereas, there has been an increase in antisemitic, anti-Arab, anti-Muslim, and anti-Black speech and actions, causing Jewish, Muslim, and Arab students to feel unsafe on college campuses nationwide; and,

Whereas, college campuses should be a safe space for all students where discriminatory and hateful speech and behavior do not belong; and,

Whereas, Zionism and Judaism are not the same; and,

Whereas, conflating Zionism with Judaism treats Jews as a monolith and therefore is antisemitic; so be it,

Resolved, that the GSO stands in solidarity with students and faculty participating in peaceful protests and aims to protect students' right to freedom of speech, peaceful assembly, and academic freedom, including on our own campus; and,

Resolved, that the GSO condemns the inhumane treatment and arrest of students and faculty nationwide and the escalation of violence on campuses and institutional retaliation due to their chilling impact on free speech; and,

Resolved, GSO encourages Syracuse University to protect and defend students' right to freedom of speech and assembly, and discourages the militarization of local law enforcement in response to peaceful protests; and,

Resolved, that GSO fully condemns and denounces hate of any kind, including antisemitic, anti-Arab, and anti-Muslim speech and actions on our campus and in our greater community to ensure a safe space for all students and campus community members; and,

Resolved, that GSO reaffirms its call for understanding on our campus and encourages students to report incidents of bias or hate, including instances when they feel silenced; and,

Resolved, that GSO calls on Syracuse University to refrain from forcibly disrupting or disbanding any peaceful protest and to engage in negotiations with the students, including the encampment on Shaw Quad; and,

Resolved, that GSO rejects the notion that anti-Zionism is antisemitism; and

Resolved, that any Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees who is endorsed by the GSO be advised to advocate for the public disclosure of all of Syracuse University's investments.