



**GSO Senate
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 6, 2024 | 5:30 PM - 7:53 PM EST**

Executive Summary

On December 6, 2023, the GSO Senate convened in the Maxwell Auditorium for the fourth regular meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year. At the meeting, special guests Jamie Winders and Pamela Young presented on Syracuse University’s [academic strategic plan](#). Three new resolutions were introduced, two of which passed. The third resolution was a resolution for a constitutional amendment and was only introduced during the meeting and will be voted on at the next meeting on February 7, 2024. The Senate elected Smita Deulkar as the newest at-large Senator, and three registered graduate student organizations received funding for their various initiatives.

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order (5:43 PM).....CJ A (Chair).
Quorum Reached (55 present)

Approval of Minutes (5:45 PM).....CJ A (Chair).
● *Approved without correction.*

Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks (5:45 PM).....CJ A (Chair).

Begin Senate Proceedings (5:48 PM)

- *View agenda [here](#).*
- **Special Guests**.....Jamie W., Pamela Y.
 - *“Leading With Distinction: Academic Excellence at a University Welcoming to All”*
 - *Grow enrollment and research in STEM disciplines to meet the opportunities associated with emerging technologies and economic development in Central New York.*
 - *Support cross-college research centers, programs and institutes of national renown in each of the five areas of distinctive excellence.*



- *Remove barriers to entry for immersive and experiential learning and community engagement and build and nurture meaningful relationships with local communities.*
- *Approach diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility as part of everything we do—a responsibility to be shared by all parts of campus.*
- *Questions and feedback to strategic plan.....Open Floor*
 - *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley: Question about removing barriers to commercial and experiential learning. It would involve dramatic changes to the graduate student experience.*
 - *Response: academic strategic plans typically work over a five year period.*
 - *CJ Arnell: Question about RCM model and Crouse College Research Center. How is that going to work together?*
 - *RCM stands for Responsibility-Centered-Management. One of the challenges becomes how to do interdisciplinary work across colleges. The way we think about budgets should be driven by the academic mission of the university.*
 - *Daniel Kimmel: part of making research success accessible to graduate students is helping them get their research out there through conference travel. One of the things GSO is interested in this year is to earmark funds across departments in the university. However, many departments do not have that supplemental funding. Would you be willing to work with us on that issue?*
 - *One of the commitments in the plan is maintaining R1 status. It is a very important area of conversation.*
 - *Qingyang Liu: how will academic affairs improve discipline-specific career training programs particularly for international master's students?*
 - *Strategic plans should be living documents. Implementation is also a living process. There are portions of the plan that speak to the experience of graduate students and there are places in which we can do more. Career training will fit very well into number three (3) in the powerpoint.*
 - *Andrea Sprague-Getsy: retention is an issue. Lack of resources for international graduate student workers and lack of holding departments accountable for the rights that they do have.*
 - *This relates both to point 1 and 4*

New Business (6:10 PM)

- *GSO Senate Resolution 24.04.....Daniel K., Melissa A., CJ A. (Chair)*
 - *View resolution [here](#).*
 - *Questions:*
 - *Alex Scrivner: How will this be communicated to the rest of the student body and what is the plan to initiate this moving forward?*



- *Daniel Kimmel: Likes the idea of some statement on fiscal responsibility. Currently what the plan is is to communicate it upwards to the graduate school to communicate to the rest of the graduate student body. Invites the senator and any other senator interested in helping draft such a statement to come talk.*
- *Dominic Wilkins: Why is ten dollars sufficient and not any other amount? Specifically since the proposed amount is not catching up to inflation sufficiently*
 - *Daniel: The number is not arbitrary. The Senate reserves the right to change the number. While the GSO has the right to decide how the fee gets raised, the graduate school still has the fiduciary responsibility to sign off on the final amount. We are aware that it does not fully cover inflation.*
- *Vote: 36 Yes, 16 No, 2 Abstain – PASSED*
- *GSO Senate Resolution 24.05.....CJ A. (Chair)*
 - *As this is a resolution for a Constitutional Amendment, it will only be introduced during this meeting and voted on at the next regular meeting.*
- *GSO Senate Resolution 24.06.....*
 - *Questions*
 - *Roger Rosena: What do you want university senators to do?*
 - *It is largely on them because they are part of different committees.*
 - *Daniel Kimmel: How will the climate action committee aid the president, executive leadership, and university senators in effectively advocating for this issue?*
 - *Alex Scrivener: there is a bit of inertia within the sustainability office on campus; they are not used to hearing from graduate students. A big part of the committee's work has been establishing that relationship, and a part of this resolution is continuing to make a regular space for graduate students within the decisions that happen within the sustainability office.*
 - *Adia Santos: has this committee met with the Student Association about sustainability efforts?*
 - *Dominic Wilkins: Committee has not met with the Student Association in years past and intends to strengthen that relationship. The committee was not entirely impressed by the commitment that the university made to materially address the sustainability issues*

Elections (6:52 PM)

- *At-Large Senator*
 - *Smita Deulkar*
 - *Vote: 42 Yes, 3 No, 2 Abstain — PASSED*

Executive Reports (6:57 PM)



- *President*.....*Daniel K.*
 - *View President's Report* [Here](#)
- *Vice President of Internal Affairs**CJ A. (Chair)*
- *Parliamentarian*.....*Luke V.*
 - *Available by email but canceling office hours over winter break*
- *Vice President of External Affairs**Becca V.*
 - *View report* [here.](#)
- *Comptroller*.....*Melissa A.*
 - *View report* [here.](#)

Special Funding Requests (7:25 PM)

- *Philosophy Graduate Student Organization*
 - *View funding request* [here.](#)
 - *Debate*
 - *Daniel K.: The Philosophy Department is contributing \$800 to their funding request now.*
 - *Vote: 31 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstain – PASSED*
- *Rhetorical Studies of America*
 - *View funding request* [here.](#)
 - *Vote: 32 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain – PASSED*
- *MFT Transgender Support Team*
 - *View funding request* [here.](#)
 - *Vote: 23 Yes, 3 No, 1 Abstain – PASSED*

Old Business (7:51 PM)

- *No old business*

Announcements and Remarks for the Record (7:51 PM).....*Open Floor.*

- *Daniel Kimmel shows appreciation for the Senators*
- *CJ Arnell: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Lyman Hall 132*

Adjournment (7:53 PM).....*CJ Arnell.*