



**GSO Senate
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 | 5:30pm - 9pm EST
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Executive Summary

On May 1, 2024, the GSO Senate convened for its eighth and final Regular Senate Meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year. The Senate passed four resolutions and approved one Special Funding Request from the Public Administration and International Relations Association (PAIRA). Prabin Shrestha was also elected as a new Senator-at-Large. The next meeting will be a special Budget and Elections meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 in Lyman Hall, room 132, at 5:30 PM.

The three resolutions concerned different aspects of GSO internal administration and support for freedom of speech. [Senate Resolution 24.11](#) amends the GSO Constitution and reclassifies GSO Secretary positions as Staff. [Senate Resolution 24.14](#) establishes an oath of office and code of ethics for GSO officers. [Senate Resolution 24.15](#) establishes remuneration for the GSO Parliamentarian and the President Pro Tempore of the GSO Senate. [Senate Resolution 24.16](#) condemns antisemitism at Syracuse University, reaffirms the GSO's commitment to freedom of speech, and stands in solidarity with protesters at Syracuse University. The Public Administration and International Relations Association (PAIRA) was approved for \$1100 to host a kickball tournament.

The next meeting will be a special budget and elections meeting. At the meeting, the Senate will debate and approve a new budget for the GSO for the upcoming 2024-2025 academic and fiscal year. The Senate will also elect new positions: President, Vice President of Internal Affairs, Director of External Affairs, Comptroller, five University Senators, and five Senator-at-Large positions.



Call to Order (5:38 PM).....CJ Arnell (Chair)
Quorum Reached

Approval of Minutes (5:40 PM).....CJ Arnell (Chair)
View April 2024 meeting minutes [here](#).

Approval of the Agenda (5:40 PM).....CJ Arnell (Chair)
View agenda [here](#).

Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks (5:40 PM).....CJ Arnell (Chair)

Begin Senate Proceedings

- **Special Guests**

- None

- **Old Business**

- Resolution 24.11 (5:41 PM).....Rules and Administration Committee
 - View full resolution [here](#).
 - Result: (5:47 PM) **APPROVED 27 Yes, 2 No, 1 Abstain**

New Business

- Resolution 24.14 (5:45 PM).....Roger Rosena
 - View full resolution [here](#).
 - Debate
 - Roger Rosena, President Pro Tempore (5:52 PM): *Gave an additional summary of the resolution.*
 - Daniel Kimmel, President (5:54 PM): Looked at a few different models including the student assembly (Student Association). We wanted something more applicable to all roles no matter what they are. We also looked at the Athenian Oath in the Maxwell School for inspiration.
 - Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communications (5:55 PM): Is it possible to table this to the next meeting? Confused a bit about the free speech part. (Makes a motion)
 - Daniel Kimmel, President (5:58 PM): Confused a bit about the concern about free speech.



- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communication (5:59 PM): Under the code of ethics, section 2, subpoint C, could potentially limit someone’s speech. Also subletter F, and subsection G. Not that any of us do that, but that would be limiting speech.*
- *Dominic Wilkins (6:01 PM): Motion to change “oath of office” to “affirmation of office”*
- *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:02 PM): Not necessarily objecting to the motion, but feels a bit redundant. Feels like it is not needed.*
- *Result: APPROVED 27 Yes, 6 No, 1 Abstain*

- *Resolution 24.15 (6:07 PM).....CJ Arnell (Chair)*
 - *View full resolution [here](#).*
 - *Debate*
 - *Dominic Wilkins (6:10 PM): Wondering how the calculation of hours was done, and wondering if other members of the senate are interested in developing a method of keeping track of time for officers for the future.*
 - *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:11 PM): Would not be opposed to a pay study of the position like we did with other positions this year.*
 - *Result (6:12 PM): APPROVED 24 Yes, 4 No, 4 Abstain*

- *Resolution 24.16 (6:14 PM).....Joseph Beckmann*
 - *Debate*
 - *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:18 PM): Motion to move the resolution to be considered ad seriatim*
 - *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:21 PM): Wanted to consider it ad seriatim to give everyone the chance to consider each aspect of it because of the varying opinions on certain “Resolved” clauses. If there are people who have thoughts one way or the other on any piece of the resolution, invite them to put their arguments forward because they feel like it needs to be fully discussed.*
 - *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:22 PM): Wants to make it clear that the GSO does not have the power over the appointment of the Graduate Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. So, in a sense, the last two “Resolved” are not possible. Wants everyone to consider the impact of asking the Board of Trustees to divest from Israel because it will impact the relationship with the Board. Motions to strike the last two Resolved clauses.*
 - *Salahaldin Abuhamidya, APS MPA (6:49 PM): Since it does not have any power, what difference would it make if we remove it?*
 - *Erin O’Daniel, APS Architecture (6:50 PM): Perhaps it could be interpreted by those outside of this assembly as an opportunistic power grab to spread the impact of this senate in a way that we are not authorized to do, and therefore maybe dilute the other messages in the entire resolution.*



- *Liza Rochelson, APS EMPA (6:52 PM): Where did the authors get the information that “GSO rejects the notion that anti-Zionism is antisemitism”*
- *Joe Beckmann (6:53 PM): It is a common talking point that people think they are the same. There was also something in the Daily Orange that they are the same, so I think we should be separating the two ideas.*
- *Erin O’Daniel (6:54 PM): Is there anything in the constitution that says we have the authority to endorse or remove the endorsement of a representative to the Board of Trustees*
- *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:54 PM): There is nothing on that topic in the GSO Constitution. Traditionally, it was the GSO president that was the representative to the Board of Trustees because the president is the primary advocate to the board of trustees and it was that way for 50 years. Last May, the board reversed that power and moved it to the Dean of the grad school. So, the person appointed to that is not under the GSO and they meet with the Dean separately, who screens what they can present. We have made some headway in getting that decision reversed or removed.*
- *APS Philosophy (6:57 PM) What is the goal of disclosing divestment of a private case.*
- *Joe Beckmann (6:57 PM): In addition to transparency, which I think is good. I don’t think telling everyone what you are investing in is going to make your investments do worse.*
- *APS Philosophy (6:58 PM): why should we keep this?*
- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communications (6:58 PM): Right now we have no knowledge of what Syracuse University is investing in as far as any manufacturers. Lockheed Martin donates a lot of money to the school so we do not have any information about that or where else they are investing money to make capital and the endowment fund. A it is good information to have so we would like to make any active changes to support any changes from whom Syracuse University is supporting with our tuition funds, then we would have more information to do so.*
- *Daniel Kimmel, President (7:00 PM): We would be willing to start advocating for any public disclosure of Syracuse University investments.*
- *APS Philosophy (7:01 PM): I think anybody voting for this should ask themselves whether it is right to ask a private enterprise to disclose their investments.*
- *Bertie Probyn (7:02 PM): I think there is a difference between the university having the right to not disclose and still advocating for them to disclose in the sense that even if they elect not to disclose that does not mean that we should not advocate for them to advocate for them. So I do not see why the main fact that they are a private enterprise means they should not be asked to disclose.*
- *Liza Rochelson (7:03 PM): I would like to motion to defer this resolution to a task force.*



- Erin O’Daniel (7:07 PM): Would like to motion to change the language “be changed with advocating” to “be advised to advocate”
- Final Result: **APPROVED 27 Yes, 8 No, 2 Abstain**

Special Funding Requests

- Public Administration and International Relations Association (7:40 PM)
 - View funding request [here](#).
 - Questions
 - Daniel Kimmel, President (7:43 PM): Did any more sign up since you met with the finance secretary?
 - It was around 30 at the time we presented to the committee at the time. We had like five more signing up and we are encouraging more to participate. But it is the middle of final exams so we are still advertising.
 - Debate
 - Daniel Kimmel, President (7:44 PM): *noted this funding request as a positive result of changes made to the special programming request process as reviewed by the Finance Committee this academic year.*
 - Result: **APPROVED 27 Yes 1 No, 3 Abstain**

Executive Reports

- President (7:47 PM).....Daniel Kimmel
- Vice President of Internal Affairs (7:50 PM).....CJ Arnell
 - 32 academic programs in good standing, out of 150
 - 4,053 full time main campus graduate students, 1588 represented with 88 senators. 39%, down from 68% earlier in the year.
 - 23 non academic RGSOs, 22 in good standing
- Director of External Affairs (7:52 PM).....Becca Vinciguerra
 - View full report here.
- Comptroller’s Report.....Aditee Malviya
 - View full report here.

Committee Reports

- PAC Grant Committee (8:05 PM).....Abiodun Adeoye
 - View report [here](#).
- DEIA Committee (8:20 PM).....Smita Deulkar, Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley
 - View report here.



Elections

- *Senator at Large*
 - *Prabin Shrestha (8:36 PM)*
 - *Result: ELECTED 19 Yes, 3 No, 3 Abstain*

Motions

- *Daniel Kimmel (5:42 PM): Motion to suspend the rules of the meeting and move Old Business and New Business next to one another on the agenda*
 - *Motion passes by majority vote*
- *Daniel Kimmel (5:45 PM): Motion to amend 24.11*
- *Daniel Kimmel (5:50 PM): Motion to skip the reading of the manner in which the oath is administered and read the Oath of Office (Resolution 24.14)*
 - *Motion passes by majority vote*
- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley (5:55 PM): Motion to table Resolution 24.14 to the next meeting.*
 - *Result: NOT APPROVED 3 Yes, 20 No, 2 Abstain*
- *Dominic Wilkins (6:01 PM): Motion to change “oath of office” to “affirmation of office”*
 - *Result: APPROVED 17 Yes, 2 No, 8 Abstain*
- *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:18 PM): Motion to move the resolution to be considered ad seriatim*
 - *Result: NOT APPROVED, 8 Yes, 9 No, 10 Abstain*
- *Daniel Kimmel, President (6:24 PM): Motions to strike the last Resolved clauses*
 - *Result: APPROVED 14 Yes, 11 No, 4 Abstain*
- *Dominic Wilkins (6:25 PM): Motions to enter a ten minute recess so everyone can have a chance to read and contemplate it.*
- *Liza Rohelson (7:03 PM): Motions to defer Resolution 24.16 to a task force.*
 - *Debate*
 - *Sofia Gabaldon: Do you mean next week or September?*
 - *CJ Arnell, Chair: September*
 - *Sofia Gabaldon: I ask that the senate thinks of the gravity of the issue. I think we need to consider the timing of everything and what tabling it would actually mean.*
 - *Result: NOT APPROVED 4 Yes, 25 No, 4 Abstain*
- *Erin O’Daniel (7:07 PM): Motion to change the language “be changed with advocating” to “be advised to advocate”*
 - *Result: APPROVED 14 Yes, 8 No, 5 Abstain*
- *Liza Rochelson (7:11 PM): Motions to strike the clause on anti-Zionism and the whereas causes: “Zionism and judaism are not the same; and conflating Zionism and Judaism treats Jews as a monolith and therefore is antisemitic,”*
 - *Debate: John Greenlee, APS Environmental Sciences (7:13 PM): This is a rather sensitive topic. I do not necessarily think that many graduate students in my department*



would feel comfortable taking any sides in this. I agree with having the wording changed a little.

- Salahaldin Abuhamidya, APS MPA (7:14 PM): Zionism is equally exclusive. There are videos and evidence of Zionists beating Orthodox Jews who protest the treatment of Palestinians.
- APS Philosophy (7:16 PM): I think it is important to reason from first principles. I do agree with Salahaldin that these distinctions are there.
- JT Paustian, APS Physics (7:17 PM): I would like to know what my labor is funding and I would love to know what my tuition dollars are going toward.
- Paige (7:18 PM): I think there are graduate students in my department who would not feel comfortable with that wording. So i think not a lot would be lost by taking it out.
- Joe Beckmann: I struggle to think this is going to alienate people. Let’s stop dancing around it. I call all pending questions.
- Result: **NOT APPROVED 9 Yes, 6 No, 10 Abstain**
 - Did not gain the two-thirds majority needed
- JT Paustian (7:22 PM): I would like to point out that Zionism is a movement that grew out of centuries of abuse by Jewish people. At the same time, you can find information about Jews being abused by the Israeli government. So, I think it is important to distinguish the same.
- Result (7:24 PM): **NOT APPROVED 13 Yes, 18 No, 2 Abstain**
- Andrea Sprague-Getsy (7:25 PM): Motion to call to question resolution 24.16
 - Result (7:26 PM): **APPROVED 19 Yes, 6 No, 3 Abstain**
- Aditee Malviya, Financial Secretary (7:38 PM): Motion to suspend the rules and move special funding requests to the top of the order
 - Passes with majority vote

Announcements and Remarks for the Record.....CJ Arnell.

- Next meeting May 8, 2024 at Lyman Hall

Motion to adjourn.....CJ Arnell.

- Adjourned at 8:40 PM