



## **GSO Senate Resolution 25.02**

### **A Resolution to Override Special Programming Funding Caps Set by the GSO Fiscal Policy on behalf of the Mathematics Graduate Organization**

**Author(s):** Karie Schmitz (APS Mathematics); Avery A. Welna (President Pro Tempore of the Senate)<sup>1</sup>

**Sponsor(s):**

**Date(s):** 29 January 2025

**Action(s):** Failed (1 Yes, 29 No, 2 Abstentions). See Appendix to the Resolution: Vote by Roll.

**Chair of the Senate:** Roger Rosena

**President Pro Tempore of the Senate:** Avery A. Welna

**Parliamentarian:** Joseph Beckmann

**President of the Student Body:** Daniel J. Kimmel

**Whereas,** the Finance Committee (FC) of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) "shall adhere to and enforce the GSO Fiscal Policy established by Resolution of the Senate";<sup>2</sup> and,

**Whereas,** the GSO Fiscal Policy (GSOFP) states that Registered Graduate Student Organizations (RGSOs) "may apply for Special Programming once per semester";<sup>3</sup> and,

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<sup>1</sup> The President Pro Tempore of the Senate, in their capacity as a leading Senator and member of GSO Rules & Administration, submits this Resolution on behalf of the Mathematics Graduate Organization to fulfill all procedural requirements.

<sup>2</sup> **GSOC Article II, Section 15(a).**

<sup>3</sup> **GSOFP Article II, Section 3(a).**

**Whereas**, the GSOFP caps RGSO Special Programming requests “primarily intended to facilitate the academic and professional development of graduates” at \$3000 and requests “with a social purpose” at \$1000;<sup>4</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the FC may recommend, and the Senate may approve, an amount of Special Programming funds that exceeds the associated cap if, “with reasonable estimation, the ratio of \$25 per fee-paying graduate student served produces a number higher than the associated cap”, in which case the FC may recommend, and the Senate may approve, “an amount more than the associated cap up to the number produced by the ratio, but no higher”;<sup>5</sup> and,

**Whereas**, the Senate, in the exercise of its constitutional power of the purse,<sup>6</sup> may only “grant exception” and approve an amount of Special Programming funds that exceeds both the associated cap and the amount produced by the ratio “by Resolution with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote-by-roll”;<sup>7</sup> and,

**Whereas**, representatives of the Mathematics Graduate Organization have requested an amount that exceeds both the associated cap and the amount produced by the ratio;<sup>8</sup> be it,

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<sup>4</sup> **GSOFP Article II, Section 3 (g-h); fn. 10 & 11** on these conditions establish the following interpretive guidance: “academic and professional—e.g., conferences, speakers/guest lectures, teach-ins, skill development workshops, showcases (e.g., displaying students’ professional, academic, or creative work), and so on. This list is not exhaustive. Common sense should guide.”; “social—e.g., department/interest group specific gatherings (e.g., picnics, formals, dances, networking mixers, movie screenings, activity days, celebrations), induction ceremonies, meals not attached to professional or academic events (e.g., regular coffee hours), and so on. This list is not exhaustive. Common sense should guide.”

<sup>5</sup> **GSOFP Article II, Section 3 (i); fn. 12** on this condition establishes the following interpretive guidance: “reasonable estimation—e.g., the RGSO has held the event in previous years, has data to demonstrate the average number of fee-paying graduate students that the event tends to draw, and has a clear rationale justifying the number they expect the event to draw this year. Cost-reduction and cost-sharing activities ought also to be demonstrated. This list is not exhaustive. Common sense should guide.”

<sup>6</sup> **GSOC Article II, Section 13(t)**: “The Senate shall have the power to: ... Allocate the graduate student activity fee in accordance with University policies and all applicable laws”; **GSOC Article II, Section 15(b)**: “The Finance Committee may make recommendations on fiscal matters to the Senate, but the Senate maintains the sole power to establish GSO Fiscal Policy and to authorize the allocation and expenditure of GSO funds in line with it and University Policy.”

<sup>7</sup> **GSOFP Article II, Section 3 (i)**: “... The Senate may only grant exception, i.e. approve an amount exceeding both the cap and the ratio, by Resolution with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote-by-roll.”

<sup>8</sup> **Background**: The Mathematics Graduate Organization originally requested \$10,000 in GSO Special Programming funds for their 50<sup>th</sup> Annual New York State Regional Graduate Mathematics Conference. The GSO FC convened on 22 January 2025 and, upon review of the application, recommended \$3000 for GSO Senate approval. At the next Regular Meeting of the Senate on 29 January 2025, the Senator of Mathematics introduced this Resolution to Override.

**Resolved**, that the GSO Senate override the Special Programming funding caps set by the GSO Fiscal Policy and approve \$4700 in funds for the 50th Annual New York State Regional Graduate Mathematics Conference.

**Appendix to the Resolution: Vote by Roll**

**Voting Members:**<sup>9</sup>

APS Anthropology, Kanwal Singh (No)  
APS Architecture (M. Arch), Miles Smith (No)  
APS Biology, Kirsten Rasmussen (No)  
APS Biotechnology, Allison Hellman (No)  
APS Cultural Foundations of Education, Ming Paing Moe (No)  
APS Earth Sciences, Claire Bush (No)  
APS English & Creative Writing, Meg Healy (No)  
APS French and Francophone Studies, Maxence Juchert (No)  
APS Higher Postsecondary Education, Mandeep Brar (No)  
APS History, Caleb Fouts (No)  
APS Mass Communications, Jamie Gentry (No)  
APS Mathematics, Karie Schmitz (Yes)  
APS Nutrition Science, Kirsten Gunderson (No)  
APS Philosophy, Antonio Freiles (No)  
APS Physics, JT Paustian (No)  
APS Political Science, Jordan Koster (No)  
APS Public Administration, Jordan Braunstein (No)  
APS Special Education, Ethan W. Jackson (No)

Senator-at-Large, Rishabh Basu (No)  
Senator-at-Large, Samuel Prescott (No)  
Senator-at-Large, Logan Fetterman (No)  
University Senator, Salahaldin Abuhamdiya (Abstain)  
University Senator, Ethan Engelhart (No)  
University Senator, Byers (No)

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<sup>9</sup> Not including 8 voting member absences. On “voting members”, see **GSOC Article II, Section 2**: “The following shall be members of the Senate with the power to vote: GSO Officers, Secretaries, Academic Plan Senators, University Senators, At-large Senators, and SUNY-ESF Senators. The GSO Parliamentarian shall be considered a member of the Senate without the power to vote...”

ESF Senator, Maria Loughran (Abstain)

President Pro Tempore of the Senate & APS Public Diplomacy, Avery A. Welna (No)

Communications Secretary, Alexis Faison (No)

Financial Secretary, Ian Wilhelm (No)

General Secretary, Cody Van Nostrand (No)

Comptroller, Aditee Malviya (No)

President, Daniel J. Kimmel (No)

**Tiebreaker:**

Vice President of Internal Affairs, Roger Rosena (N/A)

**Non-voting:**

Parliamentarian, Joseph Beckmann