



**GSO Senate
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 | 5:30pm - 9pm EST
Author: Abiodun Adeoye, GSO General Secretary**

Executive Summary

On April 3, 2024, the GSO Senate convened for its seventh regular meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year. At the meeting, Syracuse University Provost Dr. Gretchen Ritter spoke about the university's Academic Strategic Plan. The Provost noted that a big part of the Plan is to elevate research and creativity at the university, and said that she is hopeful that graduate students will feel the university's commitment to academic research and excellence. Additionally, GSO President Daniel J. Kimmel delivered the inaugural State of the Graduate Student Organization Address.

The Senate voted to approve a number of resolutions. The senate voted to approve [Resolution 24.10](#), "A Resolution Establishing the GSO Catering Policy," [Resolution 24.12](#), "A Resolution Redistributing in Response to the Expressed Financial Needs of SU Graduate Students," and [Resolution 24.13](#), "A Resolution Regulating RGSO & Special Programming Budget Practices."

The Senate also approved special funding requests for two Registered Graduate Student Organizations and the GSO Comptroller. The Geology Graduate Student Organization was approved for \$1450, and the Sigma Upsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society for Counselors was approved for \$1500. The GSO Comptroller was approved for \$475 to cover her travel expenses from Washington, D.C., for the special budget meeting that the GSO will hold in the week of April 29, 2024.

The next GSO Regular Senate meeting will be on May 1, 2024, in Lyman Hall, Room 132 at 5:30 PM.



Call to Order (5:33 PM).....CJ A (Chair).

Quorum Reached

Approval of Minutes.....CJ Arnell (Chair).

View March 6, 2024 meeting minutes [here](#).

Approval of the Agenda.....CJ Arnell (Chair).

View agenda [here](#).

Land Acknowledgement & Opening Remarks.....CJ Arnell (Chair).

Begin Senate Proceedings (5:37 PM)

- ***Special Guests***.....Open Floor
 - ***Provost Gretchen Ritter (5:38 PM)***
 - *Working on implementing the Academic Strategic Plan, the big chunk of which is to elevate research and creativity, and graduate students are a big part of that.*
 - *Hopeful that graduate students will feel the university's commitment to academic research and excellence.*
 - ***Questions***
 - *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communications: interested in knowing what specific steps are being implemented to protect graduates within those mandates, because those feel like unfunded commitments.*
 - *Provost Ritter: university is trying to avoid unfunded mandates. Worked with eac school and college to define a sustainable resource model for how they get to a goal and how they provide resources and support for reaching them.*
 - *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communications: Do you have graduate students in the room while making the decisions?*
 - *Provost Ritter: University had graduate students involved along the way; graduate students involved in working groups in all the colleges.*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel, GSO President: wondering if Provost could share perspective on the working group and academic freedom.*
 - *Provost Ritter: not intended to be policy but instead to inform policy making. From perspective, commitment to academic freedom and freedom of speech is central to who we are and what we do. Important moment for us as a community to discuss*



some of the issues that have been going on around academic freedom and freedom of speech. Graduate students have freedom of speech and protections in their role as instructors. Part of academic freedom is based on disciplinary expertise. Honest conversation to be had regarding claims of expertise.

- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley, APS Mass Communications: if you ask for expertise to only be within disciplines, you are separating who you are from the whole person and from the work you do in the community.*
 - *Provost Ritter: can you explain a bit more about what you mean as community based work?*
 - *Jocelyn: When you think about doing work to promote social good, that comes with understanding who you are as a person and how you perpetuate societal norms in the world and not just who you are as an instructor.*
 - *Ritter: academic freedom has forever been grounded in a notion of expertise and the norms of disciplinary communities in order to determine the rights and wrongs of someone's research and teaching perspectives in the classroom.*
- *The State of the GSO Address (5:56 PM).....President Daniel J. Kimmel*
 - *View speech [here](#).*

Committee Reports (6:15 PM)

- *Climate Action Committee (6:15 PM).....Dominic Wilkins*
 - *View full powerpoint [here](#).*

New Business (6:21 PM)

- *Resolution 24.10.....Dominic Wilkins*
 - *View resolution [here](#).*
 - *Debate (6:26 PM)*
 - *Dominic Wilkins: Spent time this semester looking at food practices and sustainable practices to come up with a set of principles and goals to craft ambitious catering policies for GSO and outline ambitions for sustainability policies. The appendices are derived heavily from ESF guidelines. The resolutions have ambitious targets, so part of the preamble includes a line in the middle, so these are more aspirational.*
 - *Becca Vinciguerra*
 - *View full remarks [here](#).*



- *Daniel J Kimmel: wanted to get clarity on the Resolved clause concerning the President: “Resolved, that the president will strive to ensure that Sustainability Management, Catering, and/or Food Services properly train their staff in sustainable food procurement, management, and service practices; and be it further,”*
 - *Dominic Wilkins: This is meant to highlight some of the conversations in early February where the Senate was trying to push for training regarding efforts regarding food services. This is meant to signal continued support for those efforts in proper training regarding sustainability and broader efforts. Understands that these policies are hard to follow, so hopes these are guidelines. Hopes it is not seen as punitive.*
- *Mariah Loughran, ESF Senator: At ESF there is a program where you can get sustainable event certifications. There is a whole section that includes Syracuse restaurants that are deemed sustainable*
- *Amy Owens, SUNY ESF Director of External Affairs: would love to connect to work together on sustainability efforts*
- *Becca Vinciguerra, Director of External Affairs: would be happy to connect with ESF senators to take a look at resources. Concerns lie not with the policies but with being able to carry out these guidelines. Would want to see clear protections in the resolution for [her] support to increase drastically. We are locked into SU catering most of the time. The possibility to veer out and look at other companies for catering is hard financially.*
- *Dominic Wilkins: Would like to put an amendment that reads as follows:
“Resolved, that give the constraints to which the GSO is bound due to University policy, that when working with SU catering, the inability to fully adhere to the guidelines in Appendix A not be construed as an impeachable offense.*
 - *Vote Result (6:50 PM): 30 Yes, 3 No, 2 Abstain*
- *Resolution 24.11 (6:55 PM).....Rules and Administration Committee*
 - *View resolution [here](#).*
 - *Debate*
 - *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley: would GSO staff be able to assist with unionization efforts and join if they so choose?*
 - *Roger Rosena: GSO staff cannot unionize because GSO staff are not university employees and the university does not consider what the GSO does as work.*
- *Resolution 24.12 (7:00 PM).....Abiodun Adeoye, Daniel Kimmel, Roger Rosena*
 - *View resolution [here](#).*
 - *Debate*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel: This resolution is the product of many talks since the end of Spring 2023 when the General Secretary and Roger Rosena conducted a survey asking students for feedback about the PAC Grant program. One of the major*



consensus derived from that is that the program is appreciated but that it was still not enough to make up the difference in the attendance costs. That set us on a path to see how we can better distribute it while also not spending too much with carry forward. In order to redistribute it but keep it affordable, this is the resolution at hand.

- *Bertram Probyn, Senator-At-Large: wondering what it means to demonstrate need for the \$300 tier.*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel: Footnotes 9 and 10, this is where recommended guidance to the committee comes in.*
- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley: would like the language regarding “access to” to be better clarified. Realizes that there are contingencies to cover funds, but all of these contingencies are asking additional burdens of proof on the graduate students which is going to deter individuals from applying.*
 - *Daniel Kimmel:*
- *Vote Result: APPROVED 25 Yes, 3 No, 1 Abstention*
- *Resolution 24.13 (7:21 PM).....Daniel Kimmel, Melissa Alvisi*
 - *View resolution [here](#).*
 - *Debate/discussion*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel: Most of the proposals here clarify what already exists in fiscal policy but either has ambiguity or needs to be better pieced together. The new additions include making it very explicit what university policy says about academic and non-academic RGSOs. This is not distinguished on the basis of whether or not they have an academic interest or purpose but rather whether or not they represent academic graduate students. Sometimes the Comptroller and finance committee gets pushback on the classifications. The other new things are adjusting the caps on funding requests. The purpose of this is to make sure we are distributing the graduate student fee as equitably as possible and make sure that we are not overfunding some at the expense of others. Another one is to expedite the approval process.*
 - *Salahadin: My question is regarding the departments specifically. How do you justify the big cut proposed? Especially if the organization requests such funding and they have a number of events that exceed the \$5000.*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel: There is already a stipulation already in our fiscal policy that says that a total of 20% of the total budget shall be allocated to special programming. What this does is redistribute the cap and place whatever is not allocated specifically to the RGSOs and place it in special programming so they have equal access to it. Regarding the process in #10, that applies to special programming requests submitted to the finance committee. The cost-per-fee-paying-graduate student factor makes it even more explicit in how the allocation process is considered. This just gives greater clarity on how the existing ratio*



applies to special programming because there is often surprise at how the different Comptrollers interpret the rules yearly.

- *Vote result: APPROVED 20 Yes, 5 No, 3 Abstain*

Motions

- *Dominic Wilkins (6:42 PM): Motion to add to Resolution 24.10: “Resolved, that give the constraints to which the GSO is bound due to University policy, that when working with SU catering, the inability to fully adhere to the guidelines in Appendix A not be construed as an impeachable offense.”*
- *Becca Vinciguerra: Motion to add to the motion: “and other vendors,”*
 - *Debate*
 - *Dominic Wilkins: Wondering why there is the addition of “outside vendors” by Becca Vinciguerra*
 - *Becca Vinciguerra:*
- *Becca’s motion result: APPROVED 15 Yes, 8 No, 5 Abstain*
- *Full motion result: APPROVED 26 Yes, 0 No, 2 Abstain*
- *Daniel Kimmel motions to waive the full reading of Resolution 24.11 (6:52 PM)*
 - *Motion passes with a majority*
- *Jocelyn McKinnon-Crowley: Motion to task the finance committee with investigating the feasibility and practicality to implement compensation for GSO Senators. A timeline for this assessment has been preferred to be the next regular meeting (May 2024), but if that is not practical, the next GSO session’s first regular meeting (September 2024) (7:46 PM)*
 - *Philosophy Senator: what about considerations for international students*
 - *Daniel J Kimmel:*
 - *Result: APPROVED 20 Yes 4 No 1 Abstain*
- *Aditee Malviya: Motion to suspend the rules and move the RGSO special funding requests up (7:51 PM)*
 - *Result: APPROVED 25 Yes 0 No 0 Abstain*
- *Daniel J Kimmel: Motion to send startup funding request back to the finance committee*
 - *Result: APPROVED 19 Yes 0 No 2 Abstain*

Special Funding Requests (7:52 PM)

- *Geology Graduate Student Organization.....Tyler Logie*
 - *Requesting \$1450*
 - *View full funding request [here.](#)*
 - *Vote Result: APPROVED 20 Yes 1 No 1 Abstain*
- *Sigma Upsilon Chapter of Chi Sigma Iota International Honor Society for Counselors...Si Gao*
 - *View full funding request [here.](#)*
 - *Requesting \$1850 – adjusted to \$1500*



- Debate
 - Daniel J. Kimmel: This was forwarded with the stipulation that the \$1000.....
- Result: *APPROVED 22 Yes, 4 No, 0 Abstain*
- Special Funding Request from the Comptroller.....Melissa Alvisi
 - Debate
 - Daniel J. Kimmel:
 - Result: *APPROVED 13 Yes, 8 No, 4 Abstain*

Old Business (8:12 PM)

- Becca Vinciguerra motion – postponed indefinitely with a majority vote.

Executive Reports (8:13 PM)

- President.....Daniel J. Kimmel
 - Still searching for people to appoint to the Community Review Board
 - If any Senators have any ideas on how to reduce the administrative burden on GSO members or executive board members, all for hearing those ideas and pursuing them if they allow us to reduce the burdens but also do the necessary administrative work in the roles.
- Vice President of Internal Affairs.....CJ Arnell (Chair)
 - Slowly losing Senators, which is common toward the end of the academic year. Hopeful that senators will make it to the remaining two meetings.
- Director of External Affairs.....Becca Vinciguerra
 - View report [here](#).
 - April: Month of Service
 - Partnering with several organizations around Syracuse community
 - Senate appreciation contract has been signed. It will be on May 3 from 6:30 to 10:30 PM
 - Collaborating with university student experience committee on Strategic GSO Outreach and Engagement
- Comptroller's Report.....Aditee Malviya
 - View full report [here](#).
 - Motion to approve comptroller's motions
 - Result: *APPROVED 21 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain*

Elections (8:27 PM)

- Skipped

Announcements and Remarks for the Record (8:29 PM).....Open Floor



- *The President thanks the Senate and is in support of compensation for the service that Senators provide. Encourages people to come to the final two meetings*
- *Next Senate Regular Meeting 8 will be on May 1 in Lyman 132 at 5:30 PM*

Motion to adjourn (8:31 PM)CJ Arnell (Chair).

Adjourned at 8:31 PM