***Fifth Regular GSO Senate Meeting of 2024-2025***

***Wednesday, January 29th, 2025***

***Attendance:***

***President****: Daniel J. Kimmel,* ***Vice­ President of Internal Affairs (Chair)****: Roger Rosena,* ***Director of External Affairs:*** *Becca Vinciquerra (absent),* ***Comptroller:*** *Aditee Malviya,* ***President Pro Tempore:*** *Avery Welna,* ***Parliamentarian:*** *Joseph Beckmann,* ***General Secretary:*** *Cody Van Nostrand,* ***Communications Secretary:*** *Alexis Faison,* ***Financial Secretary:*** *Ian Wilhelm.*

***Call to Order (5:50 PM) –*** *A quorum was reached of 19, and the meeting was called to order by Chair VP of Internal Affairs Rosena.*

***Motion #1:*** *(VP Rosena) Motion to accept the minutes at 5:51 PM from First Regular GSO Senate Meeting on September 4th, 2024.*

*All in favor. Motion carries.*

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***Begin Senate Proceedings -*** *VP Rosena (Chair)*

***Invited Guest: Harper McKenzie -Program Coordinator of the Disability Cultural Center*** *(****5:52 PM)***

*Harper McKenzie:*

 *Located in the Schine Student Center Room 132, Harper McKenzie shares the importance of the disability culture, giving people with disabilities the space to express themselves authentically.*

 *Current programming includes:*

* *Biweekly affinity connections – Fridays, a space for people to connect over disabilities or anything*
* *Disability Pride Month in April – Collaborations, movies, speaking events, and more*
* *Disability Community Graduation – Open to anyone in the disability community to celebrate the successes of our disabled friends*

***Elections – University Senators, At Large University Senators (6:10 PM) -*** *VP Rosena (Chair)*

*The Chair explains election rules.*

*University Senate Nominations*

*University Senators have seats in GSO Senate and University Senate. Must attend all GSO Senate Meetings and University Senate Meetings. Must serve on one committee in either organization.*

*Nominations:*

1. *Ethan Engelhart self-nominated for the position of University Senator*
	1. *Inspired by efforts to help Model NATO PAC Grant Application, wants to contribute to continued advocacy of student body.*

*Open floor for questions (6:15 PM)*

*Logan Fetterman: What committee do you plan to join?*

 *Ethan: He hopes to become involved in the Finance Committee.*

*President Kimmel: How can we improve the Graduate student experience?*

 *Ethan: Improving accessibility and allowing the student body to know that we work for them.*

*Floor opened for debate (6:17 PM)*

*President Pro Tempore Avery Welna: Supports election of Ethan Engelhart. He is eager and would do well in this role.*

*Mass Comm. Senator: How many Senator positions are filled versus open?*

 *VP Rosena: …*

*Vote for Ethan Engelhart (6:20 PM): 26 in favor. 3 abstain.*

*At-Large Senators (6:23 PM)*

*Represent entire graduate body, and they serve on at least one GSO Committee.*

*Nominations:*

*None at the moment.*

***Executive Reports:***

***President’s Report (6:25 PM)***

*President Kimmel:*

 *With the current change in administration, President Kimmel is trying their best to combat all of the administrative, funding, and sometimes human rights challenges coming our way. They cannot fight this fight alone, so they request to take your position seriously and use your voice. This will be more important now than it has been in a long time. They will work as hard as possible to make sure this doesn’t happen on their watch. Feels compelled to say that trans, intersex, and binary people will always exist, no matter the policy. This GSO Body shall act as a refuge for all people.*

 *Senator Salahaldin will join the Ad Hoc Committee on Free Speech and University Policy to make sure our rights to free expression are not infringed upon.*

*Also, after speaking further with the Philosophy Department, they need no longer funding this academic year.*

***Vice President of Internal Affairs’ Report (6:32 PM)***

*VP Rosena:*

*We intend to have another Mock Senate Meeting on 2/12, likely in HBC Gifford Auditorium. This was successful last year, and we want to do it again. It allows us to meet each other in a low stakes way and get a grip on Robert’s Rules free of embarrassment.*

*We are searching for a Co-Chair for the DEI Committee. Please reach out to me or Pro Tempore if you are interested.*

*We are searching for more PAC Grant Committee Members. We are low on people (4), and it would be helpful to have more.*

*We will require new Officers for the next academic years:*

*Staff Application: General Secretary, Financial Secretary, Communications Secretary;*

*Appointment: Parliamentarian, Pro Tempore of the Senate*

*This election will occur on May 7th. Please feel free to reach out.*

*We also have the ability to host more Invited Guests to present on behalf of organizations, so if you have any ideas, please reach out to me.*

*Senator Caleb Fouts: Do we have any set PAC Committee meeting time?*

*French Senator: Do we have any Committee limit?*

 *VP Rosena: No, you can join as many as you want.*

***Director of External Affairs Report (6:45 PM)***

*Director Vinciquerra:*

 *She apologizes for the food delay; it was supposed to arrive at 5:00 pm.*

*Here are some potential upcoming events:*

* *GSO Service Night at Inn Complete for charities would allow for service opportunities, job opportunities, etc. We will keep you updated with dates.*
* *Service Project in collaboration with Climate Action Committee – allows for service back to Syracuse community.*
* *Grab and Go – Finals week event was successful last semester.*
* *Senate Appreciation Event – Looking for possible venues: Drumlins, Sheraton, maybe others.*

*Strategic GSO Outreach and Engagement:*

 *We have shortened our emails into multiple intermittent emails, instead of just one large one at a time to increase engagement. We are also recruiting for senators through departments.*

*Sign up for the Graduate Student “Day in the Life” Media Campaign through the QR code given here.*

*If you’re interested in any of our positions for next year, please reach out!*

***Comptroller’s Report (6:49 PM)***

*Comptroller Aditee Malviya:*

*We are sharing links with service providers to see how GSO Money is being spent.*

*Biotech Senator Hellman: How quick are funding turnarounds? Do departments or individuals usually front money for events before getting funding?*

 *Aditee: A few weeks. It varies, but usually students.*

*President Kimmel: The PAC Grant Program is around 54% spent of the $90,000 budget. This places us to have PAC Grant funding depleted by April or May. If necessary, we will request an increase in the budget. In October, about 70% of PAC Grants were to PhD students, in total, $15915 to 38 recipients.*

***Special Funding Request Applications (6:57 pm)***

*Geology Graduate Student Organization: $1300*

*Education Grad Council Representative:*

*Seeking funding for over a research symposium with biologists, geologists, and we are hosting a keynote speaker from Hamilton College. This event is foundational to our department.*

*Biotech Senator Hellman: Is the event open to the public?*

*Speakers: Yes, and our keynote speaker is purposefully interdisciplinary. Please come!*

*Representative leaves room for debate (7:01 PM).*

*Vote (on $1300 of funding): 27 in favor, 0 no, 1 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*Mathematics Graduate Student Organization: $3000*

*50th Annual Conference. Has a half day featuring five alumni speakers that is part of this request. About 100 participants are expected to attend. An NSF Grant is being used to help fund this, in addition with the funding being matched by $2000 by the Math Department.*

*On Friday there is the alumni event, on Saturday, a day of three meals along with two keynote speakers. Five alumni speakers and two keynote speakers, along with coffee, tea, and hotel and travel reimbursement.*

*French Senator: Are there any other ways to obtain funding?*

 *Speaker: We have a $10,000 NSF Grant for grant reimbursement, but we would ideally not like to use this grant to allow them for graduate students.*

*Philosophy Senator: How many graduate students are in your department?*

 *Speaker: There are 52 graduate students.*

*Communications Secretary: How much money has been already allocated?*

 *Speaker: $12,000 is allocated towards the event in total.*

*President Kimmel: How much money precisely is the amount being allocated by the department?*

 *Speaker: $3500 is directly coming from the department.*

*Finance Secretary: How many folks from the Graduate Student Body are planning on attending this event?*

*Speaker: Only about 10 are currently registered, about 30 are expected to come from the department. Within the Graduate Student Body, we don’t see any people from outside the department attend.*

*Mathematics Senator: A more ideal amount is how much?*

 *Speaker: $4700 would be better overall to pay all our desired costs.*

***Motion #3:*** *(Senator At-Large Prescott) Motion to add 10 minutes to Mathematics Funding Questioning and Voting period. 19 in favor, 8 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes.*

*Senator Prescott: How would the change in funding requests affect travel reimbursements?*

*Philosophy Senator: Would like to clarify that this money is being paid to other students outside of Syracuse University attending this event.*

*Mass Comm. Senator: How is funding determined for these people outside of the event?*

***Motion #4:*** *(Communications Secretary Faison) Motion to end questions and continue to debate. 19 in favor, 8 no, 0 abstain. Motion passes.*

*Philosophy Senator: What is the amount given to other departments for analogous conferences like this?*

 *VP Rosena: The maximum any organization can request is $3000.*

*Mass Comm. Senator: What happens if we move past the limit? How often are all funds used?*

 *President Kimmel: The cap is $3000 and can only be exceeded by multiplying $25 per attending student, which is $1300 total.*

***Motion #5:*** *(Mathematics Senator) Motion to increase request amount from $3000 to $4700.*

*(Tabled for later)*

***Motion #6:*** *(Pro Tempore) Motion to have five minute recess (7:38 PM). Majority votes in favor, passes.*

***Motion #7:*** *(President Kimmel) Motion to add 10 minutes to Mathematics Funding Questioning and Voting period (7:44 PM). 19 in favor, 5 no, 4 abstain. Motion passes.*

***Motion #5 (revisited):*** *(Mathematics Senator) Motion to increase request amount from $3000 to $4700.*

*Philosophy Senator: Please note that much less funding has gone towards similar events for similar organizations. Also, the money is going towards students from not within Syracuse University.*

*Biotech Senator: What is …*

*Senator Fouts: What is the opinion of the Finance Committee on this matter?*

*Vote by roll on* ***Motion #5*** *(7:57-8:03 PM):*

*1 yes, 29 no, 2 abstain. Resolution Fails.*

*Vote (on $3000 of funding): 28 in favor, 4 no, 0 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

***Old Business:*** *None*

***New Business:***

*Senator Prescott: Amendment to the fiscal policy.*

*Point of Order, President Kimmel: It would be most appropriate to reach out to the Finance Committee.*

***Announcements and Remarks for the Record*** *- VP Rosena (Chair)*

*Mass Comm. Senator: Many students in her department are of international origin. We should be working to support them in this current political climate.*

*President Kimmel: Wants to reaffirm their commitment to standing up for all students being targeted. If you have any concrete ideas to work on, please contact them.*

*VP Rosena: Come grab Disability Center flyers. Our next meeting will take place in HBC Gifford Auditorium.*

***Motion #8:*** *(Communications Secretary Faison) to adjourn meeting at 8:15 PM.*

*29 in favor, 1 opposes, 0 abstain. Motion carries.*