***7th Regular GSO Senate Meeting of 2024-2025***

***Wednesday, March 26th, 2025***

***Attendance:***

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

***Call to Order (5:57 PM) –*** *A quorum was reached of 27, and the meeting was called to order by Chair VP of Internal Affairs Rosena.*

***Motion #1:*** *(VP Rosena) Motion to accept the minutes at 5:57 PM from Sixth Regular GSO Senate Meeting on February 26th, 2025.*

*All in favor. Motion carries.*

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

***Executive Reports:***

***State of the GSO Address******(5:59 PM)***

*President Kimmel:*

*Greetings, thank you for this time and for your service. This body was founded in the wake of the civil rights movement. In our self-determination, we resolved to be self-governing free from the administration. We remain strong in this mission. This is the standard I have held these past four years. Over these past four years, I have instituted a series of reforms in order to prepare the GSO to face whatever comes next. I am glad I did, because higher education’s future is being threatened. As a result of reforms, GSO is now on track to finish, for the 2nd year in a row, GSO has not reached deficit. We have expanded the PAC Program to better serve a greater number of graduate students. A new tiered program allows for simplification and growth of this program. I instituted offices such as the Rules and Administration Committee and witnessed the impeachment of a former president. It will not be me who will lead you through this future. As the future of GSO, you must fight to keep our right to self-governance. We shall continue our fight to elect our own appointed representative to the Board of Trustees. Only a single graduate student sits on that board. We must continue to strive to earn back our representation with a seat at the table. You must keep developing the External Affairs branch, it is how we communicate with the greater graduate student body.*

***Vice President of Internal Affairs’ Report (7:01 PM)***

*VP Rosena:*

*Re-registration process has started and RGSOs have until 4/14 to complete the process. Please let your officers know to re-register, as it will affect your RGSOs ability to get funding. Please let me know if you have any questions.*

***Director of External Affairs Report (7:07 PM)***

*Director Faison:*

*March-April service opportunities include Habitat for Humanity or the Samaritan Center, and volunteering sign-ups are coming. GSO End of Semester Celebrations are also coming. A Senate Ball will be occurring on May 2nd.*

*For strategic outreach and engagement, we are working on senator recruitment through department chairs and graduate directors. The Outreach and Civic Engagement Committee meets Biweekly Wednesdays 1:30 – 2 pm.*

*Social Media Engagement has increased. Please follow our Instagram @SU\_GSO and sign up for a takeover.*

*Initiatives we have been working on are Instagram catch-up and RSO Posting guidelines. A GSO Unfiltered feedback form is being worked on.*

***Comptroller’s Report (7:15 PM)***

*Comptroller Aditee Malviya:*

*We are approaching the deadline for the Service Providers to update. The auditing and budgeting process will be occurring in April. RGSOs should re-register in the upcoming weeks by 4/14. The final Finance Committee meeting will occur on April 23rd.*

***Special Funding Request Applications (7:17 pm)***

*Biotech Graduate Student Organization ($2000)*

*Biotech Senator:*

*$800 will be allocated to a Pfizer speaker that we would like to pay for. 100 students have RSVPed for the event, and most are presenting research.*

*FinSec: How many students are grad vs undergrad?*

*Representative: About 60-70 graduate students before we opened to undergraduate students. Now we have reached 104 total students.*

*Representative leaves room for debate (6:29 PM).*

*Senator Fetterman: How much is left in the remaining funds for us to give?*

*Comptroller: About $60,000 is remaining in the RGSO funds.*

*President: They believe the number is about $50,000 for special funding. The PAC Grant and other programs may have to use this funding.*

***Motion #2:*** *(President Kimmel) Motion to increase funding $2500.*

*Debate on this motion: None.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #2****: 23 vote yes, 6 vote no, 2 abstain. Motion is approved.*

*French Senator: How many students are attending? Are they graduate students?*

*Biotech Senator is recognized: Most are students and staff, some are visiting from Upstate Hospital. 27 grads, 37 undergrads.*

*Vote (on $2500 of funding): 19 vote yes, 7 vote no, 5 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*Chi Sigma Iota Counseling Honors Society – Sigma Upsilon Chapter ($1000)*

*Representative:*

*We are requesting funding to help induct new members and fund rewards for site supervisors. This will cover snacks and printing costs. They have already received an outside funding source for the event at the Hall of Languages. There are 52 total graduate students, 6 faculty members, 1 keynote speaker.*

*Representative leaves room for debate (6:45 PM).*

*President Kimmel: This funding request comes through almost every year. They used to request for $8000 to $10000 every year, and we’ve worked with them to get them to decrease it to this level.*

*Public Administration and International Relations Association (PAIRA) ($1000)*

*Representative:*

*We are requesting funding to help fund our PAIRA Formal event. Since we do not have a dedicated event celebrating graduating students this year, we are holding this event to celebrate everyone who has been here this year. It has been more difficult because there is an event from the Chancellor that is happening on the same date and we cannot use Campus Catering. This is why we are requesting this additional amount of funding.*

***Motion #3:*** *(Senator Fetterman) Motion to increase funding to $1300.*

*Director Faison: Why $1300?*

*Senator Prescott: After hearing their introduction and following the $25 per graduate student metric, the $1300 is justified.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #3****: 13 vote yes, 5 vote no, 13 abstain. Motion is approved.*

*Vote (on $1300 of funding): 19 vote yes, 3 vote no, 10 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*President Kimmel: How many verified graduate students are signed up for the event currently? Is it only GSO funding?*

*Senator Prescott: We only need to use about*

*President of PAIRA: We have received 50 people in the preliminary interest form.*

*Biotech Senator: Can you tell us more about the event?*

*Senator Prescott: The event is at the SU Sky Barn, and it is primarily a networking event.*

*Comptroller: As per the budget sheet, is the $3000 still requested over the $1800 provided value?*

*Senator Prescott: We will need to use all of these funds.*

*FinSec: Why the extra funds?*

*Senator Prescott: After the Finance Committee presentation, we re-budgeted to provide food to attendees. There was a $500 increase to food costs and now there is a photobooth.*

*FinSec: Are you aware of the rule to use all RGSO funding before special request funding?*

*Senator Prescott: We understood that this is not a big deal, we only need to earmark funds that will be allocated over the future.*

*Byers: Is it the policy to not use event funds over the summer?*

*President Kimmel: After the Senate is out of session for the year, last opportunity is May 7th, no more appropriations can be made. This $1000 is on top of the current $1800 they have.*

*Senator Prescott: The $1800 is out of the $2000 we were given at the end of the academic year. We are hoping to increase funding to $3000 so we can use some of the $1800 of funding for other events.*

***Motion #4:*** *(Senator Fetterman) Motion to increase funding to $3000.*

*President Kimmel: In favor of funding $2000 because this sums to the total cost of the event with the $1800, which was stated to be around $3800.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #4****: 11 vote yes, 13 vote no, 4 abstain. Motion is approved.*

***Motion #5:*** *(Comptroller Malviya) Motion to increase funding to $2000.*

*Political Science Senator: I see a $1000 difference between Wegmans and Campus Catering.*

***Motion #6:*** *(Senator Byers) Motion to add 10 minutes to debate.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #6****: 19 vote yes, 5 vote no, 5 abstain. Motion is approved (7:30 PM).*

*Senator Fetterman: Funding fiscal year is much different in PAIRA than GSO. If we get this $2000 for this funding, $65 will have to last until September/October.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #5****: 16 vote yes, 12 vote no, 1 abstain. Motion is approved to increase funding.*

***Motion #7:*** *Motion to recess for 5 minutes.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #7****: 20 vote yes, 9 vote no, 1 abstain. Motion is approved (7:39 PM).*

***Motion #8:*** *(Philosophy Senator) Motion to call to question (7:45 PM).*

*Vote on* ***Motion #8****: 13 vote yes, 10 vote no, 6 abstain. Motion fails.*

***Motion #9:*** *(Pro Tempore) Motion to increase number to $2500 (7:47 PM).*

*Vote on* ***Motion #9****: 20 vote yes, 8 vote no, 1 abstain. Motion passes.*

*Vote (on $2500 of funding): 21 vote yes, 8 vote no, 2 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*School of Education Graduate Student Council ($1300)*

*Representative:*

*Requesting for funding for a one-day retreat at Salt City Market. 45 graduate students are anticipated, 0 undergrad, 3-5 faculty. $1300 total is being requested, but anticipated costs are around $1700.*

*Vote (on $1300 of funding): 31 vote yes, 0 vote no, 0 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*Upstate Emerging Museum Professional Network ($100)*

*Representative:*

*The $100 will go to the museum for reimbursement for the organization’s catering costs.*

*Vote (on $100 of funding): 32 vote yes, 0 vote no, 0 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*Iranian Student Association ($1000)*

*Representative:*

*The Iranian New Year is occurring soon for which we will hold an event. We would like to increase these monies for another holiday event as well. This is the only funding that we have for this celebration.*

***Motion #10:*** *(Senator Baggieri) Motion to increase number to $1250 (8:12 PM).*

*French Senator: Do we look at the size of the Graduate Organization or at the number of attendees?*

*President Kimmel: Historically, this is a mixed undergrad and grad body, and the undergrad half has held monies away from the grad half for this event before. They do not support increasing the amount.*

*History Senator: Is $1250 the highest amount possible we can increase to?*

*President Kimmel: Yes.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #10****: 26 vote yes, 0 vote no, 3 abstain. Motion passes.*

*Vote (on $1250 of funding): 31 vote yes, 0 vote no, 1 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

***Old Business:***

*None.*

***New Business:***

***Motion #11:*** *Motion to place discussion of SR 25.04 under Executive Session Motion Passes on April 30, 2025 with 22 Yes, 1 No, 2 Abstain*

*Executive Session ends*

*Resolution to Ratify the Declaration of Independence of the Graduate Student Organization*

*Senator Prescott: Would this affect our financial funding with the University?*

*President Kimmel: We are directly funded by the student fee*

***Motion #12:*** *(Biology Senator) Motion to consider at next meeting.*

*Vote on* ***Motion #12****: 18 vote yes, 6 vote no, 5 abstain. Motion passes.*

***Elections – University Senators, At Large University Senators (8:51 PM) -*** *VP Rosena (Chair)*

*None.*

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

*MassCom Senator: We are hosting an event called Amma’s Pride. Please come!*

*Senator Baggieri: Organizing a French Colloquium on cinema with music and snacks. Please come!*

*VP Rosena: Our last business meeting is coming up, so please prepare to get all funding requests in.*

*Director Faison: The RSVP form is coming out soon for the Senate Ball. Keep an eye out!*

***Motion #13:*** *(Director Faison) to adjourn meeting at 9:05 PM.*

*33 in favor, 3 opposes, 0 abstain. Motion carries.*