***8th Regular GSO Senate Meeting of 2024-2025***

***Wednesday, April 30th, 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 (5:45 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 5:48 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)*

***Motion #2:*** *(VP Rosena) Motion to switch Debate, Discussion, and Vote on Resolution SR25.03 in RM7 to Executive Session minutes.*

*22 yes – 1 no – 2 abstain. Motion carries.*

***Old Business:***

*R25.04 - Resolution to Ratify the Declaration of Independence of the Graduate Student Organization*

*President Pro Tempore Welna reads Resolution.*

***Motion #3:*** *(VP Rosena) Motion to read additional Amendments in Green to Resolution.*

*Tie, so Chair votes yes. Motion carries.*

*Discussion:*

***Motion #3:*** *President Kimmel calls to question to discuss the Resolution as a whole.*

*28 yes – 1 no – 0 abstain. Motion carries.*

*Senator Gentry: Under Article 2 Section 1a, should we not say “members of the University community?“*

*President Kimmel: We obtained that language from “RSO Handbook.”*

*Senator Gentry: I also propose a 6th Amendment.*

***Motion #4:***

*Motion to change verbiage in Article II.1(a) to “members of the University community.”*

*27 yes – 1 no – 0 abstain.*

***Motion #5:*** *Motion to pass the proposed 6th Amendment.*

*Vote: 27 yes – 0 no – 1 abstains. Motion passes.*

*Biology Senator: Concerned this Resolution could have a negative impact and risk the loss of financial control that we still have.*

*President Kimmel: Not saying anything may have a worse impact than this Resolution.*

*History Senator: Is there any sense for the University’s posture in acknowledging this Declaration?*

*President Kimmel: From what I understand, everyone seems open to negotiation to begin writing a charter.*

*Vote on R25.04: 28 yes – 2 no – 0 abstain. Resolution passes.*

***Motion #6:*** *(VP Rosena) – Motion to change 2 “Abstain” votes to “Yes” on SR 25.03.*

*Vote: 22 yes – 2 no – 5 abstain. Motion passes.*

*R25.05 - Resolution to Establish a Mutual Academic Defense Compact*

*Vice President Rosena reads Resolution.*

*Senator Prescott: Please support this Resolution to stand alongside and protect our fellow international students who are actively researching, teaching, and staffing this University. Every day the University sleeps on carrying out a measure like this one. Vote yes so that our rights may be defended.*

*Vote on R25.05: 30 yes – 0 no – 1 abstain. Resolution passes.*

***Executive Reports:***

*VP Rosena: I will hand off this Executive Report Session to President Pro Tempore Welna.*

*President Pro Tempore Welna: Let me invite the President.*

***President’s Report (7:07 PM)***

*President Kimmel:*

*We were recognized as the most efficient Governing Body on this campus by a fellow administrator. We have also gained the ability to appoint a representative to the Review Board – Benjamin Katz. Benjamin is a PhD in Political Science and will follow his role with diligence and in the best interest of the academic community.*

*Senator Abuhamdiya:*

*President Kimmel: Here is my list of recommendations for the future Executive Cabinet and Senate. Continue reforming external affairs through recruitment, increase brand recognition, cultivate active press relations, reimagine the fall GSO picnic and prevent overspending, broaden the breadth of the PAC Grant to include model government events. I would like to motion these recommendations to be adopted.*

***Motion #7:*** *Motion to document the recommendations from the President’s Report on April 30th*

*Vote: 29 yes – 0 no – 0 abstain. Motion passes.*

***Vice President of Internal Affairs’ Report (7:20 PM)***

*VP Rosena:*

*If there is any change in leadership between now and August, please send me an email to let me know. I will send this same message to RGSO officers. We will have spots for 5 University Senators and 5 At-Large Senators. If you know anyone who would be interested, please let them know.*

***Director of External Affairs Report (7:24 PM)***

*Director Faison:*

*Please RSVP for the GSO Senate Ball for May 2nd.*

*Strategic Outreach is still going on – we are reaching out to for potential Senators through Department Chairs and Graduate Directors. We also just re-gained access to our LinkedIn.*

*We have on-going initiatives such as the GSO Unfiltered anonymous feedback form, Graduate Student Body monthly newsletters, Senate Press Releases, and linking new social platforms.*

***Comptroller’s Report (7:15 PM)***

*Comptroller Aditee Malviya:*

*The finance committee has audited the service providers and we should know our budget soon. 16th of May is the deadline for all final application paperwork.*

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

*The African Graduate Students Network ($1300)*

*Representative:*

*Thanks to Ian for helping us with all of the correspondence we’ve had. We are having an event called the African Voices Showcase. This event will showcase excellence, build relationships, and create a stronger network. This event is open to everyone, including both SU and ESF students. We require approximately $1550 and request $1300 for catering, keynote travel, and poster printing.*

*President Kimmel: Thank you so much for the thoroughly detailed funding request presentation.*

*Representative leaves room for debate (7:41 PM).*

*Vote (on $1300 of funding): 29 yes - 0 vote no - 0 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

*PAC Grant Program Special Funding ($39,709.73)*

*General Secretary discusses why the funds are being requested.*

*Vote (on $39,709.73 of funding): 29 yes - 0 vote no - 1 abstain. Funding request is approved.*

***Old Business:***

*None.*

***New Business:***

***Elections – University Senators, At Large University Senators (8:14 PM) -*** *VP Rosena (Chair)*

*None.*

***Announcements and Remarks for the Record*** *–*

*President Kimmel: Thank you to Director Faison and Vice President Rosena for supporting the Myanmar Activist Group.*

*Vice President Rosena:*

***Motion #13:*** *(Director Faison) to adjourn meeting at 8:20 PM.*

*33 yes - 0 abstain. Motion carries.*