



GSA Senate Meeting  
April 6, 2023 @ 5pm – 7pm

Location: Baker 254

Zoom:

<https://syracuseuniversity.zoom.us/j/92966471078?pwd=KzNINGJmZ21uT0YzV3BHajJVQzBCdz09>

Meeting ID: 929 6647 1078

Passcode: 318165

## Agenda

1. Welcome - Emme
2. Roll Call - Makayla
  - a. Apologies & Proxies
  - b. Quorum
3. Previous Minutes – Makayla
  - a. Approved
    - i. Motion to Approve; Jack M.; Seconded: Mike R.
4. Recap/Old Business
  - a. CNY Conference on Environmental Science & Studies – Emme
    - i. Tomorrow in Gateway, registration starts at 12 – plenary starts at 1pm. Runs to 5pm followed by Welcome Reception at Salt City Market at 7pm
    - ii. Everything is in place. All ordered products have arrived, volunteers have been prepped/
  - b. Spotlight on Student Research – Emme
    - i. Takes place 4/11. Registration starts at 9m, ends at 12pm.
    - ii. Poster contest for graduate student presenters.
  - c. Communications Resolution (Emme) Feedback – Emme
    - i. Submitted to relevant offices: Graduate School, Academic Admin, CFO, upper faculty and admin.
    - ii. Positive feedback so far – everyone agrees there is a need for radical changes in communications.
    - iii. No discussion yet on practical steps to enact resolution.
  - d. Town Hall – Mike R.
    - i. Mike has been coordinating to Admin Asst Sue Evans
    - ii. Tentative date – May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30-1:00pm in Gateway
    - iii. Catering through Trailhead.
    - iv. Funding through External Affairs committee.
    - v. Mike will have more information at April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting
    - vi. Town Hall will be more of an open discussion opportunity with provost rather than strictly a GSA event.
5. New Business
  - a. RA Union – Leah/Jack
    - i. Submitted letter of intent to Pres. Mahoney that Ra union be voluntary recognized by the campus as the official bargaining unit for research assistants with alternative to be going through a vote.

- ii. David H. - Almost all of the RA's that have been identified and contacted have signed their cards which does constitute a vote. Voting will otherwise need to be conducted by the Board of Labor Relations in May. Hope is that GSA can provide some form of statement of recognition or similar show of support.
  - 1. Goal for GSA, RAU, and GSEU to work collaboratively to promote the union's desired changes.
- iii. RA Union will be part of same larger union organization as GSEU.
- iv. Q: If GSA supports this, what are the issues that the union wants to address?
  - 1. Try to eliminate student fees
  - 2. Increase the floor of base pay.
  - 3. Consistent health insurance coverage
- v. Q: will changes in pay be feasible, won't this impact professors by requiring them to apply for more grant money?
  - 1. No, RAs are paid through the RF who manage funds from the state and pay RAs directly. The professors would not need to apply for more grant funding.
- vi. Q: To what extent are Provost and Dean of Grad School included in the conversation?
  - 1. None Submission of letter of intent is the invitation for them to contribute to the conversation.
  - 2. Most resistance expected from RF rather than school administration
- vii. Q: What does equal treatment of GA's and RA's refer to.
  - 1. Equal processing and handling of GA and RA appointments and benefits. Process will be made seamless on the back end.
- viii. If Admin does not do voluntary recognition: Mike volunteers to make introduction to GSA on behalf of RAU and pitch to have representatives come to persuade GSO to endorse the union.
  - 1. Meeting at April 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in Lyman Hall.
  - 2. Mike will make introductory message with Jack and Leah cc'ed after meeting to GSA.
- ix. Motion for GSA to endorse the RA Union – Motion by Mike, second by Jack.
  - 1. Motion to Approve by Unanimous consent – Motion by Mike, no contest.
  - 2. Approved
- b. Committee Updates – All
  - i. Research – Emme
  - ii. GSO:
    - 1. Still waiting to hear from Dean luzadis on state of SU and Esf relationship
    - 2. Financial secretary says ESF graduate students have access to SU graduate school funded events, legal services, and libraries are confirmed.
      - a. Services provided by GSO is topic still under discussion but will likely not be settled this school year
  - iii. Diversity:
    - 1. Will be meeting with MOSA members to discuss establishment of committee to address accessibility on campus
  - iv. Social Activities

1. Want to plan a wine tour. Only weekends available are next two weekends. Is currently still planning that. If not possible, alternative will be a TG.
  2. Graduation party picnic in May
- v. Grants and Awards
1. Special awards are coming up.
  2. Annie will be sending the reports and full summary of grants next week and will upload them to Google Drive.
- vi. Ad hoc class technology
1. Looking to reassess all classrooms on campus with aims to upgrade the technology that's there. Technology development is traditionally heavily influenced by faculty.
  2. Seeking people for this committee. Interested parties should email Emme or Shumaila.
  3. Will be inviting MOSA to this committee.
  4. Shumaila will be sending a recruitment email to students.
- vii. Parking
1. UPD wants to redo parking policies
- c. Elections – Shu
- i. Proposal for changing the time allotment for nomination period and voting period.
  - ii. Will introduce new titles from proposed GSA structure in the nomination process.
  - iii. Proposed Schedule:
    1. Week of April 9<sup>th</sup>: Release vote for approval of changing bylaws
    2. April 13<sup>th</sup> – April 25<sup>th</sup>: Call for nominations
    3. April 27<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup> : Election period
    4. May 4<sup>th</sup>: Official announcement new officers and turnover
    5. Newly elected External VP and President at BOT meeting on May 12th.
  - iv. Motion to have vote on bylaws take place during emergency meeting next week 4/13.
    1. Motion by Mike – Second by Jordan J.
    2. Approved
- d. GSA Publication Mugs – Emme
- i. Shift to gift for graduating students who have published at any given time during their time at ESF.
  - ii. Emme will send an email to graduating graduate students to submit an abstract and doi of paper they want printed on their mug.
  - iii. Can be presented either at the special awards ceremony or at the Higher Degree Ceremony.
- e. Benefits of Student Leaders - Emme
- i. Upcoming meeting with SSE, MOSA & Graduate School
    1. Meeting next week to discuss what support for the initiative from admin would look like.
  - ii. GSA Restructuring
    1. Issues:
      - a. Current structure is “top-heavy”
      - b. Never fully staffed
    2. Current Structure

- a. This year SGA proposed vision to be the foremost organization at SUNY-ESF that represents graduate student interest.
  - b. Introduced 7 missions focusing on improving relationships between student body and key administration.
  - c. 24 roles, some replaced. Point of contact for graduate students and regularly meets with President Provost, Graduate Dean, and other admin. Senators sit on several campus committees:
    - i. Academic governance
      - 1. Only 2 senators represent GSA on all 4
    - ii. Graduate Dean's Advisory Council
    - iii. Departmental committees
    - iv. Committees of IDE
    - v. Orientation
    - vi. Ad hoc committees that require student engagement
3. Current challenges
- a. Student engagement is low
    - i. AY 22-23 ended with 12 member senate
      - 1. Variable levels of participation
      - 2. One senator removed
      - 3. Six resignations
      - 4. 4 senate members in their final semester
  - b. Bylaws bulky and difficult to navigate
4. Overcoming challenges:
- a. Restructure GSA to improve organization efficacy
  - b. Increase senator stipend
    - i. Advocate for more benefits matching by esf admin
      - 1. Removal of fees for senators.
  - c. Introduce leadership and management trainings for Executive cabinet
  - d. Develop standard operating procedures to govern the GSA's operations
  - e. Revise bylaws to standardize procedures for positions
  - f. Proposed organization structure:
    - i. Top Layer: President
      - 1. President will now also serve on MOSA's E-board
    - ii. Secondary Layer: Director of Internal Affairs (Committees), Director of External Affairs (GSO, Dept. Reps), Chief Communications Officer, Chief Financial Officer.
      - 1. Director of Int Affairs:
        - a. Will serve as proxy of president when absent at GSA meetings
        - b. Will oversee the committees
      - 2. Director of External Affairs:
        - a. Will oversee the department reps and the GSO representatives.
    - iii. Five committee chairpersons will be replacing the VP's

1. Roles of VP of IDE and VP of International Affairs will be merged under the Chairperson of Inclusion, Equity, and International Affairs.
        - a. Will now be GSA representative to OIDE and OIE
        - b. Ensure GSA actions and programming reflect interests of both sects.
      2. VP of Research and VP of Curriculum merged under Chairperson for Graduate Research and Curriculum.
    - g. Proposed Stipend Scale
      - i. Pres: 300 -> 900
      - ii. Secretary/ Director of External Relations, Director of Internal Affairs: 300 -> 700
      - iii. Chief Community Officer: 300 -> 500
      - iv. Committee Chairs: 300 -> 400
      - v. Treasurer/CFO: 300 -> 400
      - vi. Dept Reps: 150 -> 250
      - vii. General Reps: 150 -> 200
      - viii. Total: 5550 (13.8% of total budget) -> 8050 (17.7% of total budget)
    - f. VP reports are due on May 4<sup>th</sup>
    - g. Emme will ask questions about graduate student transportation services during the summer.
  6. Date of next meeting
    - a. April 20, 2023
    - b. Final Meeting May 4
  7. Adjourn