The Constitutional Committee has met twice to date, and plans to again before the Assembly meeting of 7-December. The Committee has six members at this time, has established a four-person quorum, and has determined that tie votes will be remanded to further discussion. The Committee has also decided that its agendas, minutes, and proposed amendments should be available to the public. We have requested the Executive Board facilitate this via the GSO website.

The Committee has spent much time deliberating on the role of the Constitution, Bylaws, and other documents relating to both each other and the actual operation of the GSO. The consensus of the committee is that a Constitution’s primary purpose is to be an abstract set of principles, responsibilities, and processes that are the core of the organization; as such, a good Constitution should contain little nuanced procedure and little reason to ever need amendment. Bylaws serve to complement the Constitution by detailing essential procedure of organizational operation. The committee agrees that the current documents do not comport with this, but can be made to do so. The committee also notes that thorough restructuring may also enable the GSO to eliminate the financial guidelines as a separate entity, as well as codify committee rules so the Assembly may rely on their consistency year-to-year.

The Committee recommends the Assembly consider two changes which it believes would have helped protect the GSO from events such as what happened last year, and perhaps implement them in the near future. Foremost is to require that motions of a not time-sensitive nature be submitted a week in advance and posted as reports, so they can be given due consideration. The second is to require an additional signatory (besides the President and Treasurer) on expenses, with that signatory depending on the nature of the expense, so as to better assure our financial accountability and security.

Finally, the Committee believes the appointment of a Judicial Board is of the utmost importance and should be conducted immediately, pursuant to the recommendations and rules of the Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary A. Roth,
Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee