GSA Assembly Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2021

The meeting began at 5:01pm and started with RGSO attendance.

Since this was an emergency/special Assembly Meeting that was called, there was only one agenda item to discuss and vote on. The motion to be discussed was the resolution concerning the elimination of graduate employee fees.

Discussion on this motion included:
- The Chair of the Wages and Benefits Committee introduced the resolution and provided background by briefly going over each of the points contained within the resolution.
- A discussion then took place, in which the following questions and answers were stated:
  - Q1: Language in the second to last resolved clause seems off and perhaps it should state “for the amelioration” rather than “and for the amelioration”.
  - A1: This will be fixed in the final version.
  - Q2: Are the stipends received at the university similar to wages outside the university, for example, a minimum wage worker?
  - A2: This is hard to say since each graduate employee is paid slightly differently. In addition, not entirely sure how graduate employee wages are calculated. This is an important issue since stipends are well below the living wage, not necessarily the poverty level, but this resolution is more in terms of fees than wages. Perhaps wages can be addressed in future work.
    - A subtopic within this conversation was how international students pay a fee every semester that is really only needed during their first semester. This is also something that should be worked on.
  - Q3: There should be a final resolved clause that states that after passage of this resolution, it will be sent to several university administration, such as the President, Provost, etc.
  - A4: This will be fixed in the final version.
  - Q4: Are SUNY Research Foundation students considered employees since they are ineligible to be GSEU members? This should be cleared up in the resolution.
  - A4: Even though they are ineligible to be in GSEU, they are still employees paying fees. It will be cleared up in the revised version that Research Assistants equates to those working for the SUNY Research Foundation.

Vote results:

Yes: 12  No: 0  Abstain: 1

Therefore, the motion on the approval of this resolution has passed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.