

**Meeting Minutes for the
Geology Graduate Student Association
4/15/21**

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meredith called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.
2. Attendance
 - a. Meredith Cole, A. Croft, Erin Schuster, Josh Charlton, Juliana Conlon, Devon Gorbey, Kurt Lindberg, William Russo, Kevin Griswold, and Brandon Keim.
3. First Meeting Remarks
 - a. Meredith welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. Old Business
 - a. Union:
 - i. The union is currently working on getting a graduate student representative on the multiple health and safety committees as a graduate student representative must be allowed. If they aren't allowed, it is grounds for legal action.
 - ii. The GSEU professional development fund is currently accepting applications for the July 2021- June 2022 term. This money can be used for conferences, seminars, or any kind of professional development. Contact Erin (ebschust@buffalo.edu) for links.
 - iii. A sit in is going to occur either on campus or at the President's house on Friday, April 30th. Participants will do work together in protest of the graduate student employee fees.
 - iv. The union has also successfully fought to unfreeze the previously frozen 2%. If you're eligible, you will be getting 6+ months of backpay as a slight increase in paychecks for the rest of the semester.
 - b. Living Stipend Movement: the boycott has been called off due to lack of response from the university. The NYS legislature didn't pass the measure to include the grad student employee fees this year. Even if it does get passed, they're still working on getting it passed at the university level.
 - c. GSA:
 - i. There are AMC movie tickets, \$5 Tim Hortons gift cards, and \$10 Chipotle gift cards available in the ticket office.
 - ii. The last GSA meeting discussed the opt-in gym membership fee. Previously grad students hadn't had to pay to access the campus recreational facilities, but starting next year (2021-2022) it will be opt-in. The cost is \$26 and GSA is working on getting that removed again but the best case scenario is the opt-in fee next year and then not having to pay the year after. Talk to Erin or Kevin if you don't think you should pay.

- iii. May 17th is the deadline for June conference funding applications, please apply because there's still lots of money there!
 - iv. The Mark Diamond research fund is also accepting applications until May 21st. This funding is for the July 1st 2021-June 30th 2022 period Make sure your applications are fully completed before submitting them; you can send a draft before May 3rd for review.
 - v. If we want to use the money in our budget we have until June 1st to request it and until July 15th to spend it. There's about \$1300 left and roughly \$400 rolls over to next year. Maybe we could do some summer activities?
 - d. Faculty: the faculty are allowing the grads and undergrads to nominate 2-3 potential pegrum speakers for next year. Names suggested at the meeting include: Ben Kopee a hydrologist, Karen Alley, a glaciologist, Adriene Lam, a paleoceanographer, and Jacob Lowenstein, part of the Volcano Disasters Program.
 - e. BAPG: the poster session is in dire need of participants. They would like to engage with students this semester. The posters can be about new research, old research, anything. It will probably be in the same format as last year, so a poster with a recording. Email Rick Watt (Rick.Watt@wsp.com) with a 1 paragraph description/abstract by April 27th.
5. Committees
- a. Activities:
 - i. Are we still willing to do supplies for more craft nights? We could do generic or wait and get more input from people. Going to ask at next craft night.
 - ii. No one has heard anything about the trivia night, Josh is going to reach out to see what's up with that. The mentorship meeting went well and there was a wide swath of interest and experience. We may try to do it again another semester.
 - iii. The Murder Mystery Night is still planned to be rescheduled for April 23rd at 6:30 pm. An email with the sign-up sheet will be sent after this meeting. If you signed up last time, your role hasn't been changed. The plan is to use Kumospace as a "bar" and have the proximity chat on.
 - iv. Think of ideas for using up the funds in the budget! We could purchase more items to use long-term like craft supplies or equipment, or we could try and do a camping trip this summer. Email Meredith (macole2@buffalo.edu) with any suggestions.
 - b. SWAG: No updates
 - c. Outreach: No updates

Respectfully Submitted,

Juliana Conlon
GGSA Secretary