

**Minutes for the
Geology Graduate Student Association
8-12-2020**

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Erin Schuster, current acting club vice president, called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm over Zoom
2. Attendance: Erin Schuster, Meredith Cole, Josh Charlton, Jules Conlon, A. Croft, Travis Parsons, Fiona Ellsworth, Anastasiia Rashchupkina, Bailey Valint, Kevin Griswold, Kurt Lindberg, Isabelle Li
3. First meeting remarks: Erin welcomed everyone to the meeting and went over our activities and mission as a club.
 - a. University and GSA guidelines mean we will not meet in person this year. As a departmental club, we will meet for club business, but club members are also interested in social meetings.
4. New Student Orientation
 - a. Health insurance waiver: UB automatically charges you for health insurance, but there is no need to pay this if you already have insurance (not including emergency only insurance). You will need proof of insurance for most insurance (TA and RA insurance has paperwork!). Watch your email for more information.
 - b. NY residency
 - i. If you are a TA or RA, required to change residency ASAP for tuition purposes. You will need proof of address starting soon- August and September. See the link below for more information.
 - ii. <http://www.buffalo.edu/studentaccounts/nys-residency/ta-ga-ra-fellow.html>
 - c. GSA has funds and services available to all grad students, including conference funding, research funding via the Mark Diamond Research Fund, and publication funding. They also sponsor activities and workshops. See attached information page about the GSA.
 - d. Student Employee Union: Represents all graduate student employees, and is responsible for negotiating salary and fees. Please consider signing a Union card (dues are a small portion of your paycheck, but worth it).
 - i. Consider attending SEU meetings- email Erin at eschust@buffalo.edu for more information!
 - ii. Living Stipend Movement: related to SEU, this movement is a separate organization of grad students, faculty etc., with a main goal of ensuring fair pay for all graduate employees. Stipends were adjusted for PhD students to \$20,000 for all students last year, but there is still progress to be made. They are also campaigning for better/safer conditions during the pandemic, and standing up for the rights of international students.

5. New Business:
- a. Safety Concerns: Croft brought up safety for TAs, RAs, students: if anyone has any issues, can bring them up now or to officers through email.
 - i. Kevin brought up accountability with masking and social distancing- what can you do if someone is not following university policy? Isabelle shared the information that you should contact university police, who if needed will escort the individual off campus
 - 1. See <https://www.buffalo.edu/studentlife/who-we-are/departments/conduct/coronavirus-student-compliance-policy.html>.
 - 2. Erin shared that as TAs, you have the ability to kick people out of the classroom if they are not complying with mask rules or are otherwise a problem.
 - 3. To call campus police, dial (716) 645-2222 (NOT 911)
 - b. Emails from the front office: everyone in administration is very busy right now, so when reading emails make sure to read them fully, before replying or asking questions!
 - c. Merchandise distribution: Erin currently has all the merchandise- how to distribute? How to sell extras?
 - i. We will distribute by appointment from someone's office, primarily. Some small things may be deliverable to department mailboxes. Erin will begin to organize this.
 - ii. Calendar: Should we do another photo contest? We need to start early, but last years was really cool.
 - 1. The club is in favor of another calendar and photo contest.
6. Erin then started the election process. She first stated the positions we will be electing including E-board positions and senate positions, and gave an overview of said positions before members were asked for nominations.
- a. Josh suggested that we nominate at this meeting and then vote next meeting.
 - b. At minimum we need to nominate a senator, 2 alternates, president and treasurer.
 - c. Officer and Representative Nominations:
 - i. Meredith Cole was nominated as President
 - ii. Josh was nominated as Vice President
 - iii. Erin and Jules were nominated as Secretary
 - iv. Brandon Keim was nominated as Treasurer
 - v. Kevin Griswold was nominated as GSA Senator
 - vi. Isabelle was nominated as Alternate Senator
 - d. Nominations for these (and remaining positions) will remain open through our next meeting.
 - e. Remaining positions including webmaster, BAPG representative, and committee chairs will be determined at the next meeting

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Cole
GGSA Secretary

New Graduate Student Orientation

Department GSA organization vs. Graduate Student Association

Department GSA organizations are a branch of the Graduate student Association (GSA). They are allotted money based on size of the program and receive money from the Graduate Student Association budget, derived from student activity fees.

Funding Opportunities - All of these funding opportunities have deadlines; be aware of these deadlines and plan ahead. Deadlines can be found on the GSA website.

Outside of the money your departmental organization is allotted from the GSA, there are additional funding opportunities available to all graduate students, clubs, and departments. These funds include:

Funding Opportunities for the 2020-2021 academic year may be limited due to COVID-19 complications and compliance with University regulations.

1. Conference Funding
 - i. For Presenting*

1. Master's - \$350

2. PhD - \$550

- ii. For Attending*- \$200 regardless of program

*Note that the maximum amount to receive for any individual student throughout their graduate career is \$350 for Master's or \$550 for PhD.

2. Mark Diamond Research Fund (MDRF) – Get money to complete thesis or dissertation research:
 - i. Master's - \$1,500

- ii. MFA - \$2,000

- iii. PhD - \$3,000

- iv. \$4,500 lifetime maximum

3. Scholarly Publication

- i. Up to \$1,500 to fund the creation of a journal or other publication.

- d. Symposia Funding

- i. Up to \$1,400 to hold event to highlight graduate student work – including poster sessions and invitation of speakers.

5. Special Activities Funding

- i. Up to \$1,200 to plan and sponsor any event that interests and serves to benefit a large and diverse graduate student population.
 - ii. Any individual or group is eligible to submit a proposal to the GSA.
- 6. Interdepartmental Activities Funding
 - i. Up to \$750 to promote interdepartmental social and academic activities.
 - ii. Any group of two or more departmental clubs is eligible to submit a proposal to the GSA.
- 7. Community Outreach Funding

3. Events

- i. Any club is eligible to organize a community service project, most often with a non-profit organization, consisting of at least five (5) graduate students from their department and 40 hours of total volunteer service.
- ii. Upon completion of the project, the club will have its budget for that year increased by \$250.

The GSA hosts monthly events. These events are either free, or available at a significantly reduced price. Event offerings for the 2020-2021 academic year may be limited due to COVID-19 complications and compliance with University regulations. However, these events typically include, but are not limited to:

- 1. Java Junction – Free Coffee and doughnuts for graduate students at the GSA office (310 Student Union) – first Friday of every month.
- 2. Sports Games – Sabres, Bills, Bisons, Bandits
- 3. Miscellaneous activities – Zoo tickets, Canalside ice skating tickets, AMC movie tickets, Boat Cruise, Wine/Beer Tastings, Shakespeare in Delaware Park, Darien Lake tickets, Musicals and Concerts.
- 4. Distinguished Speaker Series- free tickets at the UB Ticket Office (221 Student Union)

4. *Editorial Assistance Service*

The GSA offers free editorial services to all graduate students **who pay the mandatory student fee.**

- 1. Offered Services
 - i. Copyediting for graduate student projects
 - ii. theses/dissertations; articles for publication
 - iii. Timelines: ~2-3 weeks for completion – PLAN AHEAD
 - iv. Contact office or see website for questions related to this service

5. *Contacts and information resources*

- 1. Website – <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/gsa/>
- 2. Phone – 716-645-2960
- 3. Fax – 716-645-7333

4. *Email*

i. *Directors of Operations*

1. Gena Zimmerman – gmz@buffalo.edu
2. Stephanie George – slfrank@buffalo.edu

ii. *Executive Board*

1. J. Coley, President – gsa-president@buffalo.edu
2. Connor Walters, Vice President – gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu
3. Joshua Joseph, Treasurer – gsa-treasurer@buffalo.edu

iii. *Programming Coordinator* – gsa-programming@buffalo.edu

iv. *Editorial Assistance* – gsa-editorial@buffalo.edu

v. *Mark Diamond Research Fund* – gsa-mdrf@buffalo.edu