

**Minutes for the
Geology Graduate Student Association
9-9-2021**

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Meredith Cole, current acting club president, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm over Zoom
2. Attendance: Erin Schuster, Meredith Cole, Caleb Walcott, Karlee Prince, Kurt Lindberg, Travis Parsons, Devon Gorbey, Brandon Keim, Phillip Conrad, Isabelle Li, Albert Kyambikwa
3. First meeting remarks: Meredith welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. New Student Orientation:
 - a. Graduate Student Employee Union: representative visit from Lawrence Mullen lawrence.l.mullen@gmail.com , sign card at <https://cwa1104gseu.com/become-gseu-member> to become a union member
 - i. Union membership takes 2% of your paycheck, about \$4-5
 - ii. Provide representation, contract negotiation (including health insurance, raises, fee waivers)
 - iii. Becoming a member entitles you to vote on the TA contract you sign, which is being re-negotiated in the next year.
 - iv. Current goals include statewide fee abolition, \$20k stipend for all graduate students, paid maternity leave
 1. Current GSEU club organizer is Erin Schuster- you can also email Erin at eschust@buffalo.edu for more information!
 - b. GSA Services
 - i. Funding opportunities: Mark Diamond Research Fund, Conference Funding, funding for publications
 - ii. Resources: editing services, events and activities
 - iii. See the attached new student orientation from the GSA for the full list of resources and GSA contact information
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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>
5. Elections:

- a. Meredith explained the election process and the positions to be nominated for UBLinked Election, including President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, GSA Board Member and GSA Alternate Board Member. Nominations were accepted for these elected positions:
 - i. Officer and Representative Nominations:
 1. No one was nominated as President
 2. Kurt Lindberg was nominated as Vice President
 3. Caleb Walcott was nominated as Secretary
 4. Erin Schuster was nominated as Treasurer
 5. Kevin Griswold was nominated as GSA Board Member
 6. Meredith Cole was nominated as Alternate Senator
 - ii. Nominations will continue through an online sign-up until we are able to nominate a candidate for all required positions.
- b. Club members were nominated for remaining positions including BAPG representative (Isabelle Li), student faculty liaison (Devon Gorbey), green initiative liaison (Karlee Prince), diversity committee liaison (Caleb Walcott), grievance pool officer (Caleb Walcott), activities committee lead (Meredith Cole), outreach committee lead (Caleb Walcott & Travis Parsons), and swag committee lead (Erin Schuster).
 - i. The club unanimously approved these nominations.
- c. We will hold elections online through UB Linked. Watch your email for further instructions!
- d. Elected Officers should complete the training and quiz at <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/gsa/clubs/mandatory-officer-training-information/> by September 30th.

6. New Business:

- a. GSA Board Meeting:
 - i. Mark Diamond Fall Deadline: Sept 17th
 1. MDRF Review Board call for participants
 - ii. Conference Funding and Deadlines: review GSA website for up-to-date deadlines
 - iii. In-person Event Planning and Requirements
 1. Waivers and scanning in participants through an app, using UBLinked
 2. Must be approved 2 weeks in advance
 - iv. Mandatory Officer Training: see information here: <https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/gsa/clubs/mandatory-officer-training-information/> , complete by Sept 30th
 - v. GSA Sponsored Events:
 1. Fall Fest at Blecker Farms, Oct. 3rd, \$10/person
 2. Distinguished Speaker Series presents Winston Duke, Oct 13th
- b. Club in-person events:
 - i. Meetings?

1. Logistically complicated, but possible. We need to clarify a few of the regulations before making the decision, but for now will continue to meet over zoom. We may switch later in the semester.
 2. Meeting time may change, watch for doodle poll.
- ii. Winter Party?
 1. Also logistically complicated, and the size of the event might contradict some of the rules we have to follow.
 2. If we want to/are able to have Winter Party, we will need to start planning soon, due to the amount of planning required.
- c. Penn Dixie: Oct 4th, 10a-4p, do we want to resume our tradition of volunteering here this year?
 - i. The club plans to participate, Travis and Caleb will help organize a sign-up sheet and get in contact with the Penn Dixie organizers.
- d. Gear Library opening soon! Watch email for more information.
- e. Photo Submission: send Barb a recent professional headshot-type photo if you haven't already!
- f. Check out the paper here: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41561-021-00799-w> about the “unwritten rules” of graduate school

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Cole
Acting GGSA President