

**Minutes for the
Geology Graduate Student Association
10-22-2019**

1. Call to Order:
 - a. Pat Bobbitt, president, called the meeting to order at 2:11 pm in Cooke 435.
2. Attendance: A. Croft, Joe Tulenko, Caleb Walcott. Antonio Lang, Pat Bobbitt, Jewels Conlon, Meredith Cole, Chris Sbarra, Devon Gorby, Celia Trunz, Josh Charlton, Sam Rodgers, Erin Schuster, Antonio Lang
3. First meeting remarks: Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting.
4. Old Business:
 - a. Winter Party:
 - i. GSA said we need them to give Pearl Street a purchase order for the full amount (to be paid later) rather than a deposit
 - ii. We need to vote to encumber a new amount (the full amount): \$4000.00
 1. Unanimously approved
 2. We will send the Pearl Street contract to Stephanie at the GSA and file the encumbrance form online to get the purchase order started
 - iii. E-board and Winter Part committee representative/s will discuss band expenses, additional funding due to Dr. Mitchell's retirement, and other Winter Party details with office staff and the department,
 1. Update coming soon!
 - iv. We need to talk to the undergrad club about their involvement and contributions, how much they would like to be involved
 - v. Raffle donations: think about personal donations or contacts for possible raffle items
 - b. Swag Committee:
 - i. Planning on a presale before Winter Party, then a post-sale of swag items at the party (plus raffle bundle)
 - ii. Currently planning to order items with 4imprint
 1. Items and prices have been compiled into an excel sheet, see excel sheet for all possible items
 - c. Activity committee
 - i. Apple picking went well! Thanks to those who participated!
 - ii. Frightworld Haunted House has a discounted rate for UB clubs
 1. Sign-ups have been sent out for this Sunday, for those who would like to go with the club!
 2. See email for more details.
 - d. Union Update:
 - i. PhD excellence initiative has now been funded for 2 years because of faculty input
 - ii. Living Stipend Update: hired an independent analyst to go over UB financials, works from public records, UB's report is the least transparent report that the analyst has seen, and financial overview for 2017-2018 does not exist (faculty requested it and were denied).

1. Demand transparency from UB, release public financial documents
2. Union/campaign encourages sending letters to trustees of SUNY to put pressure on university officials to release financial documents
3. Ask faculty (through a letter from the union) to also put pressure on the university officials to release the document
4. Release of 2017-2018 financial report is the main goal, toward the eventual goal of transparency and shared governance
- iii. Communication Workers of America Union (Union that GSEU belongs to) has heard and passed the first step of approval the proposed waiver of student fees for TAs, Gas, RAs.
 1. Funding for this should come from the state level (Tax bills currently being considered in state government would generate tax revenue to fund this).
- iv. Please wait to sign new PhD Excellence initiative contracts, if you receive them, until the union lawyer can review the contract. Should take a few days at most.
- v. Solidarity Thursdays: If you are a union member and would like to participate in Solidarity Thursdays, you can get a free pin or shirt to wear on Thursdays to increase Union visibility. If you'd like a pin or shirt, let Erin know!
- e. Tutorials Committee: Please fill out the Doodle Poll to help chose a day and time for Brown Bag Lunches.
 - i. If you are willing to present your research at a Brown Bag Lunch, please email Meredith at macole2@buffalo.edu

5. New Business:

- a. Group chat on Groupme:
 - i. Just need an email address to join- good for coordinating events and communication in the department.
 - ii. Join through the QR code, up on flyers around the department.
- b. GSA scholarships:
 - i. The club can give up to \$200/person grants for research or travel out of club funds and/or fundraised money
 - ii. We could try to set up a grant system, require a 500-word abstract and budget justification, in addition to a budget. This could be sent to faculty for review, so that everyone in the club can participate
 1. Devon will ask at the faculty meeting whether faculty would be ok with reviewing grant applications.
- c. Photo contest:
 - i. Email address has been set up to submit photos, an email about this will go out soon!
 - ii. Submissions will be open for two weeks, then posting and voting will occur!
- d. Outreach event:
 - i. Nov. 14th at Eggert Elementary, 6-8pm, Science Night!
 - ii. Sign-ups will go out soon, need 3-4 volunteers minimum

- e. BAPG meeting: Dr. Bursik gave a talk at the last meeting
 - i. Good for networking, consider attending meetings!
 - ii. Ellicottville Central high school teacher spoke to Sam at the meeting about a possible outreach opportunity,
 - 1. Caleb will follow up on this for the outreach committee
- f. Social hour at 5 on Friday!
- 6. Our next meeting will be on November 5th, at 2pm in Cooke 435. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Cole
GGSA Secretary