

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

President:	J. Coley	Programming:	C. Doxbeck
Vice President:	C. Walters	Dir. of Operations:	S. George
Treasurer:	J. Joseph	Editorial Assistance:	S. Schichtel-Greenwood
		MDRF:	

Senators:

Departmental:

Anthropology:	H. Angelini	Information Sciences:	D. Cozad
Architecture:	C. Vona	ISE:	D. Thiya/ K. Suresh/ P. Agarwal
Art:	L. Goldblatt	LAI:	W. Dai
Audiology:	A. Vilnyanskiy	Linguistics:	absent
Biochemistry:	S. Rosenblum	Management:	absent
Biological Sciences:	S. Sojka/ H. Waterman	Materials Design & In:	C. Chang
Biomedical Eng:	A. Pandey/ K. Bavanasi	Mathematics:	M. Schilder
Biostatistics:	H. Wang	MAE:	P.P. Veghela
Biotechnology:	absent	Media Study:	M. Chernoff
Cancer Sciences- RPC	M. Fitzgerald	Microbiology:	A. Stovall
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	D. Choudhury/ P. Mehrotra	Music:	absent
Chemistry:	N. Hazel/ A. Snyder	Neuroscience:	K. Woodhouse
CSEE:	H. Carrion/ A. Sarreshtehdari/ S. Gopagani	Nursing:	L. Underwood
Classics:	G. Harvey	Occupational Therapy	absent
Communication:	T. Lattimer	Oral Biology:	N. Anselmi
Comm. Health & H.B.	A. Carter	Pathology & Anatomy:	B. Santo
Comparative Lit:	absent	Pharmaceutics:	S. Wu
CSE:	S. Bhat	Pharm. & Tox:	A. McKenery
CSEP:	K. Oladele	Philosophy:	Y. Xia
Economics:	Z. Juliev/ S. Bhattacharjee	Physical Therapy:	R. Heim/ D. Lanzillotta
ELP:	G. Davis/ A. Cannon-Zelasko (absent- 2/3)	Physics:	M. Morris (absent-1/2-RC)
EE:	A. McManus	Political Science:	O. Guney
English:	S. Mehri/ L. Mullen	Psychology:	N. Katzman/ N. Ramer
EEH:	S. Frndak	RLL:	M. Skrzypczyk
ENS:	M. Worley	Social Work:	J. Mencia/ L. Ingraham
GGB:	absent	Sociology:	D. Bagnall
Geography:	J. Swiezy	Speech:	absent
Geology:	E. Schuster	Theatre & Dance:	N. Kwon
Global Gender St:	absent	Transnational Studies	absent
History:	E. Deutsch	Urban Planning:	N. Hill

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	T. Islam	Latin American:	L. Segura
CSSA:	H. Li	Middle Eastern:	absent
Hellenic:	absent	Taiwanese:	absent
Indian:	P. Kumari	Turkish:	absent
Iranian:	absent		

Special Interest Clubs:

Computational Sci: absent  
Graduate Poetics: T. Sharp  
Grad Students of Color absent  
GIGS: X. Chen

LGBTQ+:  
MD/PhD:  
UB-EERI:

M. Redington  
absent  
R. Raman

Guests:

J. Lippes                      Legal Counsel  
B. Cooper                     UBIT  
D. Tuorto                      UBIT

1. Vice President Connor Walters calls the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. They give a brief introduction to the procedure for remote board meetings – motions are made by text chat and voted on using Zoom’s polling function.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - Motion to approve the minutes from the April 1 and April 17, 2020 Board Meetings
    - Motion: History
    - Second: Biological Sciences
    - In Favor: 62; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes
3. Announcements
  - The GSA offices are closed, with all staff working remotely until further notice. In-person events are prohibited, but clubs are still encouraged to use funding for research, conferences, or virtual events that benefit all students.
  - Members of the GSA staff briefly introduce themselves and the services they represent.
  - The Board Meeting Schedule for this year is part of the packet that was emailed to all attendees.
  - Mandatory board member training information has been sent to board members, along with instructions. This information is also on the GSA website. Certificates of completion should be submitted to Director of Operations Gena Zimmerman at [gmz@buffalo.edu](mailto:gmz@buffalo.edu). The October meeting will feature a Q&A on training led by GSA legal counsel.
  - GSA programming for September is reviewed.
    - September 21st- Free \$5 Tim Hortons gift cards available
      - 1 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union. Mailing is available for a small fee.
    - September 28th- Discount Hatchet & Hops Voucher available
      - \$15 each for \$40 voucher that allows for 2 hours of axe throwing. 2 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union. Mailing is available for a small fee.
    - More events and offerings will be available as we identify virtual options!
  - Blake and Diana from UBIT present on their office.
    - Interested in graduate student feedback
    - Teaching resources available at <https://buffalo.edu/teachanywhere>
  - Lawrence Mullen presents on the Living Stipend Movement’s hosting of Dr. Howard Bunsis on 9/18. They are seeking an official endorsement from the GSA Board of Directors and GSA co-sponsorship of the event (non-financial).
    - Motion to officially endorse the Living Stipend Movement’s Dr. Bunsis event on September 18<sup>th</sup>
      - Motion: Biological Sciences
      - Second: Sociology
      - In Favor: 60; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 2
      - Motion passes
4. Report of the President
  - GSA President J Coley states that the Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest policies were included in the packets sent to all Board members, and that verification of receipt of these policies will need to be received by the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
5. Report of the Vice President
  - Connor announces the meeting dates and times for Mandatory Officer Training, to be held via Zoom.
    - Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am
    - Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am
    - Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm
6. Report of the Treasurer
  - GSA Treasurer Josh Joseph states that there may be a need to revisit the approved budget in the event of low enrollment, mandated refunds, or if the student activity fee is made voluntary. The Finance Committee will review the situation and present any proposed changes to the Board if this is necessary.
  - Funding Account Balances:
    - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$15,000.00 remaining
    - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
    - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$15,000.00 remaining
    - Scholarly Publication: \$6,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$6,000.00 remaining
    - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
    - Conferences:
      - 2 requests in August for \$780.00, 2 approved for \$780.00
      - 6 requests in September for \$1,146.00, 6 approved for 1,146.00
      - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$138,074.00
7. Old Business
  - The petition for voting privileges submitted by the Graduate Students of Color club is reviewed.

- Motion to approve the Graduate Students of Color’s voting petition.
  - Motion: English
  - Second: Community Health & Health Behavior
  - In Favor: 61; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes
- Election Committee Update
  - The ballot is presented for approval.
  - Motion to approve the ballot
    - Motion: Urban Planning
    - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering
    - In Favor: 59; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
    - Motion passes
  - Candidates for office offer two minute statements about themselves and their goals while in office, then take questions from the Board for fifteen minutes.
  - The process for online voting in the GSA elections and the Referendum on the student activity fee is explained.
    - Voting will take place online from Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00am until Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.

#### 8. New Business

- Call for Committee Members
  - Finance Committee (9 Members, 2 Alternates)
    1. Emily Novak (Transnational Studies)
    2. Marc Schilder (Mathematics)
    3. Meg Morris (Physics)
    4. Sushruth Mutalidaran (Physics)
    5. Tania Islam (Public Health)
    6. Wei Dai (Learning & Instruction)
    7. Nicole Hill (Urban Planning)
    8. Snehasagar Gopagani (Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering)
    9. Michael Chernoff (Media Study)
 Alt 1. Laura Underwood (Nursing)  
 Alt 2. Harrison Angelini (Anthropology)
  - Motion to approve Finance Committee members
    - Motion: Bangladeshi
    - Second: Sociology
    - In Favor: 60; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes
  - Services Committee (5 Members)
    - Xingyu Chen (Global Gender Studies)
    - Savannah Sojka (Biological Sciences)
    - Gursimran Singh: (Computer Science Engineering)
    - Narae Kwon (Theatre & Dance)
    - Morgan Worley (Exercise & Nutrition Sciences)
  - Motion to approve Services Committee members
    - Motion: English
    - Second: Sociology
    - In Favor: 56; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes.
  - Call for Ethics Officer
    - Dixit Thiya (ISE)
  - Approval of Ethics Officer
    - Motion: Anthropology
    - Second: Bangladeshi
    - In Favor: 58; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes
- Club Recognition
  - Representatives from CSSA and GISA present on their clubs, with each requesting and recommended for a \$750 budget. GISA has the stipulation that they must submit and have their pending election materials approved.
  - Motion to approve CSSA and GISA as a block at recommended amounts with the stated stipulation
    - Motion: English

- Second: Chemistry
  - In Favor: 59; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes
  - Funding Requests
    - There are no funding requests.
9. Roll Call and Adjournment
- Connor thanks everyone for their patience and flexibility in the delivery of the Board meeting.
  - Motion to Adjourn at 7:53 p.m.
    - Motion: Chemistry
    - Second: Bangladeshi
    - In favor: 57; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 0
    - Motion passes