

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2020

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

President:	J. Coley	Programming:	E. Novak
Vice President:	C. Walters	Dir. of Operations:	S. George/ G. Zimmerman
Treasurer:	J. Joseph	Editorial Assistance:	
		MDRF:	J. Schechter

Senators:

Departmental:

Anthropology:	absent	ISE:	J. Garcia/ P. Agarwal/ G.I. Nagre
Architecture:	N. Mendis	LAI:	S.J. Jo
Art:	absent	LIS:	K. Rak
Audiology:	J. Belanger	Linguistics:	J. Schechter
Biochemistry:	M. Conner	Management:	K. Ajwal
Biological Sciences:	S. Sojka/ H. Waterman	Materials Design & In:	C. Chang
Biomedical Eng:	A. Pandey/ S. Williams	Mathematics:	M. Schilder
Biostatistics:	H. Sheng	MAE:	L. Collins
Biotechnology:	M. Hopkins	Media Study:	T. Seilkhanova
Cancer Sciences- RPC	K. Crawford	Microbiology:	T. Glausen
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	R. Samuel/ P. Mehrotra	Music:	absent
Chemistry:	S. Benz/ C. Gould	Neuroscience:	A. Mukherjee
CSEE: V. Jain/M. Shah	S. Jagini/ M. Shahraki/ S. Gopagani	Nursing:	L. Underwood
Classics:	G. Harvey	Occupational Therapy	S. George
Communication:	Y. Liu	Oral Biology:	J. Kiripolsky
Comm. Health & H.B.	C. Barger	Pathology & Anatomy:	B. Santo
Comparative Lit:	S. Shi	Pharmaceutics:	D. Duran
CSE:	S. Bhat	Pharm. & Tox:	J. Tabman
CSEP:	T. Denny	Philosophy:	Y. Xia
Economics:	J. Akinde/ Z. Juliev	Physical Therapy:	C. Victor/ H. Phillips
ELP:	S. Zhao (absent- 1/2)	Physics:	O. Elsherif/ S. Muralidharan
EE:	absent	Political Science:	B. Kim
English:	S. Mehri/ E. Spangenthal	Psychology:	N. Ramer (absent- 1/2)
EEH:	S. Frndak	RLL:	N. Sedor
ENS:	W. Ji	Social Work:	J. Mencia/ L. Ingraham
GGB:	absent	Sociology:	D. Bagnall
Geography:	absent	Speech:	N. Kellar
Geology:	C. Sbarra	Theatre & Dance:	B. Poynton
History:	E. Seger	Transnational Studies	absent
		Urban Planning:	E. Roorand

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	T. Islam	Latin American:	E. Plata Espino
CSSA:	D. Pan	Middle Eastern:	E. Alqhtani
Hellenic:	absent	Taiwanese:	W.C. Wang
Indian:	V. Panda	Turkish:	absent
Iranian:	absent		

Special Interest Clubs:

Computational Sci: A. Sonpal
Graduate Poetics: K. Naughton
Grad Students of Color B. Salazar
GIGS: X. Chen

LGBTQ+: absent
MD/PhD: C. MacDonald
UB-EERI: R. R. Singh

Guests:

1. Vice President Connor Walters calls the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

- They give a brief introduction to the procedures for remote Board meetings.
 - Motions are made by text chat and voted on using Zoom's polling function. Special Interest representatives are non-voting members of the Board and are therefore asked to refrain from the pollings.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2020 Board Meeting
 - Motion: Social Work
 - Second: Bangladeshi
 - In Favor: 63; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- The GSA offices are closed and in-person events are cancelled. Remote services, such as editorial, are still available.
- MDRF Director Jennifer Schechter provides an update on grant funding for the spring semester.
 - 34 applications received for \$82,088.86
 - 22 applications approved for \$54,781.78
- The SUNY Board of Trustees has pushed elections and referenda to the Fall 2020 semester. Because all officers are returning students who were running unopposed, there is no hinderance to the organization.

4. Report of the President

- GSA President J Coley shares the University's COVID-19 information page. They also state that the Office of Inclusive Excellence is looking to understand challenges students are facing during the pandemic, and that students interested in providing feedback should email gsa-president@buffalo.edu.

5. Report of the Vice President

- Connor states that the Graduate Students of Color club has submitted a petition for voting privileges. They state that the procedure is for the petition to be read, and then the Board of Directors will vote on granting those privileges at the next meeting.
 - The petition is read to the Board and will be included with the Agenda for the September Board meeting.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$5,140.00 remaining
 - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,200.00 remaining
 - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$6,283.79 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: \$5,000.00 to start, upped to \$5,575.00, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$0.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,500.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - 19 requests for \$8,679.82, 18 approved for \$8,329.82
 - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$14,300.93
- Club Budgets
 - Clubs are reminded that club budgets do not rollover funds except for those raised independently. Clubs are reminded of the ways in which they can spend their money despite the pandemic.
 - Reminder is given about the June 1st requisition deadline and the July 15th spending deadline. The new fiscal year will begin on August 1st.

7. Old Business

- There is no old business

8. New Business

- Early Club Recognition
 - Representatives from Bangladeshi, Latin American, Middle Eastern, and Taiwanese GSAs present on their clubs, with each requesting and recommended for a \$750 budget.
 - Representatives from Graduate Poetics Group, Graduate Students of Color, Group for International Graduate Students, MD/PhD, and UB-EERI present on their clubs, with each requesting and recommended for a \$350 Fall budget with up to another \$350 awarded in Spring from remaining funds.
 - Representatives from Iranian and LGBTQ+ GSAs are not present, and their clubs cannot be approved for funding as a result.
 - Motion to approve all clubs but Iranian and LGBTQ+ at recommended amounts
 - Motion: Library & Information Science
 - Second: Biological Sciences
 - In Favor: 63; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes
- Approval of 2020-2021 Budgets

- There are two budgets on the docket, one for if the referendum passes and one for if the referendum fails.
- There is a Q&A and discussion period for the budgets.
- Motion to approve the budgets
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Mathematics
 - In favor: 63; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes
- Due to the approval of these budgets, the April 22nd Board meeting is no longer necessary and therefore has been cancelled.
- Election Committee Update
 - The Election Code has been updated in accordance with SUNY Board of Trustee policy. Elections and the student activity fee referendum vote will now take place from September 14th to 17th via UBLinked.
 - The next Board meeting (September 9, 2020) will contain an approval of the ballot vote, as well as candidate statements and Q&A session.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Connor thanks everyone for their patience and flexibility in the delivery of the Board meeting.
- Motion to Adjourn at 7:20 p.m.
 - Motion: Community Health & Health Behavior
 - Second: Sociology
 - In favor: 62; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes