

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 3, 2021

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

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

Senators:

Departmental:

Anthropology:	H. Angelini	Information Sciences:	D. Cozad
Architecture:	absent	ISE:	A. Olukoga/P. Ganguly (absent- 2/3)
Art:	T. Petch	LAI:	W. Dai
Audiology:	absent	Linguistics:	J. Schechter
Biochemistry:	S. Rosenblum	Management:	absent
Biological Sciences:	S. Sojka	Materials Design & In:	P. Garg
Biomedical Eng:	absent	Mathematics:	M. Schilder
Biostatistics:	H. Sheng	MAE:	C. Grace
Biotechnology:	absent	Media Study:	M. Chernoff
Cancer Sciences- RPC	D. Washington/ B. Morreale	Microbiology:	A. Stovall
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	D. Choudhury/ A. Chakraborty	Music:	absent
Chemistry:	N. Hazel/ C. Gould	Neuroscience:	K. Woodhouse
CSEE:	H. Kim/ H. Carrion	Nursing:	H. Ogbemor
Classics:	A. Heller	Occupational Therapy	absent
Communication:	Z. Glowacki	Oral Biology:	C.Y. Ong
Comm. Health & H.B.	C. Dauphin	Pathology & Anatomy:	absent
Comparative Lit:	A. Rasul	Pharmaceuticals:	D. Duran/ I. Hamada
CSE:	S.C. Bandi	Pharm. & Tox:	C. Lafargue
CSEP:	K. Oladel	Philosophy:	Y. Xia
Economics:	absent	Physical Therapy:	J. Bly/ R. Heim
ELP:	K. Berkey/ M. Price/ G. Davis	Physics:	M. Morris/ O. Elsherif
EE:	absent	Political Science:	A. Brown
English:	S. Mehri/ L. Mullen	Psychology:	K. James/ P. Charlton
EEH:	S. Frndak	RLL:	absent
ENS:	R. Barich	Social Work:	C. Green/ K. DeRose
GGB:	absent	Sociology:	D. Bagnall
Geography:	absent	Speech:	J. Stamates
Geology:	K. Griswold	Theatre & Dance:	absent
Global Gender St:	K. Kagiavas	Transnational Studies	D. Duske
History:	E. Deutsch	Urban Planning:	N. Hill

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	S. Khan	Latin American:	J.E. Fontecha Garcia
CSSA:	H. Li	Middle Eastern:	absent
Indian:	I. Jolly	Taiwanese:	B. Tsai
Iranian:	S. Hodaeiesfahani		

Special Interest Clubs:

AI in Medicine: absent
GradSWE: S. Gupta
Graduate Poetics: B. Johnson
Grad Students of Color absent
GIGS: X. Chen

GSPHA: absent
MD/PhD: S. Moore
UB AI: absent
UB-EERI: absent
UBQ: M. Redington

Guests:

E. Novak TNS
A. Pezzino Auditor, EFPR
M. Grella Accountant, FSA
J. Lippes Legal Counsel

1. President J Coley calls the meeting to order at 6:34 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. Only voting members should participate in the polls.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - Motion to approve the minutes from the December 2, 2020 Board Meeting
 - Motion: Geology
 - Second: UBQ
 - In Favor: 62; Oppose: 1, Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
3. Announcements
 - Anthony Pezzino, the Auditor from EFPR, and Michael Grela, the FSA Accountant present and review the GSA’s Financial Statements and 990 forms from 2019 and 2020.
 - There were delays in the preparation of these documents due to the fiscal agent transition from SBI to FSA.
 - Revenues and expenses are both down this past year due to COVID-19 issues, but overall GSA is in a good financial position.
 - Lawrence Mullen from GSEU presents on the Living Stipend Movement’s Fee Boycott
 - Students are being asked to opt not to pay their University imposed fees this semester in order to try and send a message to the University that it is unfair to tax graduate students for their work.
 - El Novak, the GSA’s FSA Board of Directors representative presents on the FSA 2021-2022 financial predictions, One World Café progress, the University Club, and campus shuttles that are now available to Wegman’s.
 - J announces that GSA office is going to continue working remotely through the Spring semester, but staff are available via email or Zoom.
 - All in person events will continue to be prohibited until further notice as well.
 - GSA programming for February is reviewed.
 - Discount Hatchet & Hops Vouchers still 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 Free Chipotle gift cards are available
 - 1 per UB ID. Now available to students even if you claimed one in the Fall semester.
 - Reserve online and gift cards will be sent via email directly by the vendor once all gift cards have been claimed.
 - February 8th- More 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 or gift cards can be mailed for \$2 postage fee.
 - Postage fees are required to cover mandatory insurance on all items sent that have a cash value.
 - February 10th- Distinguished Speaker Series presents Patrisse Cullors
 - Limited slots available for the virtual presentation through Special Events
 - Jennifer Schechter, MDRF Director, announces that the Spring MDRF grant application deadline is Friday, February 12th by 3:00pm
 - For research to be conducted between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022.
4. Report of the President
 - J states Student Engagement has offered to help GSA host a Virtual Club Involvement Fair on UBLinked, and asks interested clubs to contact them directly at gsa-president@buffalo.edu.
 - GSA has partnered with GSEU to petition for staff parking passes for all GA’s and TA’s.
 - RA’s and RF employees are not represented by GSEU and therefore would not be eligible if negotiations go well, unfortunately.
5. Report of the Vice President
 - Connor reminds clubs that Constitution amendment updates are due by Monday, February 15th.
 - All clubs must update their Constitutions to By-Laws, must replace all references to the “Senate” or “Senators” to “Board of Directors” and “Board Members” and must update Election procedures so that they comply with the new GSA Election Policy requiring all club elections to be held via UBLinked.
 - Please check your amendment sections to make sure all required changes are addressed.
6. Report of the Treasurer
 - Josh announces that GSA Budgetary Guidelines are going to be updated to indicate that clubs can no longer fundraise for other organizations.
 - As part of our federal non-profit application we stated that we would only fundraise for our own organization.
 - Any Departmental clubs that are thinking of using their budgets to purchase capital equipment (\$500 or more) should remember that those purchases require prior approval from the GSA Finance Committee.
 - Final FC meeting for this year will be held on March 31st. Requests will need to be received by Friday, March 26th.

- 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, \$2,000.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - No requests received for January
 - 4 requests for February for \$129.00, 4 approved for \$129.00
 - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$134,432.00

7. Old Business

- No old business.

8. New Business

- Funding Requests
 - No funding requests.
- Election Committee Update
 - Candidate Petition Packets are now available
 - Email Election Committee Chair Daniel at dduran@buffalo.edu
 - Deadline for Submission is Friday, February 26th by 4:30pm
 - Candidates must have attended at least one Board meeting in the past twelve months AND must attend the February and March Board meetings to be eligible.
 - Students must be “present and available” to serve the full one-year term from June 1, 2021 through May 31, 2022.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- J thanks everyone for their patience and flexibility in the delivery of the Board meeting.
- Motion to Adjourn at 7:51 p.m.
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Mathematics
 - In favor: 51; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes