

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|
| President: | J. Coley | Programming: | C. Doxbeck |
| Vice President: | E. Novak | Dir. of Operations: | S. George |
| Treasurer: | J. Joseph | Editorial Assistance: | |
| | | MDRF: | J. Schechter |

Senators:

Departmental:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Africana & Americana: | S. Hunt | History: | E. Deutsch |
| Anthropology: | H. Angelini | Information Sciences: | absent |
| Architecture: | absent | ISE: | D. Thiya/ N. Singha/ A. Olukoga |
| Art: | absent | LAI: | W. Dai |
| Audiology: | I.J. Dimaculangan | Linguistics: | J. Schechter |
| Biochemistry: | S. Rosenblum | Management: | absent |
| Biological Sciences: | absent | Materials Design & In: | P. Garg |
| Biomedical Eng: | absent | Mathematics: | M. Schilder |
| Biostatistics: | absent | MAE: | C. Grace |
| Biotechnology: | absent | Media Study: | F. Clark |
| Cancer Sciences- RPC | absent | Microbiology: | A. Stovall |
| Chem. & Bio. Eng: | D. Choudhury/ K. Patidar | Music: | absent |
| Chemistry: | N. Hazel/ C. Gould | Neuroscience: | R. Ravichandar |
| CSEE: | H. Kim/ A. Sarreshtehdari | Nursing: | L. Underwood |
| Classics: | T. Qualls | Occupational Therapy | V. Vaisman/ A. Pielago |
| Communication: | absent | Oral Biology: | C.Y. Ong |
| Comm. Health & H.B. | C. McGillicuddy | Pathology & Anatomy: | absent |
| Comparative Lit: | absent | Pharmaceutics: | D. Duran/ I. Hamada |
| CSE: | absent | Pharm. & Tox: | J. Colangelo |
| CSEP: | K. Oladel | Philosophy: | absent |
| Economics: | absent | Physical Therapy: | S. Hutton/ M. Wisniewski |
| ELP: | K. Michener/ M. Price/ G. Davis | Physics: | N. Fuller/ M. Morris |
| EE: | absent | Political Science: | A. Brown |
| English: | S. Mehri/ L. Mullen | Psychology: | K. Schatz/ C. Honda |
| EEH: | S. Frndak | RLL: | absent |
| ENS: | R. Barich | Social Work: | C. Green/ K. DeRose |
| GGB: | absent | Sociology: | D. Bagnall |
| Geography: | J. Swiezy | Speech: | S. Herr |
| Geology: | K. Griswold | Theatre & Dance: | M. Kirchhoff |
| Global Gender St: | K. Kagiavas | Urban Planning: | N. Hill |

International Clubs:

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Bangladeshi: | T. Islam | Latin American: | Anand |
| CSSA: | H. Chang | Middle Eastern: | absent |
| Indian: | V.B. Panda | Taiwanese: | B. Tsai |
| Iranian: | S. Hodaieiesfahani | | |

Special Interest Clubs:

AI in Medicine: D. Moukheiber
GradSWE: T. Abish
Graduate Poetics: B. Johnson
Grad Students of Color absent
GIGS: X. Chen

GSPHA: D. Nsumbu
MD/PhD: Z. Weinstock
UB AI: absent
UB-EERI: R. Singh
UBQ: A. Rivera

Guests:

J. Lippes Legal Counsel
C. Walters Social Work

1. President J Coley calls the meeting to order at 6:36 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 March 3, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting
 - Motion: Nursing
 - Second: Exercise & Nutrition Science
 - In Favor: 57; Oppose: 0, Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes
3. Announcements
 - GSA programming for April is reviewed by the GSA Programming Coordinator, Courtney Doxbeck.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Free AMC Movie Tickets 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.
 - April 12th- 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.
 - April 14th- Distinguished Speaker Series presents Tabitha Brown
 - Registration open now online
 - GSA is working on summer events and what might be possible, so please keep an eye out on the website and Newsletter for more information.
 - MDRF Spring Grant Funding Report
 - 29 applications received for \$70,005.78
 - 12 applications approved for \$27,986.90
 - Jen announces that the University is still prohibiting student research travel, but we are working with the Graduate School to find solutions.
4. Report of the President
 - J announces that SUNY SA unanimously passed a resolution in support of enhancing the investment made into SUNY’s graduate student workforce.
 - GSA is looking for input from the Board on their preferences for the format of the 2021-2022 Board meetings; in person or virtual.
 - We will look into whether a hybrid model would be possible if we can find a way to manage attendance and limit voting appropriately.
5. Report of the Vice President
 - El announces that a UB Recreation membership requirement being imposed as of August 30th.
 - Graduate students are not charged the University’s Athletics Fee, but have been allowed to access gym facilities in the past for free.
 - You will now have the option to purchase a graduate student membership at \$26 per semester (Aug 30 – Jan 30 and Jan 31 – Aug 28) if you want to access the Clark Hall and Alumni Arena facilities.
 - A Zoom Q&A session has been arranged with representatives from Athletics on Thursday, April 15th at 3:30pm. The link is posted in the GSA Newsletter and on our website.
6. Report of the Treasurer
 - Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$13,800.00 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, \$14,400.00 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:
 - 8 requests for April for \$671.50, 8 approved for \$671.50
 - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$133,760.50
 - Club Budgets

- Josh announces that clubs will have until June 1st to requisition any remaining funds and until July 15th to spend them.
 - The new fiscal year begins on August 1st.

7. Old Business

- No old business.

8. New Business

- By Law Amendment
 - J announces that the E-board is presenting an amendment to the By Laws to state that E-board members cannot hold staff positions within GSA.
 - J reads the amendment and states that it will be voted on at the next Board of Directors meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 21st.
 - J announces that attendance at that meeting is mandatory so that we can hit quorum for the vote, but the meeting should be very quick as this will be the only order of business.
- Early Club Recognition
 - El explains that all Special Interest and International clubs must be recognized each year by the GSA Board of Directors because these clubs are not funded based on enrollment in a Department. Early recognition is the process by which these groups can have their recognition approved in advance so that club budgets are available to them at the start of the new fiscal year on August 1st instead of waiting until a Fall semester Board meeting vote. All of the groups recommended are existing clubs that have submitted the required paperwork to be considered for funding.
 - International clubs CSSA, Iranian, Latin American have requested and were recommended for \$750.
 - Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA) is being recommended with the stipulation that they must work with the GSA Vice President on retraining their officers and must update their By Laws for approval by the GSA before they can access their new budget.
 - Special Interest clubs AI in Medicine, GradSWE, Graduate Poetics Group, Graduate Students of Color, Group for International Graduate Students, GSPHA, MD/PhD, UB-AI, UB-EERI and UBQ have requested and were recommended for a \$350 Fall semester budget with up to another \$350 to be awarded in the Spring 2022 from remaining funds.
 - It is stated that representatives from Graduate Students of Color and UB-AI are not present at the meeting Board meeting and are therefore not eligible for Early Recognition.
 - Motion to approve all of the eligible clubs as a block at the recommended amounts, with the CSSA stipulation
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Nursing
 - In favor: 55; Oppose: 1; Abstain:1
 - Motion passes
- Funding Requests
 - No funding requests.
- Approval of 2021-2022 Budget
 - Josh explains that the Finance Committee is recommending the budget that was circulated to the Board with the meeting packet.
 - Revenues are anticipated to be down slightly due to decreased enrollment linked to COVID-19
 - Major adjustments include increases to the E-board and student staff pay, a reduction in the professional staff costs due to Gena's retirement, and a reduction in the allocation to MDRF due to the Assistant Director position being eliminated.
 - Jennifer Schechter questions the decision to increase student stipends at a time when revenues are expected to decrease by nearly \$100,000 and suggests potentially increasing them slowly over time instead. Discussion occurs.
 - Motion to approve the proposed budget
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - In favor: 55; Oppose: 3; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
- Election Committee Update
 - Approval of Ballot
 - Election Committee Chair, Daniel Duran presents a screenshot of the ballot to the Board for approval
 - Motion to approve the ballot
 - ❖ Motion: Anthropology
 - ❖ Second: Mathematics
 - ❖ In favor: 56; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 0
 - ❖ Motion passes
 - Candidate Statements and Q&A

- Candidates for office offer two minute statements about themselves and their goals while in office, then take questions from the Board.
- Online Voting
 - The process for online voting in the GSA elections is explained. Voting will take place online from Monday, April 12th at 12:00am until Thursday, April 15th at 11:59pm.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- J thanks everyone for their patience and flexibility in the delivery of the Board meeting.
- Motion to Adjourn at 7:22 p.m.
 - Motion: Nursing
 - Second: Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - In favor: 57; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes