Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Attendance:
Officers & Staff:
President: J. Coley  Programming: S. George/ D. Staly
Vice President: J. Schechter  Dir. of Operations: S. George/ D. Staly
Treasurer: J. Joseph  Editorial Assistance: MDRF:

Board Members:
Departmental:
Africana & Americana: T. Coleman  LAI: R. Enser
Anthropology: E. Pinkston  Linguistics: absent
Art: N. Chochoek  Materials Design & In: N. Deepak Sali
Audiology: J. Stuber  Mathematics: K.Y. Cheuk
Biological Sciences: E. Vohwinkel  Media Study: F. Clark
Biostatistics: H. Sheng  Microbiology: E. Ivey
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC: K. Maraszek/ L. Martinez-Gutierrez  Music: J. Falzone
Chem. & Bio. Eng: J. Diehl/ S. Shahini  Neuroscience: M. Kumar
Chemistry: M. Redington (absent- 1/2)  Nursing: absent
Classics: absent  Oral Biology: M. Che
Communication: N. Acosta  Pharmaceutics: R. Hari (absent- 1/2)
Comm. Health & H.B. C. McGillicuddy  Pharm. & Tox: S. Xu
Comparative Lit: A. Rasul  Philosophy: absent
CSEP: J. Casella  Physics: O. Elsherif
ELP: K. Barnhart/ M. Price/ R. Jones  Political Science: A. Brown
English: S. Mehri/ B. Bastie  Psychology: A. Wiseblatt/ A. Ferkin
EEH: F. Ali  RLL: M. Dufay-Verbie
ENS: E. Lavoie  Social Work: P. Hennigan / A. Kreib
Geography: C. Liu  Sociology: J. Schoonover
Geology: K. Griswold  Speech: K. Kearney/ K. Wong
History: R. Adams  Theatre & Dance: absent

International Clubs:
Indian: M. Raj  Latin American: M. Di Luigi
Iranian: Z. Vahidi  Taiwanese: H.W. Huang

Special Interest Clubs:
GradSWE: K. Patidar  GSPHA: M. Urooj
Graduate Poetics: M. Green  UB-EERI: absent
Grad Students of Color: B. Salazar  UBQ: absent
GIGS: X. Chen

Guests:
J. Lippes  Legal Counsel
E. Novak  AAS
1. President J Coley calls the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes
   - Motion to approve the minutes from the February 2nd Board Meeting
      - Motion: Mathematics
      - Second: Physics
      - In Favor: 44; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
      - Motion passes
3. Announcements
   - El Novak provides an update on the PhD Excellence Committee’s survey.
     - Based on survey responses, the top three most important things to graduate students in their pursuit of a degree: (1) funding; (2) job placement; (3) community outreach/networking. It was not mentoring or accountability, but support for non-academia track students.
   - Vice President J Schechter states that the University will be lifting its mask mandate on Saturday, March 5th.
   - The Vice President also states that the GSA has lifted its in-person event ban, but reminds clubs they must follow University and GSA requirements, or their budgets will get frozen, with the most severe infractions being derecognized by the University.
     - All events require prior approval from the University and EH&S.
     - Clubs must use the Event Pass App to check students into events.
       - Instructions for how to do this are located on the GSA’s website.
     - All participants must complete the GSA Liability Waiver before being allowed admittance to events.
   - GSA programming is reviewed.
     - Free KN95 masks are now available for graduate students.
       - 1 per UB ID while supplies last. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
     - Free Arrowhead Spring Vineyards wine tasting vouchers are now available.
       - 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available. First come, first served. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
     - March 7th—Discount AMC movie tickets on sale.
       - $5 each. 1 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
     - March 7th—Free New York Beer Project tour tickets available.
       - 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available. First come, first served. Reserve online through the UB Ticket Office.
     - March 11th—Java Junction 11:00am-1:00pm in 210 Student Union
       - Free Tim Horton’s coffee and donuts for graduate students. All students must complete the GSA Liability Waiver before they will be admitted.
     - March 14th—Buffalo Museum of Science Antarctic Dinosaur Exhibit Passes on sale.
       - $5 each. 1 per UB ID. Tickets include museum admittance as well. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
     - April 5th—Distinguished Speaker Series presents Jeff Corwin
       - Free tickets will be available for graduate students approximately two weeks before the lecture.
     - April 22nd—Anastasia at Shea’s Performing Arts Center
       - Tickets on sale March 21st for $20 each. 2 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
     - April 23rd—Sabres Hockey Game vs New York Islanders
       - Tickets on sale March 14th for $10 each. 2 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
4. Report of the President
   - GSA President J Coley states that the Provost and the President’s Council on Race Implementation Committee (PACOR) have invited the UB community to three virtual town halls. They will be attending and encourage everyone to attend.
     - The townhalls are March 15th, March 16th and March 17th from 12:00-1:30pm.
   - The President also explained that this is a referendum year for the GSA and provided information on what the fee pays for. They encouraged everyone to vote and to spread the word to all graduate students.
     - The referendum is voted on during the general election Monday, April 11th—Thursday, April 14th
5. Report of the Vice President
   - GSA Vice President Jen Schechter states that the early club recognition deadline is March 23rd.
     - Any Special Interest and International clubs that don’t apply for Early Recognition will not have access to their budgets until recognition happens in the fall.
   - The Vice President also provides a reminder about club voting and funding guidelines.
     - All votes must take place in open club meetings.
     - Club members must approve of all expenses and amounts.
• Must meet quorum in order for votes to be legitimate!
• Minutes must show the motion, the second, and the voting tallies.
• Any requisition submitted without minutes will not be processed/approved until the minutes are received.
• Lastly, the Vice President stated that they will be looking for feedback on the Mandatory Officer Training provided by the GSA. A survey will be going out to all clubs’ Presidents and Treasurers.

6. Report of the Treasurer
• The GSA Treasurer Josh Joseph states that budget preparation is underway within the Finance Committee and will be presented to the Board for a vote at the April 6th Board meeting.
  o If the budget passes, the April 20th meeting will be canceled.
• The Treasurer also notes that the final deadline for all funding requests (Special Activity, Interdepartmental Activity, Symposia and Community Outreach) for this year is Wednesday, March 23rd by 4:30pm.
• Funding Account Balances:
  o Special Activity: $15,000 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $15,000.00 remaining
  o Interdepartmental Activity: $2,000.00 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $2,000.00 remaining
  o Symposia: $15,000.00 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $13,605.00 remaining
  o Scholarly Publication: $6,000.00 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $1,600.00 remaining
  o Community Outreach: $2,000 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $2,000.00 remaining
  o Conferences:
    ▪ 42 requests in March for $18,029.28, 42 approved for $18,029.28
    ▪ Beginning Balance: $140,000.00; Remaining Balance $99,197.01

7. Old Business
• There is no Old Business.

8. New Business
• Funding Requests
  o There are no funding requests this month.
• Election Committee Update
  o Election Committee Co-Chair Morgan Redington provides an update to the Board.
    ▪ Presentation of Candidates:
      • For President: J Coley
      • For Vice President: Jennifer Schechter
      • For Treasurer: Joshua Joseph and Ryan Enser
    ▪ There will be a Candidate Q&A/Debate during the April 6th Board meeting.
    ▪ Elections will be held online Monday, April 11th—Thursday, April 14th

9. Roll Call and Adjournment
• Motion to Adjourn at 7:06pm
  o Motion: Mathematics
  o Second: Exercise & Nutrition Science
  o In favor: 47; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
  o Motion passes