

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

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

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	D. Duske	Information Science:	A. Crabtree
Anthropology:	absent	LAI:	O. Zotique
Architecture:	R. Terry (absent- 1/2)	Linguistics:	J. Zhong
Art:	absent	Materials Design & In:	A. Tirocouyanne
Audiology:	S. Chambers	Mathematics:	absent
Biochemistry:	F. Raymond	MAE:	P.P. Vaghela
Biological Sciences:	E. Vohwinkel	Media Study:	absent
Biostatistics:	M. Fang	Microbiology:	absent
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	D. Overton (absent- 1/2)	Music:	J. Falzone
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	O. Desai	Neuroscience:	R. Ravichandar
Chemistry:	N. Kalita/ R. Routray	Nursing:	L.Pasek
CSEE:	G. Congdon (absent- 1/2)	Occupational Therapy:	R. Arian
Classics:	J. James	Oral Biology:	E. Ovalle
Communication:	E. Lapan	Pharmaceutics:	M. Shah
Comm. Health & H.B.	S. Rifah	Pharm. & Tox:	R. Rodriguez
Comparative Lit:	F. Hajhosseini	Philosophy:	absent
CSE:	V. Malathesha (absent- 1/2)	Physical Therapy:	G. Hendershot/ V. Fan
CSEP:	J. Casella	Physics:	J. Carvalho
ELP:	J. Raymore (absent- 1/2)	Political Science:	A. Brown
Electrical Engineering:	H. Murugesan (absent- 1/2 at Roll Call)	Psychology:	X. Ma
English:	I. Kolding	RLL:	absent
EEH:	S. Lima	Social Work:	S. Martin
ENS:	N. Bartman	Sociology:	S. Upadhyay
Geography:	C. Liu	Speech:	C. Vecchio/ N. Cline
Geology:	absent	Theatre & Dance:	N. McCandless
History:	R. Adams	Urban Planning:	D. Fries
ISE:	absent		

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	absent	Latin American:	F. Szasdi Bardales
Indian:	R. Bharadwaj	Taiwanese:	absent
Iranian:	T. Darabnoushtehrani		

Special Interest Clubs:

GradSWE:	S. Agarwal	GSPHA:	J. Rosales
Graduate Poetics:	absent	UB Sci & Health Policy:	M. Goulette
Grad Students of Color:	B. Salazar	UBQ:	M. Redington
GIGS:	S.A. Tsai		

Guests:

S. MacDougall	Linguistics
M. March	English
M. Williams	GSEU

1. President J Coley calls the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the March 1st Board Meeting.
 - Motion: Nursing
 - Second: UBQ
 - In Favor: 40; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 6
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- The GSEU has a Professional Development Fund.
 - It is now open for any eligible professional development activity that occurred or will occur between July 2, 2022 and July 1, 2023.
 - This fund is exclusively for half-time or full-time state-funded TAs and GAs and all applicants can seek up to \$1,000 in funding. Further details beyond what is provided through University HR can be found on New York state's website.
- AudienceView, the third-party vendor used by the UB Ticket Office, has had a software breach.
 - 21 applications received for \$45,365.36. 13 applications approved for \$28,411.72.
- President J Coley reviews the summer office schedule, which will begin Monday, May 15th.
 - Monday – Thursday, 8:30am to 4:00pm, closed on Fridays.
 - Regular hours will resume with the start of the fall semester on August 28th.
- GSA programming is reviewed.
 - More discount AMC movie tickets now available!
 - \$5 each. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick-up physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - April 7th—Java Junction -- 11:00a to 1:00p in 145 C&D Student Union
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students.
 - All students must review the GSA Safety Acknowledgement and Liability Disclaimer before attending.
 - April 15th—Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse Game vs. New York Riptide
 - \$10 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Digital tickets will be sent out the day before the game.
 - April 26th—Professional Development Workshop: Academic Exit: Why PhDs are Allowed to Leave Academia to Land Industry Jobs, 1:00-2:30p via Zoom
 - Registration is now open.
 - May 1st—Last batch of discount AMC movie tickets available for this year.
 - \$5 each. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick-up the physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - May 1st—Discount Buffalo Zoo tickets available.
 - \$8 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick-up the physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - May 5th—Java Junction – 11:00a to 1:00p in 145 C&D Student Union.
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students.
 - Also during this event: \$5 professional headshots!
 - Book your 5-minute slot through the UB Ticket Office website.
 - May 8th—Discount Buffalo Museum of Science Reinventing Reality tickets available.
 - \$10 each. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick-up the physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - And much more to come! Including:
 - Discount Six Flags Darien Lake tickets
 - Shakespeare in Delaware Park – July 8th and August 12th
 - Moondance Cruise – July 14th

4. Report of the President

- GSA President J Coley states that the second in the GSA Professional Development Series will be held Wednesday, April 26th from 1:00 to 2:30pm.
 - Registration for this event is now open.
 - Academic Exit: Why PhDs are Allowed to Leave Academia to Land Industry Jobs.
- The GSA has been in regular contact with upper administration regarding issues of food insecurity amongst graduate students.
 - The Interim Dean of Students (Liz Ledano) reached out to the GSA asking to partner on a proposal that would involve the GSA providing \$15,000 of funding a year to the Blue Table Pantry.

- The GSA E-Board does not think the solution to addressing graduate student food insecurity is using your fee dollars to fund a program that should be fully funded by the University. However, we wanted to bring it to the Board for feedback.
- The \$15,000 a year would supposedly go towards employing one graduate student worker that will work in the food pantry and assist students with food insecurities, if qualified.
- Motion to approve the Blue Table Co-Sponsorship Request
 - Motion: Architecture
 - Second: Pharmaceutical Sciences
 - In Favor: 13; Oppose: 24; Abstain: 9
 - Motion fails
- In celebration of UB Pride Week, the GSA will be hosting a tabling event outside the North Campus office.
 - More details to come.

5. Report of the Vice President

- There is no report of the Vice President.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer Josh Joseph states that clubs will have until June 1st to requisition any remaining funds and until July 15th to spend them.
 - All requisitions must be accompanied by club minutes pre-approving the expenses by the June 1st deadline.
- The new fiscal year begins August 1st. Reminder that this year's budget cannot be used to pay for next year's expenses.
- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$2,375.00 allocated this month, \$12,625.00 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, \$12,555.00 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: \$6,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,600.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$1,750.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - 32 requests in April for \$11,565.31; 32 approved for \$11,565.31
 - Beginning Balance: \$140,000.00; Remaining Balance \$71,140.80

7. Old Business

- There is no old business.

8. New Business

- Early Club Recognition
 - Representatives from GISA, Iranian, Latin American, GSOC, GradSWE, GSPHA, UBQ and UB Science & Health Policy present their clubs. They are all requesting and recommended for the full amount they are eligible for (\$750 for International; \$350 for Special Interest).
 - Motion to approve all clubs (except Taiwanese, as there was no representative present) as a block at the recommended amounts.
 - Motion: Chemical and Biological Engineering
 - Second: Social Work
 - In Favor: 36; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 5
 - Motion passes
- Funding Request
 - Representatives from Iranian and GISA present on their Special Activity requests (Nowruz and Holi, respectively).
 - Iranian is requesting and recommended for \$1,175.00, and GISA is requesting and recommended for \$1,200.00.
 - Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at recommended amounts.
 - Motion: Learning & Instruction
 - Second: UBQ
 - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 4
 - Motion passes
- 2023-2024 Budget
 - The GSA Treasurer Josh Joseph presents the 2023-2024 budget to the Board.
 - He notes most changes are due to contractual obligations, inflation adjustments, and the fact that FSA is implementing a new accounting system.
 - The conference funding allocation will be increased by \$60,000 as per the Services Survey results.
 - The plan is to increase conference funding limits for both Master's and PhD students by \$200 per person (\$550/\$750 new maximums)
 - The MDRF allocation will not change, but we will increase grant limitations to \$3,000 for all Master's and \$5,000 for PhD, which will help us spend-down some of the surplus in that account.

- If the budget draft passes tonight, the April 26th Board of Directors meeting will be canceled.
- Motion to approve the 2023-2024 budget as presented.
 - Motion: Political Science
 - Second: Chemical and Biological Engineering
 - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 5
 - Motion passes
- Election Committee Update
 - Election Committee Co-Chair Andrew Brown provides an update to the Board.
 - Motion to approve the election ballot.
 - Motion: Chemical and Biological Engineering
 - Second: Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB)
 - In Favor: 36; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes
 - There is a Candidate Debate moderated by Election Committee Co-Chair Andrew Brown.
 - Elections will be held online Monday, April 10th—Thursday, April 13th.
 - Results will be announced via the listservs on Friday, April 14th.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 8:29pm
 - Motion: Information Science
 - Second: Urban Planning
 - In favor: 37; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes