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

Attendance:

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

Board Members:

Departmental:
Africana & Americana: D. Duske
Anthropology: absent
Architecture: R. Terry (absent- 1/2)
Art: absent
Audiology: S. Chambers
Biochemistry: F. Raymond
Biological Sciences: E. Vohwinkel
Biostatistics: M. Fang
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC: D. Overton (absent- 1/2)
Chem. & Bio. Eng: O. Desai
Chemistry: N. Kalita/ R. Routray
CSEE: G. Congdon (absent- 1/2)
Communication: E. Lapan
Comm. Health & H.B. S. Rifah
Comparative Lit: F. Hajhosseini
CSE: V. Malathesha (absent- 1/2)
CSEP: J. Casella
ELP: J. Raymore (absent- 1/2)
Electrical Engineering: H. Murugesan (absent- 1/2 at Roll Call)
English: I. Kolding
EEH: S. Lima
ENS: N. Bartman
Geography: C. Liu
Geology: absent
History: R. Adams
ISE: absent

International Clubs:
Bangladeshi: absent
Indian: R. Bharadwaj
Iranian: T. Darabnoushtehrani

Latin American: F. Szasdi Bardales
Taiwanese: absent

Special Interest Clubs:
GradSWE: S. Agarwal
Graduate Poetics: absent
Grad Students of Color: B. Salazar
GIGS: S.A. Tsai
GSEU

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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.
     - May 15th—Book your 5-minute slot through the UB Ticket Office website.
     - 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