Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 1, 2023

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:
President: I. Kolding  Programming:  
Vice President: S. MacDougall  Dir. of Operations:  S. George/ D. Staly  
Treasurer: M. March  Editorial Assistance:  
MDRF:

Board Members:
Departmental:
Africana & Americana: R. Pitonyak  Information Science: absent  
Anthropology: absent  LAI: M.N. Esfahani  
Architecture: absent  Linguistics: T. Grosso  
Art: S. Browning  Materials Design & In: absent  
Audiology: G. Cerneskie  Mathematics: J. Kazimer  
Biochemistry: L. Jensen  MAE: absent  
Biological Sciences: absent  Media Study: R. Zhang  
Biostatistics: M. Fang  Microbiology: C. Buerger  
Chemistry: N. Kalita/ R. Routray  Nursing: L. Pasek  
Classics: absent  Oral Biology: E. Horeth  
Communication: K. Heneveld  Pharmaceutics: A. Rajwade  
Comm. Health & H.B. S. Lawson  Pharm. & Tox: K.G. Kedari  
Comparative Lit: R. Farrell  Philosophy: inactive  
CSEP: J. Casella  Physics: J. DeMaria  
ELP: J. Orcutt (absent - 1/2)  Political Science: inactive  
Electrical Engineering: M. Hosseiningheidari/ S. Datta  Psychology: S. Caliste  
English: S. Williams  RLL: W. Vera  
ENS: N. Presti  Sociology: H.G. Nario Lopez  
Geography: M. Wang  Speech: S. Beattie/ S. Sozio  
Geology: L. Wilson  Theatre & Dance: N. McCandless  
History: absent  Urban Planning: absent  
ISE: inactive  

International Clubs:
Bangladeshi: absent  Latin American: C. Angulo  
Indian: N. Evagala  Taiwanese: B. Chen  
Iranian: K. Borazjani  

Special Interest Clubs:
GradSWE: S. Agarwal  GSPHA: absent  
Graduate Poetics: A. VanSteinberg  UB Sci & Health Policy: absent  
Grad Students of Color: F. Arey  UBQ: S. King-Shaw  
GIGS: absent  

Guests:
J. Lippes  Legal
1. President Isaac Kolding calls the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

2. Approval of Minutes
   - Motion to approve the minutes from the October 4th Board Meeting
     - Motion: Oral Biology
     - Second: Biochemistry
     - In Favor: 47; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 6
     - Motion passes

3. Announcements
   - GSA will be closed for Fall Recess from Wednesday, November 22nd to Friday, November 24th
   - Programming
     - November 3rd – North Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm in 145 C&D Student Union
       - Free Tim Hortons’ Coffee and Doughnuts for graduate students.
     - November 6th - 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.
     - November 10th - South Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
       - Free Tim Hortons’ Coffee and Doughnuts for graduate students.
     - November 16th - Distinguished Speaker Series presents Nicholas Thompson and Nita Farahany, 7:00pm at CFA
       - Free tickets available for graduate students starting November 2nd. 1 per UB ID. Reserve online and digital tickets will be sent out the day before the event.
   - MDRF Fall Grant Cycle Report
     - 24 applications received requesting $85,916.02
     - 10 applications funded for $29,437.47
     - Spring deadline: Friday, February 16, 2024
       - For research to be conducted April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025
       - Deadline to have applications pre-reviewed by the MDRF Director is Wednesday, January 31st by 12:00pm!
     - Summer deadline: Friday, May 17, 2024
       - For research to be conducted July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

4. Report of the President
   - COAL Programming Grant Update
     - GSA President Isaac Kolding states that decisions have been made, but have not yet been released. He is pleased with the votes on GSA grants and exciting news will be coming by the next meeting.
   - Update on the International Student Committee
     - Committee is up and running and a chair will be elected soon. Feel free to send any international student concerns to gsa-president@buffalo.edu, or to anyone serving on the committee.

5. Report of the Vice President
   - GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall discusses issues noted with club votes and minutes
     - Reminder about club voting and funding guidelines
       - All votes must take place in open club meetings
       - Club members have to approve of all expenses and amounts (E-board alone cannot approve expenses)
       - Meeting attendance must meet quorum in order for votes to be legitimate
       - Minutes must show the motion, the second, and the voting tallies

6. Report of the Treasurer
   - GSA Treasurer Melanie March discusses funding account balances
   - Funding Account Balances:
     - Special Activity: $15,000 to start, $1,200.00 allocated this month, $13,500.00 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, $6,000.00 remaining
     - Community Outreach: $2,000 to start, $0.00 allocated this month, $2,000.00 remaining
     - Conferences:
       - 51 requests in November for $20,968.92; 51 approved for $20,968.92
       - Beginning Balance: $200,000.00; Remaining Balance: $133,337.09
   - Melanie reminds everyone that the November 22nd deadline is the final deadline of the year to apply for GSA Scholarly Publication funding, and that all publications must be printed by June 30, 2024.

7. Old Business
   - No Old Business

8. New Business
   - Club Recognition
• Representative from Graduate Poetics Group presents their club’s mission and goals
  o Motion to approve Graduate Poetics Group at the recommended amount
    ▪ Motion: Comparative Literature
    ▪ Second: Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering
    ▪ In Favor: 47; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 4
    ▪ Motion passes

• Funding Requests
  o Representative from Graduate Indian Student Association (GISA) presents on the Diwali event
  o Motion to approve the Special Activity request at the recommended amount
    ▪ Motion: Computer Science Engineering
    ▪ Second: Theatre & Dance
    ▪ In Favor: 46; Oppose: 2; Abstain: 2
    ▪ Motion passes

• Approval of Election Code
  o Election Committee Chair Layne Jensen reviews the updated Election Code
    ▪ All dates and deadlines have been updated
    ▪ Other changes/additions were made to update the language regarding when you become a candidate
    ▪ Updated regulations to not allow Election Committee members to run for office in the same academic year in which they serve on the committee
  o Motion to approve the Election Code
    ▪ Motion: Linguistics
    ▪ Second: Electrical Engineering
    ▪ In Favor: 48; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 4
    ▪ Motion passes

9. Roll Call and Adjournment
• Motion to Adjourn at 7:00pm
  o Motion: Biochemistry
  o Second: Speech-Language-Hearing
  o In favor: 48; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 1
  o Motion passes