

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

President:	I. Kolding	Programming:	J. Garcia Ramirez
Vice President:	S. MacDougall	Dir. of Operations:	S. George/ D. Staly
Treasurer:	M. March	Editorial Assistance:	
		MDRF:	

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	absent	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	S. Biswas	Information Science:	A. Crabtree
Architecture:	S. Brunstein/ J. Joshi	LAI:	absent
Art:	absent	Linguistics:	T. Grosso
Audiology:	G. Cerneskie	Materials Design & In:	absent
Biochemistry:	S. Enriquez	Mathematics:	absent
Biological Sciences:	E. Vohwinkel	MAE:	A. Devra
Biostatistics:	H.A. Lee	Media Study:	J. Hager
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	R. Rodrigues/ M. Atwater	Microbiology:	K. Salka
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	M. Zamani	Music:	A. Paruta
Chemistry:	N. Kalita/ R. Routray	Neuroscience:	absent
CSEE:	V.R. Solanki/ F.S. Bardales	Nursing:	L.Pasek
Classics:	M. Pehringer	Occupational Therapy:	I. Sabatini/ S. Kim
Communication:	E. Lapan	Oral Biology:	D. Leyva
Comm. Health & H.B.	absent	Pharmaceutics:	A. Rajwade
Comparative Lit:	N. Arnone	Pharm. & Tox:	K.G. Kedari
CSE:	A.R. Alugupally/ M. Lary	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	J. Casella	Physical Therapy:	V. McCutcheon/ B. Lynch
ELP:	J. Orcutt/ K. Klosko	Physics:	J. DeMaria
Electrical Engineering:	M. Hosseinigheidari/ A. Ahmed	Political Science:	absent
English:	J.L. Folk	Psychology:	S. Honeycutt
EEH:	K. Manney	RLL:	W. Vera
ENS:	absent	Social Work:	P. Manuel
Geography:	H.Wang	Sociology:	J. Adams
Geology:	L. Wilson	Speech:	S. Sozio
Global Gender Studies:	M.L. Nutting	Theatre & Dance:	N. McCandless
History:	K. Kostin	Urban Planning:	H. Wright

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	P. Paul	Latin American:	absent
Indian:	absent	Taiwanese:	B. Chen
Iranian:	K. Borazjani		

Special Interest Clubs:

GradSWE:	M. Gillen	GSPHA:	absent
Graduate Poetics:	A. VanSteinberg	UB Sci & Health Policy:	absent
Grad Students of Color:	F. Arcy	UBQ:	S. King-Shaw
GIGS:	absent		

Guests:

J. Lippes	Legal
K. Tasselmyer	Counseling Services

1. President Isaac Kolding calls the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the December 6th Board Meeting
 - Motion: Graduate Students of Color
 - Second: Information Science
 - In Favor: 49; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 4
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- Kristen Tasselmyer from UB Counseling Services reviews details about the Out of the Darkness Walk through the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which will be taking place on April 13th. She encourages clubs to organize teams to help with the fundraising efforts. More information can be found at <https://supporting.afsp.org/event/ubuffalo>.
- Programming
 - Discount AMC Movie Tickets Now on Sale
 - \$5 each. 1 per UB ID. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - February 9th - South Campus Java Junction
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students in 105 Harriman Hall
 - February 24th - Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse Game vs. Albany Firewolves
 - Tickets on sale February 12th for \$10 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Reserve online and digital admission tickets will be emailed out approximately 24 hours before the game.
 - February 28th - Distinguished Speaker Series presents Heather McGee
 - Free tickets available February 14th for graduate students. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Reserve online and digital admission tickets will be emailed out approximately 24 hours before the show.
 - March 15th - Les Miserables at Shea's Performing Arts Center
 - Tickets on sale February 12th for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Reserve online and digital admission tickets will be emailed out approximately 24 hours before the show.
- MDRF Spring Grant Application Deadline is Friday, February 16th by 3:00pm
 - For research to be conducted between April 1, 2024 and March 31, 2025
 - Proposed changes to the grant deadlines and cycles are being reviewed by the Services Committee and will be presented to the Board of Directors for approval at next month's meeting.

4. Report of the President

- GSA President Isaac Kolding reviews the changes that UB has imposed for health insurance coverage for domestic students.
 - He states that they have decided to eliminate offering the private health insurance option previously offered by the University for domestic students, and are no longer requiring that domestic students have health insurance coverage in order to enroll in the university. Instead, they are training staff to help students find health insurance coverage options through the public marketplace, which is an income-based option provided by the government.
 - These changes do not impact international students, or students who have health insurance coverage through the GSEU.
 - Many students have expressed concerns that these changes will lead to worse insurance coverage and/or an unexpected financial burden, so a petition has been drafted to oppose these changes.
 - Isaac is seeking the Board of Directors approval for GSA to sign on to this petition.
 - Discussion occurs related to questions and clarifications regarding these changes to policies and how they came about.
 - Motion for GSA to sign the petition opposing the changes to health insurance policies
 - Motion: Urban Planning
 - Second: Iranian GSA
 - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 8; Abstain: 8
 - Motion passes
- Isaac reminds students that they can contact the E-board at any time with issues or concerns they would like to see addressed (gsa-president@buffalo.edu, gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu, or gsa-treasurer@buffalo.edu).

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall states that she has nothing new to report.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer Melanie March reviews the funding account balances and reminds student to make sure all funding applications are being submitted by the deadlines, which are at close of business (4:30pm in most cases) on the deadline dates. Deadlines are strictly enforced.
- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$0.00 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, \$4,600.00 remaining
- Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
- Conferences:
 - 12 requests in January for \$6,754.40; 12 approved for \$6,754.40
 - 20 requests in February for \$8,291.65; 19 approved for \$7,541.65
 - Beginning Balance: \$200,000.00; Remaining Balance: \$112,097.04

7. Old Business

- No Old Business

8. New Business

- Funding Requests
 - No funding requests this month
- Election Committee Update
 - Director of Operations Stephanie George states that Candidate Petition Packets are now available
 - Email the Election Committee Chair Layne Jensen (sljensen@buffalo.edu) to receive a petition packet.
 - Deadline for Submission is Friday, February 23rd by 4:30pm
 - All candidates must attend the February and March Board of Directors meetings to be eligible.
 - Candidates must be “physically present at University at Buffalo and available to serve the full one-year term from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025.”

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:04pm
 - Motion: Speech-Language-Hearing
 - Second: Theatre & Dance
 - In favor: 49; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes