

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 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:	C. Doxbeck

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	absent	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	absent	Information Science:	A. Crabtree
Architecture:	J. Joshi (absent 1/2)	LAI:	M. Esfahani
Art:	C. Koegel	Linguistics:	T. Grosso
Audiology:	G. Cerneskie	Materials Design & In:	S. Padmanabha
Biochemistry:	L. Jensen	Mathematics:	J. Koch
Biological Sciences:	E. Vohwinkel	MAE:	absent
Biostatistics:	M. Fang	Media Study:	J. Hager
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	R. Rodrigues/ T. Pandian	Microbiology:	J. Furfaro
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	M. Zamani	Music:	A. Paruta
Chemistry:	N. Kalita/ R. Routray	Neuroscience:	P. Dutta
CSEE:	V.R. Solanki/ F.S. Bardales	Nursing:	L. Pasek
Classics:	M. Pehringer	Occupational Therapy:	I. Sabatini/ S. Kim
Communication:	E. Lapan	Oral Biology:	C. Matrishin
Comm. Health & H.B.	S. Lawson	Pharmaceutics:	B. Ly
Comparative Lit:	L. Zausen	Pharm. & Tox:	K.G. Kedari
CSE:	A.R. Alugupally/ M. Lary	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	J. Casella	Physical Therapy:	absent
ELP:	absent	Physics:	J. DeMaria
Electrical Engineering:	R. Galib/ A. Ahmed	Political Science:	R. Lawlor
English:	S. Williams	Psychology:	R. Cooper
Environment & Sus:	J. D'Orazio	RLL:	J. Garcia Ramirez
EEH:	D. Glotzer	Social Work:	P. Manuel
ENS:	N. Presti	Sociology:	H. Nario-Lopez
Geography:	absent	Speech:	L. Santalis/ S. Sozio
Geology:	L. Wilson	Theatre & Dance:	N. McCandless
Global Gender Studies:	M.L. Nutting	Urban Planning:	H. Wright
History:	K. Kostin		

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	P. Paul	Latin American:	E. Chacin Ruiz
Indian:	N. Evagala	Taiwanese:	absent
Iranian:	K. Borazjani		

Special Interest Clubs:

GradSWE:	Y. Pareek	GSPHA:	inactive
Graduate Poetics:	absent	UB Sci & Health Policy:	inactive
Grad Students of Color:	absent	UBQ:	S. King-Shaw
GIGS:	inactive		

Guests:

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

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the February 7th Board Meeting
 - Motion: Linguistics
 - Second: Iranian
 - In Favor: 52; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- GSA Spring Break Schedule
 - GSA will be on summer hours for the week of Spring Recess
 - Business Hours: Monday, March 18th to Thursday, March 21st from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Closed for lunch daily 1:00 to 2:00pm
 - Walk-in Hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30am to 11:30am
 - Closed Friday, March 22nd
- 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.
 - March 8th - South Campus Java Junction
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students in 105 Harriman Hall
 - March 26th - Distinguished Speaker Series presents Amanda Gorman
 - Free tickets available March 12th 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.
 - April 26th - Intercollegiate Graduate Student Networking Event at LECOM Harborcenter, Pan-American Ballroom
 - More details to come.
- MDRF Proposed Changes
 - MDRF Director Courtney Doxbeck explains that GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall proposed some changes to the MDRF application deadlines so that it would be easier for graduate students, especially Master's students, to prepare and submit grant applications within the confines of their course of study. The changes involve moving back the grant cycles and application deadlines, accordingly, by approximately one month each. The new summer grant would also coordinate more closely with our fiscal year, eliminating some of the problems summer grant recipients face due to the year-end accounting office shut down that takes place annually during the last two weeks of July. These changes would go into effect in the next academic year, so no deadlines or grant cycles would change before Fall, 2024. The specific deadline dates would be determined annually, but the new grant cycles starting in 2024-2025 would be as follows:
 - (Winter Grant) Deadline: October 25, 2024 for research to be conducted December 1, 2024 to November 31, 2025
 - (Spring Grant) Deadline: March 28, 2025 for research to be conducted May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026
 - (Summer Grant) Deadline: June 27, 2025 for research to be conducted August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026
 - Courtney also explains that we are proposing modifying the review structure from 3 primary reviewers and 5 secondary reviewers to just 5 primary reviewers. Currently, secondary reviewers only see certain parts of the applications and therefore do not end up contributing substantially to the review council meeting discussions. We feel it would better serve students to have more primary reviewers involved in making decisions on funding awards.
 - These changes have all been discussed and approved by the GSA Services Committee and now we are asking the Board of Directors for final approval.
 - Motion to approve the proposed changes to MDRF
 - Motion: Romance Languages & Literatures
 - Second: Global Gender Studies
 - In Favor: 46; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 7
 - Motion passes

4. Report of the President

- GSA President Isaac Kolding presents an update on the University policy related to open bar events.
 - Previously, GSA had been informed that changes to the University's alcohol policies had been made to include that all alcohol served on campus must be provided and served by Three Pillars Catering, and that all off campus events that included alcohol must limit consumption to two drinks per person. However, we were made aware that other student governments were not adhering to these policies. When the GSA staff investigated the matter, it was made known to us that the University only recommends that student governments limit their clubs to two drinks/drink tickets per person. The University also recommends and strongly encourages the student government to purchase an account with Uber to provide vouchers to attendees of any open bar party. If the student government won't do that they encourage the government or club to have some sort of shuttle service for that night.

- There are still legal liability concerns to be taken into consideration whenever a third-party vendor is not involved in the serving and monitoring of alcohol consumption.
- GSA Referendum Vote
 - Isaac informs students that every two years the graduate student activity fee is put up for a referendum vote.
 - A mandatory fee ensures that GSA is able to continue funding all of the clubs, programs, services and advocacy initiatives you have come to expect from your student government.
 - A voluntary fee would mean that the organization as a whole would cease to exist.
 - We hope that you will vote to continue supporting GSA when the referendum vote takes place online April 8th to 11th to coincide with the GSA officer elections.
 - Please share this information with your Departments and club members so that they understand the importance of this vote.
- GSA Tutorials
 - Isaac notes that GSA applications and procedures can sometimes feel complicated, so in an effort to make things more accessible and easier to understand he and the Services Committee have been working on new documentation and video tutorials to help students with common tasks, such as applying for funding or starting a new club.
 - Our hope is to have all of this information posted to the GSA website on or before the start of the Fall semester.

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall states that the Early Club Recognition deadline is Wednesday, March 20th.
 - Special Interest and International clubs that do not apply for Early Recognition will not have access to their club budget when the new fiscal year starts August 1st.
 - Those clubs will then need to apply for full recognition at one of the Fall semester Board meetings before their club will be considered active.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer Melanie March states that budget preparation is underway within the Finance Committee and will be presented to the Board for a vote at the April 3rd meeting.
 - If the budget passes on April 3rd then the April 24th Board meeting will be cancelled.
- Melanie reminds students to complete the Budget Survey that was emailed out on February 26th by Monday, March 11th and states that the link is posted on the GSA homepage (<https://ubwp.buffalo.edu/gsa>).
- Melanie reminds everyone that the final deadline for all funding requests for this year (Special Activity, Interdepartmental Activity, Symposia, and Community Outreach) is Wednesday, March 20th by 4:00pm. She states that this is also the final deadline for clubs to submit proposals for capital equipment purchases so that they may be reviewed by the GSA Finance Committee accordingly.
 - No club capital equipment purchases will be allowed that have not be properly reviewed and approved by the GSA Finance Committee.
- Melanie reviews the funding account balances and reminds students to make sure all funding applications are being submitted by the deadlines, as they are strictly enforced.
- Funding Account Balances:
 - Special Activity: \$15,000 to start, \$1,200.00 allocated this month, \$12,300.00 remaining
 - Interdepartmental Activity: \$2,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$2,000.00 remaining
 - Symposia: \$15,000.00 to start, \$1,400.00 allocated this month, \$13,600.00 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: \$6,000.00 to start, \$0.00 allocated this month, \$4,600.00 remaining
 - Community Outreach: \$2,000 to start, \$250.00 allocated this month, \$1,750.00 remaining
 - Conferences:
 - 64 requests in March for \$33,280.83; 64 approved for \$33,280.83
 - Beginning Balance: \$200,000.00; Remaining Balance: \$78,816.21
- Melanie encourages any graduate student that is interested in helping to formulate the GSA budget for the 2025-2026 academic year to consider joining the GSA Finance Committee next Fall.

7. Old Business

- No Old Business

8. New Business

- Funding Requests
 - Representatives from the Romance Languages & Literatures Symposium, Bangladeshi New Year Special Activity, and Psychology Community Outreach each present a brief description of their events and requests for funding.
 - Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Linguistics
 - Second: Latin American
 - In Favor: 51; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 2
 - Motion passes

- Election Committee Update
 - Election Committee Chair Layne Jensen presents the candidates for office:
 - For President: Isaac Kolding
 - For Vice President: Sarah MacDougall
 - For Treasurer: Tamara Grosso
 - The candidate Q&A will take place during the April 3rd Board meeting.
 - Elections will be held online Monday, April 8th to Thursday, April 11th and the link will be emailed out to all graduate students.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:21pm
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Counseling, School & Education Psychology
 - In favor: 51; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes