Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2024

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

Board Members:
Departmental:
Africana & Americana: S. Guiro
Anthropology: S. Biswas
Architecture: S. Brunstein (absent 1/2)
Art: L. Kegler
Audiology: G. Cerneskie (absent-RC)
Biochemistry: L. Jensen
Biological Sciences: E. Vohwinkel
Biostatistics: S. Liang
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC: absent
Chem. & Bio. Eng: M. Zamani
Chemistry: N. Kalita/ R. Routray
CSEE: V.R. Solanki/ A.K. Patel
 Classics: M. Pehringer
Communication: absent
Comm. Health & H.B. absent
Comparative Lit: L. Zausen
CSE: A.R. Alugupally/ M. Lary
CSEP: J. Casella
Electrical Engineering: K. Klosko (absent 1/2)
English: absent
Environment & Sus: S.A. Mirkoohi
EEH: K. Manney
ENS: N. Presti
Geography: H. Wang
Geology: absent
Global Gender Studies: M.L. Nutting
History: K. Kostin
ISE: inactive
Information Science: A. Crabtree
LAI: M. Esfahani
Linguistics: T. Grosso
Materials Design & In: S. Padmanabha
Mathematics: absent
MAE: A. Devra
Media Study: J. Hager
Microbiology: K. Saka
Music: J. Falzone
Neuroscience: R. Ravichandar
Nursing: L. Pasek
Occupational Therapy: S. Kim/I. Sabatini (absent-RC)
Oral Biology: absent
Pharmaceutics: absent
Pharmacology: B. Greene
Physical Therapy: V. McCutcheon/ B. Lynch
Political Science: R. Lawlor
Psychology: B. Greene
RLL: J. Garcia Ramirez
Social Work: R.P. Manuel
Sociology: N. Tucker Reyes
Speech: absent
Theatre & Dance: N. McCandless
Urban Planning: absent

International Clubs:
Bangladeshi: P. Paul
Indian: absent
Iranian: K. Borazjani
Latin American: C. Angulo Pando
Taiwanese: P.H. Chen

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

Guests:
J. Lippes
Legal
1. President Isaac Kolding calls the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

2. Approval of Minutes
   - Motion to approve the minutes from the March 6th Board Meeting
     - Motion: Biochemistry
     - Second: Iranian
     - In Favor: 47; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
     - Motion passes

3. Announcements
   - Microsoft Teams Update
     - Starting on March 31st, UBIT began updating Microsoft Teams for anyone with access to Microsoft 365. The rollout may take a few weeks to complete and will be done automatically. Feel free to contact UBIT directly with questions or concerns.
   - 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.
     - April 5th – North Campus Java Junction
       - Free Tim Horton’s coffee and donuts for graduate students in 145 C&D Student Union
     - April 12th - South Campus Java Junction
       - Free Tim Horton’s coffee and donuts for graduate students in 105 Harriman Hall
     - April 26th- Intercollegiate Graduate Student Networking Event at LECOM Harborcenter, Pan-American Ballroom
       - Free event for graduate students to meet and mingle with their peers. Open bar, snacks and music included. Free tickets now available at the UB Ticket Office (online or in 221 Student Union). 1 per UB ID. Free shuttle rides will be available to and from UB South Campus 4:30 to 5:30pm and 8:30 to 9:30pm.
     - May 3rd – Final North Campus Java Junction for the year
     - May 6th – Last batch of Discount AMC Movie Tickets available for the year
     - May 10th – Final South Campus Java Junction for the year
     - Coming Soon!
       - Discount Buffalo Bisons Baseball Flex Passes
       - Shakespeare in Delaware Park – June 29th and August 16th
       - Moondance Cruise – July 12th
       - Discount Six Flags Darien Lake Tickets for July 26th
       - And much more!
   - MDRF Spring Grant Funding Report
     - 33 applications received for $120,397.16
     - 18 applications approved for $67,379.03
   - GSA Summer Hours will begin on Monday, May 13th
     - Monday – Thursday 8:30am to 4:00pm, closed on Fridays
     - Regular hours will resume with the start of the Fall semester on August 26th

4. Report of the President
   - GSA President Isaac Kolding presents an update on the CAS Budget Pause
     - SUNY reduced funding due to lower enrollment, therefore, a hiring “pause” was implemented. Departments were, therefore, asked to reduce recruitment for PhD lines. There is no information at this time about when the pause will end or whether the TA lines will be brought back, but Isaac has reached out to CAS for a written statement on the topic.
   - SUNY System-Wide Research Institute on Racial Equality
     - If you are interested in attending, please email gsa-president@buffalo.edu.

5. Report of the Vice President
   - GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall states that the GSA Referendum Vote will be happening next week. This vote will determine whether GSA will exist in the future. She will be reaching out to club officers and recent MDRF recipients, conference funding recipients, and Editorial service users directly with an email notifying them about the importance of the vote to continue funding these valuable services, so please be on the lookout for that correspondence.

6. Report of the Treasurer
   - Funding Account Balances:
     - Special Activity: $15,000 to start, $750.00 allocated this month, $11,550.00 remaining
     - Interdepartmental Activity: $2,000.00 to start, $500.00 allocated this month, $1,500.00 remaining
     - Symposia: $15,000.00 to start, $1,400.00 allocated this month, $12,200.00 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, $1,750.00 remaining
Conferences:
- 36 requests in April for $12,915.25; 34 approved for $12,495.25
- Beginning Balance: $200,000.00; Remaining Balance: $66,320.96

Club Budgets
- Melanie reminds clubs that they will have until June 1st to requisition any remaining club 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 on August 1st. This year’s budget cannot be used to pay for next year’s expenses.

7. Old Business
- No Old Business

8. New Business

Early Club Recognition
- Representatives from Bangladeshi, Iranian, Latin American, GSOC, GPG, and UBQ 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 GISA and GradSWE, as there were no representatives present) as a block at the recommended amounts
  - Motion: Biochemistry
  - Second: Psychology
  - In Favor: 53; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes

Funding Requests
- Representatives from the Iranian Special Activity, Psychology Symposium, and Chemistry and Physics Interdepartmental Activity 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: Theatre and Dance
  - In Favor: 48; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
  - Motion passes

Review of Robert’s Rules of Order
- Isaac reviews some of the basic rules for managing meeting discussions prior to the start of the GSA budget discussion and vote.
  - Isaac recommends that we limit discussion on the budget to 30 minutes total, with each speaker being given a maximum of 3 minutes.
    - Motion to limit discussion, as previously suggested
    - Motion: Electrical Engineering
    - Second: Graduate Students of Color
    - Motion passes by consent

Approval of 2024-2025 Budget
- Melanie states that two budgets must be approved; one if the referendum passes and one if the referendum fails.
- In the version where the referendum passes, the GSA Finance Committee is recommending lowering annual savings, reducing IT services, officially pulling GSA out of SUNY SA, which would eliminate the External Affairs budget line, keeping club budget allocations at the same levels, and increasing Scholarly Publications, Interdepartmental Activity, Community Outreach, and conference funding. Melanie reviews the budget expenses in detail, line by line.
- Melanie then explains that the GSA E-board had originally proposed a different budget where changes still included lowering annual savings, reducing IT services, and officially pulling GSA out of SUNY SA, but instead included increasing conference funding by slightly less, decreasing Special Activity and Symposia, and increasing club budgets.
- The budget for a failed referendum scenario is the same in both proposals.
- Melanie and Isaac explain that the Board is only allowed to vote on the budget recommended by the Finance Committee as per GSA By Laws. If the Board wishes for the Finance Committee to revisit the budget proposed by the E-board, members should vote to oppose the approval of the Finance Committee recommended budget.
  - The Board asks questions about the proposals and debates the pros and cons of each budget for 30 minutes.
- Motion to approve the Finance Committee’s recommended budget
  - Motion: Romance Languages & Literatures
  - Second: Political Science
  - In Favor: 31; Oppose: 13; Abstain: 7
  - Motion passes
- In light of the budget passing tonight, the April 24th Board of Directors meeting will be cancelled.
Election Committee Update
- Election Committee Chair Layne Jensen presents the officer and referendum ballots for the Board of Director’s approval
- Motion to approve both ballots, with the spelling correction to Tamara’s last name
  - Motion: Environment & Sustainability
  - Second: Psychology
  - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 7
  - Motion passes
- Layne reviews the format for the Candidate Q&A
  - Candidates will have two minutes to introduce themselves.
  - Candidates will answer two questions from the Election Committee and will be given two minutes to respond.
  - Board members will be allowed to ask questions for up to 15 minutes. Candidates will be given 60 seconds to respond, or may choose not to answer.
  - Candidates will be given 60 seconds for closing remarks.
- Each candidate gives their speech and answers questions related to new initiatives and programs they’re planning, what changes they plan to make, and what skills make them suitable for office for the allotted times.
- Layne reminds everyone that the Officer elections and Referendum vote will take place online via a link on the GSA website. Polls will be open from Monday, April 8th at 12:00am until Thursday, April 11th at 11:59pm. The results will be announced on Friday, April 12th on the GSA listservs and on the website.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment
- Motion to Adjourn at 8:32pm
  - Motion: Romance Languages & Literatures
  - Second: Biochemistry
  - In favor: 43; Oppose: 1; Abstain: 1
  - Motion passes