

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, April 3, 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:	S. Guirou	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	S. Biswas	Information Science:	A. Crabtree
Architecture:	S. Brunstein (absent 1/2)	LAI:	M. Esfahani
Art:	L. Kegler	Linguistics:	T. Grosso
Audiology:	G. Cerneskie (absent-RC)	Materials Design & In:	S. Padmanabha
Biochemistry:	L. Jensen	Mathematics:	absent
Biological Sciences:	E. Vohwinkel	MAE:	A. Devra
Biostatistics:	S. Liang	Media Study:	J. Hager
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	absent	Microbiology:	K. Salka
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	M. Zamani	Music:	J. Falzone
Chemistry:	N. Kalita/ R. Routray	Neuroscience:	R. Ravichandar
CSEE:	V.R. Solanki/ A.K. Patel	Nursing:	L. Pasek
Classics:	M. Pehringer	Occupational Therapy:	S. Kim/I. Sabatini (absent-RC)
Communication:	absent	Oral Biology:	absent
Comm. Health & H.B.	absent	Pharmaceutics:	absent
Comparative Lit:	L. Zausen	Pharm. & Tox:	absent
CSE:	A.R. Alugupally/ M. Lary	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	J. Casella	Physical Therapy:	V. McCutcheon/ B. Lynch
ELP:	K. Klosko (absent 1/2)	Physics:	J. DeMaria
Electrical Engineering:	A. Ahmed/ P.V. Vegesna	Political Science:	R. Lawlor
English:	absent	Psychology:	B. Greene
Environment & Sus:	S.A. Mirkoochi	RLL:	J. Garcia Ramirez
EEH:	K. Manney	Social Work:	R.P. Manuel
ENS:	N. Presti	Sociology:	N. Tucker Reyes
Geography:	H. Wang	Speech:	absent
Geology:	absent	Theatre & Dance:	N. McCandless
Global Gender Studies:	M.L. Nutting	Urban Planning:	absent
History:	K. Kostin		

International Clubs:

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

Special Interest Clubs:

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

Guests:

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

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the March 6<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting
  - Motion: Biochemistry
  - Second: Iranian
  - In Favor: 47; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
  - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- Microsoft Teams Update
  - Starting on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> – North Campus Java Junction
    - Free Tim Horton’s coffee and donuts for graduate students in 145 C&D Student Union
  - April 12<sup>th</sup> - South Campus Java Junction
    - Free Tim Horton’s coffee and donuts for graduate students in 105 Harriman Hall
  - April 26<sup>th</sup>- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> – Final North Campus Java Junction for the year
  - May 6<sup>th</sup> – Last batch of Discount AMC Movie Tickets available for the year
  - May 10<sup>th</sup> – Final South Campus Java Junction for the year
  - Coming Soon!
    - Discount Buffalo Bisons Baseball Flex Passes
    - Shakespeare in Delaware Park – June 29<sup>th</sup> and August 16<sup>th</sup>
    - Moondance Cruise – July 12<sup>th</sup>
    - Discount Six Flags Darien Lake Tickets for July 26<sup>th</sup>
    - 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 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Monday – Thursday 8:30am to 4:00pm, closed on Fridays
  - Regular hours will resume with the start of the Fall semester on August 26<sup>th</sup>

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> to requisition any remaining club funds and until July 15<sup>th</sup> to spend them. All requisitions must be accompanied by club minutes pre-approving the expenses by the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
  - The new fiscal year begins on August 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00am until Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm. The results will be announced on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 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