

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, September 4, 2024

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

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

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	absent	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	L. Quarles	Information Science:	absent
Architecture:	C. Recinos Luna/ S. Zarub	LAI:	G. Xing
Art:	absent	Linguistics:	absent
Audiology:	absent	Materials Design & In:	absent
Biochemistry:	absent	Mathematics:	J. Koch
Biological Sciences:	N. Lynch	MAE:	absent
Biostatistics:	absent	Media Study:	J. Hager
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	T.S.M. Pandian/ R.C.G. Rodrigues	Microbiology:	K. Salka
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	M. Zamani	Music:	M. Sirvent
Chemistry:	N. Kalita/ B. Kumara	Neuroscience:	R. Ravichandar
CSEE:	M.H. Lasheen/ F.M. Daud	Nursing:	L.Pasek
Classics:	M. Pehringer	Occupational Therapy:	absent
Communication:	D. Kulesza	Oral Biology:	C. Matrishin
Comm. Health & H.B.	T. Tarannum	Pharmaceutics:	W. Wu
Comparative Lit:	absent	Pharm. & Tox:	absent
CSE:	absent	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	J. Casella	Physical Therapy:	V. McCutcheon/ B. Lynch
ELP:	absent	Physics:	J. DeMaria
Electrical Engineering:	M. Hosseinigheidari (absent 1/2)	Political Science:	R. Lawlor
English:	S. Williams	Psychology:	N. Zedomi
Environment & Sus:	R. Schultz	RLL:	J. Garcia Ramirez
EEH:	E. Odiko	Social Work:	A. Tatarka
ENS:	E. Lavoie	Sociology:	J. Adams
Geography:	absent	Speech:	L. Santalis/ S. Sozio
Geology:	K. Lindberg	Theatre & Dance:	I. Downes
Global Gender Studies:	K. Lam	Urban Planning:	A. Andrzejewski
History:	K. Kostin		

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	N.A. Nepa	Latin American:	C. Angulo Pando
Indian:	absent	Taiwanese:	absent
Iranian:	S.M. Hatamlee		

Special Interest Clubs:

GradSWE:	T. Campbell	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	D. Kalita	Chemistry/Finance & Services
S. Mandava	CSE/Services Com.	M. Ngwu	Sociology/Finance Com.
S. Chatterjee	Data Science/Services Com.	S. Basu	Electrical Eng/Services Com.
		J. Scalia	Chemistry/ Services Com.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the April 3rd Board Meeting.
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Music
 - In Favor: 44; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- Staff Intros
 - Isaac Kolding introduces GSA staff by name, though no student staff are present
 - Stephanie George, Director of Operations (slfrank@buffalo.edu)
 - Diane Staly, Associate Director of Operations (dstaly@buffalo.edu)
- Office Hours
 - GSA Staff work partly remotely
 - Walk-in hours Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 - 11:30am
 - All other meetings by appointment
 - Email gsa-feedback@buffalo.edu to schedule, or call the office
 - Business hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm, closed for lunch daily 1:00 - 2:00pm
 - No staff are in the North Campus office on Tuesdays, and staff are fully remote on Fridays.
- Board Meeting Schedule & Training
 - Board meeting schedule was distributed with the agenda email and in the meeting packet
 - Required Board of Director training
 - Should be completed before the next board meeting
 - Submit certificates of completion to Diane Staly
 - If you have trouble accessing the certificate, please email info@boardstrong.org with a screenshot of your quiz results showing a score of 100%.
 - Q&A session to be led by GSA Legal Counsel, Josh Lippes, at the October Board meeting
- Programming
 - September 6th- North Campus Graduate Student Resource Fair and Java Junction, 11:00am – 1:00pm in 145 Student Union
 - Come meet with representatives from various on-campus offices and organizations that offer events, services, and support for graduate students.
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts
 - September 9th- Discount AMC Movie Tickets Available
 - \$5 each. 1 per UB ID.
 - Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
 - September 13th- South Campus Graduate Student Resource Fair and Java Junction, 11:00am – 1:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts
 - October 16th- Distinguished Speaker Series presents Jon Meacham, 7:00pm at CFA
 - Free tickets available starting September 16th. 1 per UB ID.
 - Limited quantity available. First come, first served.
 - October 12th- Buffalo Sabres Hockey Game vs. Florida Panthers
 - Tickets on sale September 16th for \$10 each. 2 per UB ID.
 - Limited quantity available. First come, first served.
 - October 25th- **Hamilton** at Shea's Performing Arts Center, 7:30pm
 - Tickets on sale September 16th for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID.
 - Limited quantity available. First come, first served.
 - ANNOUNCEMENT- Those students who purchase tickets for **Hamilton** will NOT be eligible to purchase tickets for **& Juliet** in November
 - Coming Soon!
 - Buffalo Bills Football Game
 - Becker Farms Fall Fest
 - And much more!

4. Report of the President

- GSA President Isaac Kolding makes everyone aware the Whistleblower and Conflict of Interest policies that were distributed in the meeting packet.
 - Verification of receipt of these policies needs to be received by the October 2nd Board meeting

- Please share the policies with newly elected board members
- Updated GSA Alcohol Policy
 - Isaac explains that the policy needed to be updated to keep students safe and to protect the organization from legal liability issues.
 - Clubs cannot directly serve alcohol, it must be served by a third-party vendor.
 - Example: Clubs are not permitted to purchase beer at Wegman's and serve it at a club picnic. Clubs may not sponsor BYOB events or invite attendees to bring alcohol.
 - Open bars are not permitted. Two drink max per person at all club-sponsored events.
 - On campus events with alcohol must use Three Pillars Catering, as per University policy.
 - Isaac opens discussion and questions from the Board are addressed.
- Updates on the CAS Dean Search
 - Current Dean, Robin Schulze, has resigned. The search committee will be holding a student input meeting this Friday from 1:00 – 1:30pm online where students can voice opinions and concerns about what type of person they want to see in her replacement. Zoom link for the meeting is shared. If students are unable to attend, please send your comments to Isaac at gsa-president@buffalo.edu so that he can voice them on your behalf.
- PhD Excellence Oversight Committee Call for Volunteer
 - Committee is mostly composed of faculty, but there are administrative and graduate student reps as well. Meetings happen once per month and last approximately 1-1.5 hours. Discussions revolve around how to make PhD education better at UB, but other issues can be addressed. Looking for one volunteer. Anyone interested should contact Isaac at gsa-president@buffalo.edu.
- Update on Policy Review Group (PRG) for Assembling, Posting and Camping policies
 - GSA Executive Board met with President Tripathi over the summer and advocated for a spot on this committee, which was granted. This all results from the protest issues that occurred last May, so the University is revising their policies. There is now a 30-day open review and comment period, so if you would like to submit any feedback please be sure to get it submitted within the comment window. Isaac shares the link to the policies and comment forum. All comments submitted through official channels are addressed at each committee meeting. These policies cannot be enacted until the 30-day review window closes, so please make sure to submit feedback ASAP.

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall reviews important information and responsibilities for club officers and Board members.
- UBLinked
 - Please be sure to update the roles of club officers appropriately on your club's UBLinked page so the new officers can submit event requests and re-register the club
 - University-wide re-registration deadline for all clubs is October 15th
 - Budget will be frozen by the University (not GSA) for the entire year if this is not completed on time.
- Mandatory Officer Training for all club Presidents and Treasurers
 - Officers should review all of the required materials and then must pass a quiz.
 - Passed Quiz Results must be received from all club Presidents and Treasurers by the September 30th paperwork deadline or club funds will be frozen.
- Listservs & forwarding emails
 - Please remember that GSA is only given very limited access to the University's master listserv of graduate students
 - It is the responsibility of club officers to forward GSA emails to your constituent/Department listservs (i.e., the weekly GSA Newsletter that goes out on Tuesdays).
 - It is the Board of Directors members' job to report back the information presented at these meetings to your club members.
- The GSA E-board wants to do the best they can to advocate for all students in meetings with the Graduate School and other administrative officials, but if no one reaches out concerns about system-wide issues with the University, then issues will remain unaddressed. Please contact gsa-president@buffalo.edu, gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu, or gsa-treasurer@buffalo.edu with any concerns.
- There are lots of funding opportunities available that more people can and should be taking advantage of. The GSA is here to help you navigate those opportunities. If you have questions, please reach out.
- DISC Training
 - Tom Vane has made himself available to offer DISC training to any club that is interested. Helps groups learn how to better understand one another and work together.
- Graduate Professional Development
 - A representative from the GPD office is available to come to club meetings or events to discuss the professional development opportunities available.
- Career Design Center Career Accelerator Program

- CDC is offering workshops for PhD students looking to explore other career options. Sarah shares to link to register if you are interested.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer Tamara Grosso discusses funding account balances
 - We have spent no money, so balances are as follows:
 - Special activity: \$15,000
 - Interdepartmental activity: \$4,000
 - Symposium: \$15,000
 - Scholarly publication: \$10,000
 - Community outreach: \$5,000
 - Conference Funding
 - 25 requests in August for \$13,788.03; 24 approved for \$13,238.03
 - 11 requests in September for \$5,263.00; 11 approved for \$5,263.00
 - Beginning balance: \$250,000.00; Remaining balance: \$231,498.97

7. Old Business

- There is no old business.

8. New Business

- Call for committee members
 - Finance Committee
 - Vaishnavi Ashok Khadasane (Management)
 - Henry Emenike Okaro (Management)
 - Rahul Bharadwaj Ravisha (Industrial & Systems Engineering)
 - Millicent Odinakachukwu Ngwy (Sociology)
 - Kelly Ross (Management)
 - Kshitij Bansode (Management)
 - Rimil Sarkar (Management)
 - Devaleena Kalita (Chemistry)
 - Nathan Lynch (Biological Sciences)
 - Alt 1 – Ryan Schultz (Environment & Sustainability)
 - Alt 2 – Jordan Scalia (Chemistry)
 - Motion to approve Finance Committee members
 - Motion: Speech
 - Second: Graduate Students of Color
 - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes
 - Services Committee
 - Suman Mandava (Computer Science Engineering)
 - Shuvam Chatterjee (Data Science Engineering)
 - Sarbajit “Sam” Basu (Electrical Engineering)
 - Jordan Scalia (Chemistry)
 - Devaleena Kalita (Chemistry)
 - Motion to approve Services Committee members
 - Motion: Anthropology
 - Second: Iranian
 - In Favor: 40; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 3
 - Motion passes
 - Election Committee
 - Kiara Roberts (Counseling, School & Education Psychology)
 - Logan Barrett (Psychology)
 - Sai Snehitha Ramisetty (Data Science Engineering)
 - Jordan Scalia (Chemistry)
 - Devaleena Kalita (Chemistry)
 - Motion to approve Election Committee members
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Exercise & Nutrition Science
 - In Favor: 38; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 4
 - Motion passes
 - Ethics Officer

- No volunteer
 - Motion to table the approval of the Ethics Officer until the October 2nd Board meeting
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: English
 - Motion passes by consent
 - Club Recognition
 - No clubs up for recognition this month
 - Funding Requests
 - No funding requests received this month
9. Roll Call and Adjournment
- Motion to Adjourn at 7:47pm
 - Motion: Biological Sciences
 - Second: Learning & Instruction
 - In favor: 41; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes