

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, December 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	History:	K. Kostin
Anthropology:	L. Quarles	ISE:	inactive
Architecture:	absent	Information Science:	absent
Art:	K. Leon Andino	LAI:	absent
Audiology:	M. Tumminaro	Linguistics:	J. Pokorski
Biochemistry:	absent	Materials Design & In:	E. Chen
Biological Sciences:	absent	Mathematics:	inactive
Biomedical Engineering:	R. Bing	MAE:	A. Nayyar/ A. Devra
Biostatistics:	absent	Media Study:	R. Zhang
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	R.C.G. Rodrigues/ S. Gawlak	Microbiology:	M. Mazzaferro
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	O. Desai	Music:	M. Sirvent
Chemistry:	D. Edirisinghe/ B. Kumara	Neuroscience:	D. Federico
CSEE:	M.H. Lasheen/ A. Patel	Nursing:	inactive
Classics:	M. Barcarolo	Occupational Therapy:	R. Guy (absent- 1/2)
Communication:	I. Andreeva	Oral Biology:	C. Matrishin
Comm. Health & H.B.	M. McCormick	Pharmaceutics:	M. Zhao
Comparative Lit:	inactive	Pharm. & Tox:	S. Narwekar
CSE:	absent	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	R. Lelito	Physical Therapy:	absent
ELP:	absent	Physics:	absent
Electrical Engineering:	absent	Political Science:	absent
English:	absent	Psychology:	B. Greene
Environment & Sus:	R. Schultz	RLL:	J. Garcia Ramirez
EEH:	E. Odiko	Social Work:	A. Blackburn
ENS:	absent	Sociology:	absent
Geography:	absent	Speech:	M. Marsh/ J. Flint
Geology:	K. Eaman	Theatre & Dance:	I. Downes
Global Gender Studies:	J. Allen	Urban Planning:	A. Andrzejewski

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	absent	Latin American:	A.A. Chacon
Indian:	V. Maheshkar	Nigerian:	H.E. Okaro
Iranian:	absent		

Special Interest Clubs:

Cognitive Science:	S.A. Mirkoohi	Grad Students of Colo	S. Caliste
Graduate Poetics:	A. VanSteinberg	UBQ:	absent

Guests:

J. Lippes	Legal
M. Grela	FSA/Accounting
E. Didier	P-Queue

1. President Isaac Kolding calls the meeting to order at 6:31pm

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the November 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors Meeting
  - Motion: Graduate Students of Color (GSOC)
  - Second: Biomedical Engineering (BME)
  - In Favor: 34; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 5
  - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- FSA Accounting Manager Michael Grella reviews the GSA's audit, Financial Statements, 990 and CHAR500 tax reports.
  - Motion to approve the 990 tax filing
    - Motion: Art
    - Second: Social Work
    - In Favor: 35; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 4
    - Motion passes
- GSA Winter Break Schedule
  - Open through Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Closed Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Open on Summer Hours Thursday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> – Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>
    - Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm, Closed on Fridays
  - Closed Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup> for MLK Jr. Day observance (University Closed)
  - Regular Business Hours resume Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>
- MDRF Winter Grant Cycle Report
  - 38 applications received requesting \$131,908.60
  - 13 applications funded for \$42,335.66
  - Spring deadline: Friday, February 16, 2025
    - For research to be conducted April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026
    - Deadline to have applications pre-reviewed by the MDRF Director is Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup> by 12:00pm!
  - Summer deadline: Friday, May 17, 2025
    - For research to be conducted July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
- Programming
  - GSA Programming Coordinator Jamison Garcia Ramirez reviews the upcoming events:
  - More 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.
  - December 6<sup>th</sup> - North Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm in 145C&D Student Union
    - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students
    - There will be no South Campus Java Junction in December due to the winter break closure
  - Canalside Ice Skating Vouchers Coming Soon!
    - As soon as tickets are received they will be on sale for \$2 each. 2 per UB ID. Includes skate rental and admission. Reserve online and pick up physical tickets at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.
    - Tickets are valid until February 28, 2025.

4. Report of the President

- GSA President Isaac Kolding discusses the Services Committee's Conference Funding Report
  - Students estimate overall funding need at \$2,800 (master's) and \$4,200 (PhDs)
  - Availability of funding varies widely by school, degree type, and department
  - On average and from all sources, graduate students receive enough funding to attend at least one academic or professional conference
  - GSA rejects very few conference funding applications; students often decline to use awarded funding
  - Some incremental changes may increase expenditures
  - The GSA E-board will review and discuss the report and notify the Board of any proposed changes to policies or the budget.
  - Anyone who would like a copy of the full report can contact Isaac at [gsa-president@buffalo.edu](mailto:gsa-president@buffalo.edu).

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President Sarah MacDougall reminds clubs that they **must** be sharing information about club meeting times with all graduate student members, and not just sharing the meeting minutes. Club officers alone cannot make decisions on behalf of the club, and wider advertising of club meetings might help alleviate the quorum issues that many of our clubs have been facing recently.
- This is the last Board meeting of the year at which clubs can be recognized, so all new club requests will have to wait until Fall, 2025.

## 6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer Tamara Grosso discusses funding account balances
  - We have one funding request this month, so balances are as follows:
    - Special Activity: (updated balance) \$10,000.00 to start; \$0.00 recommended this month; \$7,650.00 remaining
    - Interdepartmental Activity: (updated balance) \$3,000.00 to start; \$0.00 recommended; \$3,000.00 remaining
    - Symposium: (updated balance) \$10,000.00 to start; \$0.00 recommended; \$8,600.00 remaining
    - Scholarly publication: (updated balance) \$6,000.00 to start; \$1,475.00 recommended; \$4,525.00 remaining
    - Community outreach: (updated balance) \$3,000.00 to start; \$0.00 recommended; \$3,000.00 remaining
- Conference Funding
  - 11 applications for December requesting \$6,834.78; 10 applications approved for \$6,634.78 (1 application was rejected for a non-fundable event)
  - Updated beginning balance: \$225,000.00; Remaining balance: \$163,865.66
- Community Outreach Highlight
  - This program was created to promote service to local community agencies for the betterment of humanity and to encourage graduate student organization involvement in the community.
  - Clubs can get a \$250 budget increase for doing 40 hours of community service to a local non-profit.
  - All clubs are encouraged to apply!

## 7. Old Business

- No Old Business

## 8. New Business

- Club Recognition
  - Sarah reports that she has reviewed the application for club recognition received by the Nigerian Graduate Student Association and is recommending them for recognition at the maximum amount allowable.
  - Henry Emenike Okaro presents a brief description of the Nigerian Graduate Student Association's mission and plans for club activities.
  - Motion to approve the club for recognition at the recommended amount
    - Motion: Art
    - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)
    - In Favor: 39; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes
- Funding Requests
  - Tamara reports that the Finance Committee has reviewed the one Scholarly Publication application and is recommending it for full funding
  - Eli Didier from Graduate Poetics Group gives a brief description of the P-Queue publication
  - Motion to approve funding request at the recommended amount
    - Motion: Music
    - Second: Neuroscience
    - In Favor: 34; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes

## 9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:16pm
  - Motion: Counseling, School & Education Psychology (CSEP)
  - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)
  - In favor: 36; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
  - Motion passes