

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 5, 2025

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:	C. Davis	History:	A. Skezas
Anthropology:	absent	ISE:	inactive
Architecture:	S. Kattel/ Z. Izzo	Information Science:	M. Kimick
Art:	A. Montoya	LAI:	absent
Audiology:	M. Tumminaro	Linguistics:	absent
Biochemistry:	B. Varner	Materials Design & In:	E. Chen
Biological Sciences:	absent	Mathematics:	inactive
Biomedical Engineering:	S.A. Periyasamy	MAE:	A. Nayyar/ A. Devra
Biostatistics:	Y.L. Liu	Media Study:	absent
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	A. Das (absent 1/2)	Microbiology:	M. Mazzaferro
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	O. Desai	Music:	A. Paruta
Chemistry:	D. Edirisinghe/ B. Kumara	Neuroscience:	A. Tranquille
CSEE:	M.Daud/ A. Patel	Nursing:	inactive
Classics:	M. Barcarolo	Occupational Therapy:	B. Osborne/ R. Guy
Communication:	I. Andreeva	Oral Biology:	S. Biswas
Comm. Health & H.B.	absent	Pharmaceutics:	A. Germakovski
Comparative Lit:	inactive	Pharm. & Tox:	absent
CSE:	absent	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	absent	Physical Therapy:	J. Manning/ J. Schneider
ELP:	absent	Physics:	P. Young
Electrical Engineering:	S. Basu (absent 1/2)	Political Science:	S. Krzemien
English:	T. Murter	Psychology:	S. Levy
Environment & Sus:	R. Schultz	RLL:	J. Garcia Ramirez
EEH:	E. Odiko	Social Work:	absent
ENS:	A. Gabel	Sociology:	G.C. Morales
Geography:	absent	Speech:	J. Flint/ H. Miller
Geology:	K. Eaman	Theatre & Dance:	I. Downes
Global Gender Studies:	S. Maza	Urban Planning:	A. Andrzejewski

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	A. Islam	Latin American:	M. Riquelme Gonzalez
Indian:	V. Maheshkar	Nigerian:	absent
Iranian:	H. Naeimi		

Special Interest Clubs:

Cognitive Science:	S.A. Mirkoohi	Grad Students of Color	D. Rodriguez
Graduate Poetics:	A. VanSteinberg	UBQ:	C. Doubek

Guests:

J. Lippes	Legal	C. Ullman	UBIT
D. Kalita	Electon Committee Chair	C. Harrison	Counseling Services
I. Roma	Political Science		

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

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the February 5th Board of Directors Meeting
 - Motion: Latin American
 - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)
 - In Favor: 42; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- Dr. Catherine Ullman from UBIT explains best practices for graduate students to maintain credential safety.
 - She warns that attackers seek out University credentials because they could provide greater access to restricted or confidential data, which can lead to ID theft and fraud. She warns students to be particularly vigilant when monitoring for direct deposit fraud. She encourages everyone to use long, unique passwords and phrases and not to save them to your browsers. She warns everyone to be conscious of any unexpected Duo Push notifications. If one is received, reset your password immediately. Be sure to report all phishing scams to UBIT. She reviews some of the most common scams and lets everyone know how to respond if you do fall for a scam, which includes reporting to law enforcement and filing a complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). She concludes by reminding everyone to keep unique passwords for all critical accounts (i.e., bank and medical portals), to use 2 factor authentication (2FA) on everything possible, to keep up with software updates on all OS and apps, and to backup all important data in multiple, safe locations.
 - For more information, please contact Dr. Ullman directly at cende@buffalo.edu
- Casey Harrison gives a brief presentation on the upcoming Out of the Darkness Campus Walk and Roll to benefit the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.
 - Their goal is to raise \$20,000 this year, so please register or donate if you are interested in participating.
- GSA Spring Break Schedule
 - GSA will be on summer hours for the week of Spring Break. Business hours are Monday, March 17th to Thursday, March 20th from 8:30am to 4:00pm, closed for lunch daily 1:00 to 2:00pm.
 - Walk-in hours: Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 11:30am
 - Closed Friday, March 21st
- Programming
 - GSA Programming Coordinator Jamison Garcia Ramirez reviews the upcoming events:
 - 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 7th, North Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students in 145C&D Student Union
 - March 13th, Distinguished Speaker Series presents Damar Hamlin
 - Free tickets still available for graduate students. 1 per UB ID.
 - Reserve online and digital admission tickets will be emailed out approximately 24 hours before the show.
 - March 14th, South Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students in 105 Harriman Hall
 - March 26th- **Shucked** at Shea's Performing Arts Center
 - Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Reserve online and digital admission tickets will be emailed out approximately 24 hours before the show.
 - If tickets continue to remain available, we will open up sales to those who already purchased The Wiz tickets the week before the show.
 - April 5th- Buffalo Sabres Hockey Game vs. Tampa Bay Lightning
 - Tickets, unfortunately, sold out earlier today
- Isaac reminds students that the MDRF Spring Grant Application Deadline is Friday, March 28th by 3:00pm
 - For research to be conducted between May 1, 2025 and April 30, 2026

4. Report of the President

- GSA President, Isaac Kolding, discusses updates on PhD admissions
 - The pause on admissions was lifted a few days after our last Board of Directors meeting and the guidance from the University seems to be to proceed as usual with normal funding limitations.
- Isaac states that GSA is going to be proposing some changes to the conference funding limitations for next year.
 - We hope to increase funding limits by \$75 and make the limits by degree, rather than graduate career
- Stand up for Science Buffalo Event will be held Friday, March 7, from 2:00-6:00pm at Niagara Square.
- Connect-a-Bull is a mentor connection program for non-academic pursuits. If you are interested in being partnered with a mentor in your field, they can help make those arrangements. There are now new groups for ALANA and LGBTQIA+ students as well.

- The Art of Research Competition deadline is March 10th. There are volunteer opportunities available as well if you don't wish to make a submission.
- GSA now has a LinkedIn page, so come join us!

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President, Sarah MacDougall, informs the Board that the Early Club Recognition deadline is Wednesday, March 19th
 - 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.
 - Clubs will then need to apply for recognition at one of the Fall semester Board meetings before their club will be considered active.
- Stats Lab Update
 - An email was sent out to all Directors of Graduate Studies (DGSs), which was then sent to students. If you think Master's students should be able to use this lab as well, please tell your DGS! Currently, the service is only available to PhD students.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer, Tamara Grosso, reports that the budget preparations are underway within the Finance Committee and will be presented to the Board for a vote at the April 2nd meeting.
 - If the budget passes on April 2nd then the April 23rd Board meeting will be cancelled
- Please note that the final deadline for all club funding requests for this year (Special Activity, Interdepartmental Activity, Symposia and Community Outreach) is Wednesday, March 19th by 4:00pm.
- This is also the final deadline for clubs to submit proposals for capital equipment purchases so that they may be reviewed by the Finance Committee accordingly.
 - No club capital equipment purchases will be allowed that have not be properly reviewed and approved by the GSA Finance Committee!
- Funding Account Balances
 - We have three Special Activity funding requests and one Community Outreach request this month, so balances are as follows:
 - Special Activity: (updated balance) \$10,000.00 to start; \$3,400.00 recommended this month; \$4,250.00 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; \$5,800.00 remaining
 - Scholarly Publication: (updated balance) \$6,000.00 to start; \$0.00 recommended; \$4,525.00 remaining (final application deadline has passed)
 - Community Outreach: (updated balance) \$3,000.00 to start; \$250.00 recommended; \$2,750.00 remaining
- Conference Funding
 - 25 applications for March requesting \$13,314.69; 23 applications approved for \$12,364.69 (1 application was rejected for being ineligible and 1 who reached their funding maximum).
 - Updated beginning balance: \$225,000.00; Remaining balance: \$139,778.36
- Symposium Funding Highlight
 - This fund exists to provide graduate students with the opportunity to create and organize formal meetings that will allow graduate students to prepare and present research papers, posters, programs and projects to their peers.
 - Any club may request up to \$1,400.00 and all clubs are encouraged to apply

7. Old Business

- No Old Business

8. New Business

- Proposed By Law Amendments
 - Sarah explains that amendments must be read at this meeting and voted on at the April 2nd meeting.
 - Under Article X: Clubs we are adding the following:
 - [F] Each club must adopt and adhere to the GSA's "Template Rules and Policies for Clubs and Organizations" to be officially be recognized.
 - [G] Each club must adhere to the GSA's minimum club meeting quorum requirement to be officially recognized. Club quorum must be no less than 50% of the total membership plus one for clubs with eighteen or fewer members, and no less than ten members for clubs with eighteen or more members. Clubs may choose to set a higher quorum requirement at their discretion. The use of online polls to achieve quorum is prohibited.
 - [H] Each club election of Officers and Board of Directors members must reach quorum and be conducted on UBLinked to be officially be recognized.
- Funding Requests

- Tamara reports that the Finance Committee has reviewed the three Special Activity funding applications and the one Community Outreach request that were included with the Board meeting packet and they are recommending all of them for full funding.
- Vaishali Maheshkar from GISA gives a brief description of Holi, Arthur Germakovski gives a brief presentation about the Pharmaceutical Sciences Networking Event, Azharul Islam discusses Bengali New Year, and Sera Levy describes the Psychology GSA's plan to volunteer at FeedMore WNY.
- Motion to approve all funding requests as a block at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Latin American
 - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)
 - In Favor: 41; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
- Election Committee Update
 - Election Committee Chair, Devaleena Kalita, presents the candidates for office,
 - For President: Sarah MacDougall
 - For Vice President: Sevdavinejad Mirkoohi
 - For Treasurer: Isaac Kolding
 - Devaleena mentions that the candidate Q&A will take place during the April 2nd Board of Directors meeting and that elections will be held online Monday, April 7th through Thursday, April 10th.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:26pm
 - Motion: Microbiology
 - Second: Chemical & Biological Engineering (CBE)
 - In favor: 41; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes