

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

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

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

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	E. McDaniel	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	H. Murphy	Indigenous Studies:	inactive
Architecture:	U. Ramos/ B. Andreu	Information Science:	I. Blyth
Art:	D. Harder	LAI:	M. Elliott
Audiology:	absent	Linguistics:	J. Pokorski
Biochemistry:	E. Murray	Materials Design & Info:	A. Neelur
Biological Sciences:	K. Scheer	Mathematics:	inactive
Biomedical Engineering:	R. Bing	MAE:	M. Mousa
Biostatistics:	H. Liu	Media Study:	absent
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	C. Schwarz/ M. Roberts	Microbiology:	J. Furfaro
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	K. Leatt	Music:	J. Roush
Chemistry:	A. Abanikanda/ W.K.P. Arachchige	Neuroscience:	R.A. Sadler
CSEE:	Nisha/ M. Hasan Lasheen	Nursing:	inactive
Classics:	M. Barcarolo	Occupational Therapy:	M. Borgese
Communication:	absent	Oral Biology:	absent
Comm. Health & H.B.	absent	Pharmaceutics:	K. Lu/ T. Adeniyi-Aogo
Comparative Lit:	inactive	Pharm. & Tox:	inactive
CSE:	absent	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	absent	Physical Therapy:	G. VanLangevelde (absent- 1/2)
Earth Science:	E. Haggerty	Physics:	A. Abrar Islam
ELP:	absent	Physiology & Biophysics:	J. Tondreau
Electrical Engineering:	O. Savkina (absent- 1/2)	Political Science:	S. Krzemien
English:	B. Rice	Psychology:	E. Lee
Environment & Sus:	L. Bargnesi	RLL:	absent
EEH:	M. Xu	Social Work:	B. Furer
ENS:	A. Gabel	Sociology:	M. Ngwu
Geography:	absent	Speech:	R. Santos/ H. Carrasco
Global Gender Studies:	S. King-Shaw	Theatre & Dance:	V. Fish
History:	A. Martin	Urban Planning:	absent

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	M. Hossain	Iranian:	H. Naeimi
Ghanian:	I. Akwety	Latin American:	absent
Indian:	V. Maheshkar	Nigerian:	C. Lawrence

Special Interest Clubs:

Graduate Poetics Group: absent

Guests:

J. Lippes                      Legal

1. President Sarah MacDougall calls the meeting to order at 6:32pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2025 Board Meeting.
  - Motion: Information Science
  - Second: English
  - In Favor: 43; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 2
  - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- GSA will be closed for Fall Recess Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> to Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup>
- GSA will also be closed for Winter Break
  - Open through Monday, December 8th
  - Closed Tuesday, December 9th – Friday, January 2nd
  - Open on Summer Hours Monday, January 5th – Tuesday, January 20th
    - Monday – Thursday 8:30am – 4:00pm, Closed on Fridays
  - Closed Monday, January 19th for MLK Jr. Day observance (University Closed)
  - Regular Business Hours resume Wednesday, January 21st
  - Paperwork deadline will be Wednesday, December 3rd for payments to be processed before Winter Break!
- Programming
  - 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.
  - November 7<sup>th</sup>- North Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm in **215 Student Union (please note location change)**
    - Free Tim Horton's coffee, tea and donuts for graduate students
  - November 11<sup>th</sup>- Distinguished Speaker Series presents Pete McBride and Kevin Fedarko, 7:00pm at CFA
    - Free tickets are available now for graduate students. 1 per UB ID. Reserve online and digital tickets will be sent out the day before the event.
  - November 14<sup>th</sup>- South Campus Java Junction, 11:00am to 1:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
    - Free Tim Horton's coffee, tea and donuts for graduate students
  - November 17<sup>th</sup>- Mindfulness Monday ~ Intro to Pilates, 2:30-3:30pm in 210 Student Union
    - Free tickets available now at the UB Ticket Office
  - November 21<sup>st</sup>- Buffalo Sabres Hockey Game vs. Chicago Blackhawks
    - Tickets on sale now for \$10 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available. First come, first served.
  - November 21<sup>st</sup>- Wicked at Shea's Performing Arts Center
    - Tickets on sale now for \$25 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available. First come, first served.
    - **ANNOUNCEMENT- Those students who purchase tickets for The Notebook will NOT be eligible to purchase tickets for Wicked**
  - December 1, Mindfulness Monday ~ Mindful Movement
    - Free tickets available now at the UB Ticket Office
  - January 4<sup>th</sup>- Buffalo Bills Football Game vs. New York Jets
    - Tickets are on sale November 10<sup>th</sup> for \$75 each. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available. First come, first served.

4. Report of the President

- GSA President, Sarah MacDougall, reports on the COAL Programming Grant results
  - 8 applications were submitted by GSA and GSA clubs, and 4 were approved for a total of \$13,542.88
- International Student Committee
  - First meeting was held, but we are still looking for students willing to weigh in on their experiences at UB. Email either [gsa-president@buffalo.edu](mailto:gsa-president@buffalo.edu) or [gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu](mailto:gsa-vicepresident@buffalo.edu) if you are interested.

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA President, Sarah MacDougall, reviews important information for club representatives in Sevda Abdavinejad Mirkoohi's absence.
  - Please remember that clubs need to share information about meeting times with all graduate student members, not just sharing the meeting minutes.
  - Reminder about club voting and funding guidelines
    - All votes must take place in open club meetings
    - Club members must approve of all expenses and amounts (E-board alone cannot approve expenses)
    - Meeting attendance must meet quorum for votes to be legitimate!
    - Minutes must show the motion, the second, and the voting tallies.

6. Report of the Treasurer

- GSA Treasurer, Isaac Kolding, reports the GSA funding account balances
  - There are no funding requests up for approval this month, so balances are as follows:

- Special Activity: \$10,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$7,690 remaining
- Interdepartmental Activity: \$3,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$3,000 remaining
- Symposium: \$10,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$10,000 remaining
- Scholarly Publication: \$6,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$6,000 remaining
- Community Outreach: \$3,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$3,000 remaining
- Isaac reminds everyone that the Scholarly Publication fund exists to support original and scholarly academic publications such as journals (of varying media) or the formal proceedings of graduate student conferences. The final deadline to submit applications for this year is November 19<sup>th</sup>. All publications must be printed by June 30, 2026.
- Conference Funding
  - 82 requests were received in November for \$43,257.15; 76 approved for \$41,307.15
  - 1 request was withdrawn and 5 were late
  - Beginning balance: \$225,000.00; Remaining balance: \$139,447.52

#### 7. Old Business

- No Old Business

#### 8. New Business

- Club Recognition
  - Sarah reports that Sevda has reviewed the paperwork for this group and is recommending them for recognition with the full first-year probationary budget of \$400
  - A representative from Ghanaian GSA gives a brief description of his club.
  - Motion to approve Ghanaian GSA at the recommended amount
    - Motion: Global Gender Studies
    - Second: Learning & Instruction
    - In Favor: 43; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
    - Motion passes
- Funding Requests
  - Isaac reports that there are no funding requests to approve this month.
- Approval of Election Code
  - GSA Director of Operations, Stephanie George, states that the Election Committee Chair, Devaleena Kalita, was unable to attend tonight, but reports that all of the dates and deadlines have been updated to reflect the new year's calendar, and that the only other change proposed was to require no more than five signatures on one petition from students enrolled in the same department (which previously was eight).
    - Motion to approve the Election Code
    - Motion: Political Science
    - Second: English
    - In Favor: 40; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 4
    - Motion passes

#### 9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 6:49pm
  - Motion: Anthropology
  - Second: English
  - In favor: 42; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
  - Motion passes