

Minutes of the Graduate Student Association Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Attendance:

Officers & Staff:

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

Board Members:

Departmental:

Africana & Americana:	C. Davis	ISE:	inactive
Anthropology:	H. Murphy	Indigenous Studies:	inactive
Architecture:	absent	Information Science:	I. Blyth
Art:	D. Harder	LAI:	M. Elliott
Audiology:	H. Kerins	Linguistics:	absent
Biochemistry:	S. Teng	Materials Design & Info:	A. Neelur
Biological Sciences:	S. Gubbi	Mathematics:	inactive
Biomedical Engineering:	R.K. Biju	MAE:	M. Mousa
Biostatistics:	H. Liu- absent RC	Media Study:	H. Treadway
Cancer Sciences- RPCCC:	J. DiStasio/ J. Wright	Microbiology:	J. Hoyser
Chem. & Bio. Eng:	absent	Music:	absent
Chemistry:	A. Abanikanda/ W.K.P. Arachchige	Neuroscience:	R.A. Sadler
CSEE:	M. Movahhed/ P. Bommarasipeta	Nursing:	inactive
Classics:	M. Barcarolo	Occupational Therapy:	J. Novella
Communication:	I. Andreeva	Oral Biology:	S. Biswas
Comm. Health & H.B.	absent	Pharmaceutics:	K. Lu (absent 1/2)
Comparative Lit:	inactive	Pharm. & Tox:	inactive
CSE:	Y. Verma	Philosophy:	inactive
CSEP:	B. Krause	Physical Therapy:	E. Yarbrough/ G. VanLangevelde
Earth Science:	E. Haggerty	Physics:	absent
ELP:	J. Holmes	Physiology & Biophysics:	absent
Electrical Engineering:	S. Basu/ O. Savkina	Political Science:	S. Krzemien
English:	B. Rice	Psychology:	E. Lee
Environment & Sus:	absent	RLL:	absent
EEH:	absent	Social Work:	E. Sutton
ENS:	A. Gabel	Sociology:	absent
Geography:	D. Dzakuma	Speech:	H. Getsler (absent 1/2)
Global Gender Studies:	S. King-Shaw	Theatre & Dance:	absent
History:	absent	Urban Planning:	C. Powell

International Clubs:

Bangladeshi:	I.Y. Emon	Iranian:	H. Naeimi
Ghanian:	P. Lariba (absent RC)	Latin American:	absent
Indian:	V. Maheshkar	Nigerian:	C. Lawrence

Special Interest Clubs:

Graduate Poetics Group: A.R. Wagner

Guests:

J. Lippes	Legal	K. Persaud	Center for the Study of
M. Grela	FSA	T. Beiter	Psychoanalysis and Culture
E. Morton	GSPHA	T. Abiola	Reading Group
			P-Queue
			Art Catalog

1. President Sarah MacDougall calls the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2025 Board Meeting.
 - Motion: Information Science
 - Second: Counseling, School and Education Psychology (CSEP)
 - In Favor: 41; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes

3. Announcements

- GSA's Accountant, Michael Grela from FSA, presents the GSA's Financial Statements, 990 and CHAR500 reports for this past fiscal year. Copies of full documents are included with the meeting packet for all to review. If anyone has follow up questions, they can address them to Stephanie George at slfrank@buffalo.edu or Michael Grela at mrgrela@buffalo.edu.
 - Motion to approve the 990 filing
 - Motion: Political Science
 - Second: Communication
 - In Favor: 37; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
- GSA will 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
- MDRF Winter Grant Cycle Report
 - 32 applications received requesting \$101,895.00
 - 15 applications funded for \$39,608.87
 - Spring deadline: Friday, March 27, 2026
 - For research to be conducted May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027
 - Deadline to have applications pre-reviewed by the MDRF Director is Wednesday, March 11th by 10:00am!
 - Summer deadline: Friday, June 26, 2026
 - For research to be conducted August 1, 2026 – July 31, 2027
- 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.
 - December 5th, 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
 - Canalside Ice Skating Vouchers Coming Soon!
 - \$2 each. 2 per UB ID. Include skate rental and admission. Reserve online and pick up at the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union.

4. Report of the President

- GSA President, Sarah MacDougall, reports on the First Aid Kit Survey GSA is conducting
 - If your club would like to be provided with a first aid kit, or if you have ever had trouble accessing first aid on campus when in need, please complete the short survey: https://sunybuffalo.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8vIS2gya1Al6H4i
- The GSA E-board's next meeting with the Graduate School is scheduled for December 11th.
 - If you have any systemic issues that you would like them to address, please email them to gsa-president@buffalo.edu by Friday, December 5th to be added to the meeting agenda.

5. Report of the Vice President

- GSA Vice President, Sevda Abdavinejad Mirkoohi reminds clubs that they must share information about meeting times with all graduate student members.
- This is the last Board meeting at which clubs can be recognized for this academic year.
 - All new club requests will have to wait until Fall, 2026

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; \$1,200 recommended this month; \$6,490 remaining
 - Interdepartmental Activity: \$3,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$3,000 remaining
 - Symposium: \$10,000 to start; \$1,400 recommended this month; \$8,600 remaining

- Scholarly Publication: \$6,000 to start; \$3,000 recommended this month; \$3,000 remaining
- Community Outreach: \$3,000 to start; \$0 recommended this month; \$3,000 remaining
- Conference Funding
 - 20 requests were received in December for \$10,749.54; 19 were approved for \$10,474.54
 - 1 request was withdrawn
 - Beginning balance: \$225,000.00; Remaining balance: \$128,972.98
- Community Outreach Highlight
 - Isaac reminds everyone that the Community Outreach fund 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 by doing 40 hours of community service to a local non-profit. The 40 hours is cumulative, so that can be 40 people doing 1 hour of volunteer work, or 10 people doing 4 hours of volunteer work.

7. Old Business

- No Old Business

8. New Business

- Club Recognition
 - Sevda states that she has reviewed the paperwork for the two new Special Interest clubs and is recommending them each for recognition with the full first-year probationary budget of \$400
 - Representatives from the Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture Reading Group and Graduate Student Pre-Health Association (GSPHA) each give a brief description of their club.
 - Motion to approve both clubs at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Psychology
 - Second: English
 - In Favor: 35; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 1
 - Motion passes
 - Sevda notes that now that all clubs have been funded for the year, an additional \$400 will be allocated to each of the previously recognized Special Interest groups.
- Funding Requests
 - Isaac reports that the Finance Committee met and reviewed four funding requests this month and are recommending them all for full funding.
 - Representatives from Biological Sciences, Iranian GSA, Art, and Graduate Poetics Group each give a brief description of their events and publications, accordingly.
 - Motion to approve all funding requests as a block, with stipulations, at the recommended amounts
 - Motion: Global Gender Studies
 - Second: Neuroscience
 - In Favor: 41; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Motion to Adjourn at 7:06pm
 - Motion: Global Gender Studies
 - Second: Africana & American Studies
 - In favor: 38; Oppose: 0; Abstain: 0
 - Motion passes
- Have a safe and happy holiday season!