



Board of Directors Meeting

April 2, 2026

6:30pm

1. Call to Order



2. Approval of Minutes

- Please remember that meeting guests and most Special Interest club representatives are non-voting Board members and should not participate in voting polls.
- Approval of March 4th meeting minutes

3. Announcements

- **Programming**

- April 3rd - North Campus Java Junction 11:00am – 1:00pm in the Career Design Center (259 Capen Hall)
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee, tea, and donuts for graduate students
- April 6th- More Discount AMC Movie Tickets Now Available
 - \$5 each. 1 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick up physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union
- April 6th- Mindfulness Monday ~ Yoga
 - Free tickets available now at the UB Ticket Office
- April 9th- NSF Funding Workshop, 1:30-3:30pm in 330 Student Union
 - Dr. Jorge Valdes Kroff
- April 10th- South Campus Java Junction, 11:00am – 1:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
 - Free Tim Horton's coffee and donuts for graduate students

Announcements (continued)

- **Programming continued:**

- April 11th – Buffalo Bandits Lacrosse Game vs. Rochester Knighthawks
 - \$10 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
- April 13th - Discount Buffalo Bisons Flex Passes Available
 - \$10 each. 2 per UB ID. Limited quantity available.
 - Be sure to pick up physical tickets from the UB Ticket Office in 221 Student Union
- April 17th – Know Your Rights Workshop, 2:00pm on Zoom
 - Anna Porter, Senior Manager of Community Engagement for Western New York from the New York Immigration Coalition
- April 24th – Know Your Rights Workshop, 2:00pm on Zoom
 - Amanda Opperman, Staff Attorney for Journey’s End Refugee Services
- May 1st - Final North Campus Java Junction, 11:00am – 1:00pm in 145 C&D Student Union
- May 4th- Last batch of Discount AMC Movie Tickets Available for this year
- May 4th- Discount Buffalo Zoo Tickets Available
 - \$10 each. 2 per UB ID.
- May 8th- Final South Campus Java Junction 11:00am – 1:00pm in 105 Harriman Hall
- May 15th – Hairspray at Shea’s 710 Theatre
 - \$25 each. 2 per UB ID.
- Coming Soon!!
 - Shakespeare in Delaware Park - July 11th and August 15th
 - Moondance Cruise – July 17th
 - Discount Six Flags Darien Lake Tickets
 - And much more!

Announcements (continued)

- GSA Summer Hours will begin on Monday, May 11th
 - Monday – Thursday, 8:30am to 4:00pm, closed on Fridays
 - Regular hours will resume with the start of the Fall semester on August 24th

4. Report of the President

- How to contact me
- Spam Warning
- GSA Referendum Vote
 - Every two years SUNY requires that we put the mandatory student activity fee up for a referendum vote on whether the fee should remain mandatory or become voluntary
 - A mandatory vote ensures funding for GSA clubs, programs and services.
 - There is no mechanism available to collect voluntary fees, so if the referendum fails, GSA will cease to exist
 - We will not be able to ask for a re-vote until Spring, 2027

Referendum **VOTE**

APRIL 6-9

UB LINKED

GSA MANDATORY STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

"Yes" vote:

A "YES" VOTE PROVIDES
FUNDING FOR:

- CLUBS
- PROGRAMMING
- CONFERENCES
- RESEARCH
- EDITORIAL SERVICES

"No" vote:

A "NO" VOTE PROVIDES
FUNDING FOR:

- **Nothing**
- **Nada**
- **Zilch**

5. Report of the Vice President

6. Report of the Treasurer

- Funding Account Balances
- Conference Funding
- Club Budgets

Funding Account Balances

	Updated Beginning Annual Balance	Recommended this month	Remaining Annual Balance
Special Activity	\$10,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,690.00
Interdepartmental Activity	\$3,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Symposium	\$10,000.00	\$1,600.00	\$1,968.00
Scholarly Publication	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Community Outreach	\$3,000.00	\$250.00	\$2,750.00

Conference Funding

	Applications	Amount
Requested: April	38	\$20,425.10
Approved: April	38	\$20,425.10

Update Beginning Balance	Remaining Balance
\$225,000.00	\$60,560.47

Club Budgets

- Clubs will have until June 1st to requisition any remaining funds and until July 15th to spend them.
 - All requisitions must be accompanied by club minutes pre-approving the expenses (at a club meeting that meets quorum) by the June 1st deadline, all in-person events must be approved on UBLinked, and food permits must be secured, if necessary.
- The new fiscal year begins on August 1st.
 - This year's budget cannot be used to pay for next year's expenses.

7. Old Business

8. New Business

- Early Club Recognition
- Funding Requests
- Approval of 2026-2027 Budgets
- Election Committee Update

Early Club Recognition

International Clubs

- Bangladeshi
- Ghanaian
- Indian (GISA)
- Iranian
- Nigerian

*\$850 recommended for each

Special Interest Clubs

- Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture Reading Group (CSPCRG)
- Graduate Poetics Group (GPG)
- Graduate Student Pre-Health Association (GSPHA)

*\$400 recommended for each to start with in the Fall. Additional funding (up to another \$400) will be awarded after the December 2026 Board meeting

Funding Requests

- Special Activity
 - End of Semester Celebration- Electrical Engineering GSA
 - Requested/Recommended: \$1,200.00
- Interdepartmental Activity
 - CSEE & MAE Lasertron Event
 - Requested/Recommended: \$500.00
 - Microbiology & Biochemistry Bowling Event
 - Requested/Recommended: \$500.00

Funding Requests (continued)

- Symposia
 - Global Gender and Sexuality Studies Graduate Conference- GGSS GSA
 - Requested/Recommended: \$750.00
 - Romance Languages & Literatures Graduate Conference- RLL GSA
 - Requested/Recommended: \$850.00
- Community Outreach
 - FeedMore WNY- Psychology GSA
 - Requested/Recommended: \$250.00

Approval of 2026-2027 Budgets

- Must approve two budgets in case the referendum fails
- Enrollment is trending down, so anticipated revenues are being reduced accordingly
- Minor change to reduce Community Outreach funding and increase Special Activity funding
- Most other changes are due to contractual obligations and/or projected price increases due to inflation

Revenue	Item	2026-2027 Proposed Budget		2026-2027 Failed Referendum Budget		2025-2026 Final Budget	
	Mandatory Student Fees	\$ 1,175,875.00	Mandatory Fees based on Enrollment figures: Fall 7,500/Spring 6,500 @ \$85/semester with 250 waivers Summer 1,500 @ \$5/session with 75 waivers	\$ 465,500.00	No Fees Collected - Reserve Account Savings	\$ 1,311,875.00	Mandatory Fees based on Enrollment figures: Fall 8,300/Spring 7,300 @ \$85/semester with 250 waivers Summer 1,500 @ \$5/session with 75 waivers
FSA							
	Accounting Service	\$ 102,000.00	Predicting a 10% increase	\$ 102,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 100,000.00	
Personnel							
	Professional Staff	\$ 287,000.00	2 salaries, plus benefits and employment taxes Health Insurance increasing 15%	\$ 287,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 277,000.00	2 salaries, plus benefits and employment taxes
	Student Staff						
	Executive Board	\$ 75,300.00	3 @ \$23,000 each, including 10% for employment taxes	\$ -		\$ 75,300.00	3 @ \$23,000 each, including 10% for employment taxes
	Programming	\$ 22,000.00	1 @ \$20,000, including 10% for employment taxes	\$ -		\$ 22,000.00	1 @ \$20,000, including 10% for employment taxes
	Editorial	\$ 22,000.00	1 @ \$20,000, including 10% for employment taxes	\$ -		\$ 22,000.00	1 @ \$20,000, including 10% for employment taxes
	Hourly	\$ 10,800.00	3 Editorial Assistants @ \$3,600 each (\$22/hr)	\$ -		\$ 10,800.00	3 Editorial Assistants @ \$3,600 each (\$22/hr)
Operational							
	IT Services	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 5,000.00	
	Ticket Surcharges	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -		\$ 5,000.00	
	Capital Equipment	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -	
	Postage	\$ 500.00		\$ -		\$ 500.00	
	Supplies	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	
	Miscellaneous	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	
	Printer Service Contracts	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 4,000.00	
	Ticket Sale Offsets	\$ 25,000.00		\$ -		\$ 25,000.00	
	Payroll/HR Services	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 5,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 5,000.00	
	Ticket Office	\$ 40,000.00	Predicting 5% increase	\$ -		\$ 37,500.00	
	Auditing & Tax Prep	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 10,000.00	
	Legal Retainer	\$ 25,000.00		\$ 25,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 25,000.00	
	Business Insurances	\$ 8,500.00	Predicting 5% increase	\$ 8,500.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 8,000.00	
	Retirement & TPA	\$ 10,000.00		\$ 10,000.00	Contractually Obligated	\$ 10,000.00	
	Reserve Account	\$ -	(Interest returns on investments now fund reserves)	\$ -		\$ -	
Programming							
	Programming	\$ 75,000.00		\$ -		\$ 75,000.00	
Club Budgets							
	Departmental	\$ 181,500.00	Based on variable base plan and \$18 per student enrolled in Fall, 2024	\$ -		\$ 185,000.00	Based on variable base plan and \$18 per student enrolled in Fall, 2024
	Special Interest	\$ 4,000.00	3 existing clubs at \$800 + 4 new clubs at \$400 each	\$ -		\$ 4,800.00	4 existing clubs at \$800 + 4 new clubs at \$400 each
	International	\$ 6,300.00	6 existing clubs at \$850 + 3 new clubs at \$400 each	\$ -		\$ 5,450.00	5 existing clubs at \$850 + 3 new clubs at \$400 each
Club Feeding							
	Scholarly Publication	\$ 6,000.00		\$ -		\$ 6,000.00	
	Symposia	\$ 10,000.00		\$ -		\$ 10,000.00	
	Special Activity	\$ 11,500.00		\$ -		\$ 10,000.00	
	Interdepartmental Activity	\$ 3,000.00		\$ -		\$ 3,000.00	
	Community Outreach	\$ 1,500.00		\$ -		\$ 3,000.00	
Professional							
	Conference Funding	\$ 225,000.00		\$ -		\$ 225,000.00	
	Mark Diamond Research Fu	\$ 125,000.00	designated funds that get transferred to the MDRF account	\$ -		\$ 125,000.00	
Total							
	Revenue	\$ 1,175,875.00		\$ 465,500.00		\$ 1,311,875.00	
	Allocations	\$ 1,315,500.00		\$ 465,500.00		\$ 1,313,350.00	
	Unallocated Balance	\$ (139,625.00)	unded by prior year cash balance/reserve account sav	\$ -		\$ (2,075.00)	

Approval of 2026-2027 Budget (cont.)

- Vote to approve 2026-2027 Budgets
- Tentatively scheduled Board meeting on April 22nd will be cancelled if the budget passes tonight.

Election Committee Update

- Approval of Ballot
- Candidate Q&A
- Vote Online

Approval of Ballot

Below is the ballot for the 2026-2027 Graduate Student Association Election. Please vote for up to one (1) candidate.

*President:

- Sarah MacDougall
- Abstain

*Vice President:

- Sherika Caliste
- Abstain

*Treasurer:

- Daniel Kulesza
 - Abstain
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Approval of Referendum Ballot

* Pursuant to Resolutions 71-90 and 02-65 of the Board of Trustees be it enacted:
(Vote for A or B by selecting a radio button below)

- That the student activity fee (Graduate Student Association fee) be MANDATORY for all Graduate Student Association students.
 - That the student activity fee be VOLUNTARY for all Graduate Student Association students.
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- Vote to approve the officer and referendum ballots

Candidate Q&A

- Two minutes for each candidate to introduce themselves
- Candidates will answer 1 question from the Election Committee. Each candidate has two minutes to answer
- Board members will be allowed to ask Candidates questions in an open forum for up to 15 minutes.
 - Each candidate will be given 60 seconds to respond or choose not to answer.
- 60 seconds for closing remarks for candidates

Vote Online

- Officer Elections will take place online via a link on the GSA website.
 - Polls open Monday, April 6th at 12:00am until Thursday, April 9th at 11:59pm.
 - Results will be announced on Friday, April 10th on the GSA listservs and on the website.

9. Roll Call and Adjournment

- Don't leave just yet! We need a motion and a vote to approve adjournment.
- **REMINDER:** April 22nd Board meeting is now cancelled. Have a great end to the semester!